

# **Pharmacists beyond the counter : Improving vaccine accessibility**

Mayli Foong WA State Manager  
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

# Australia's pharmacist vaccination journey

Most states start  
pharmacist influenza  
vaccination

2016

QLD dTPa  
and MMR

2015

QPIP starts  
Influenza

2014

Jurisdictions add  
more vaccines,  
inc. dTPa & MMR

2016-  
2019

Pharmacists support  
COVID-19  
vaccination roll-out

2021

2021-  
2023

NIPVIP  
starts

2024

Jurisdictions progressively add additional vaccines  
(e.g. HPV, JEV), reduce minimum age restrictions  
and increase NIP access via community  
pharmacy

2024

Travel  
Health Pilot  
(Victoria)

ALL VACCINES  
ALL AGES  
ALL LOCATIONS





# Vaccines that pharmacists can prescribe (initiate) and administer July 2025

	Cholera	COVID-19	DTP	Hib	Hep A	Hep B	Herpes zoster	HPV	Influenza	JE	MMR	Men ACWY	Men B	Men C	mPox	Pneumo-coccal	Polio	Q fever	Rabies	Rotavirus	RSV	TB	Typhoid	Varicella	Yellow fever
ACT		5	5	5	5	5*	18	10	5	5	5*	5	5	5	16	50 / 70	5		5		60 / <sup>✓</sup> <sub>^</sub>		5	5	
NSW		5	5	5	5	5*	18	9	2	5	5*	5	5	5	16	50 / 70	5		5		60 / <sup>✓</sup> <sub>^</sub>		5	5	
NT		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	18	5	5				5			5	
QLD	2	✓	2	2	2	2	2	2	✓*	2	2	2	2*	2	2	2	2		2		✓		2	2	
SA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TAS		5	10		10	10*	18	10	5		10*	10	10			10	10				18			10	
VIC		5	5 <sup>#</sup>		5 <sup>~</sup>	5 <sup>*~</sup>	5 <sup>\$</sup>	5 <sup>#</sup>	5	5	5 <sup>*&amp;</sup>	5 <sup>&amp;</sup>			5	5 <sup>\$</sup>	5 <sup>~</sup>				5		5 <sup>~</sup>		
WA		5	5			5*	5	5	5*		5*	5	5	5		5	5				5			5	

NIP or CVCP funded  
for eligible patients

State funded vaccines  
for eligible patients (asterisk \* denotes  
additional eligibility beyond NIP)

Non-govt funded vaccines only

Not permitted

NIP funded vaccines may not be available  
for ordering by community pharmacies.

**IMPORTANT:** Additional restrictions may apply. Refer to state/territory pharmacist vaccination authorisations. Pharmacists must adhere to individual scope of practice, recommendations of the Australian Immunisation Handbook and ATAGI

~Only under Victorian Community Pharmacist  
Statewide Program (VCPSP);

<sup>#</sup>For travel, min age 12 + only under VCPSP;

<sup>&</sup>For travel, min age 15 + only under VCPSP;

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SA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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# Accessibility of pharmacies

**699**  
pharmacies

Many open after hours & weekends

96% live within 2.5km of pharmacy (metro)

74% live within 2.5km of pharmacy (regional)

**1.8 visits**  
per person per year





**9NEWS**

# VACCINATION RATE DECLINE



# Have more fun

Vaccinations keep you healthy so you  
can keep doing the things you love.

**Vaccinate.**

## Measles vaccine offered here



**Protect yourself and  
your loved ones from  
measles**

Measles vaccine is free for infants (6+ months)  
travelling overseas and anyone born after 1965  
without two doses







**PROTECT  
YOUR BABY  
FROM  
WHOOPING  
COUGH.**

**VACCINATE FOR FREE  
WHEN PREGNANT**



# Adolescent Immunisation

protection for everybody



**WHOOPING COUGH**  
in young babies

Ask about the free vaccine today.  
[health.gov.au/immunisation](http://health.gov.au/immunisation)



Australian Government  
Department of Health



**National  
Immunisation  
Program**

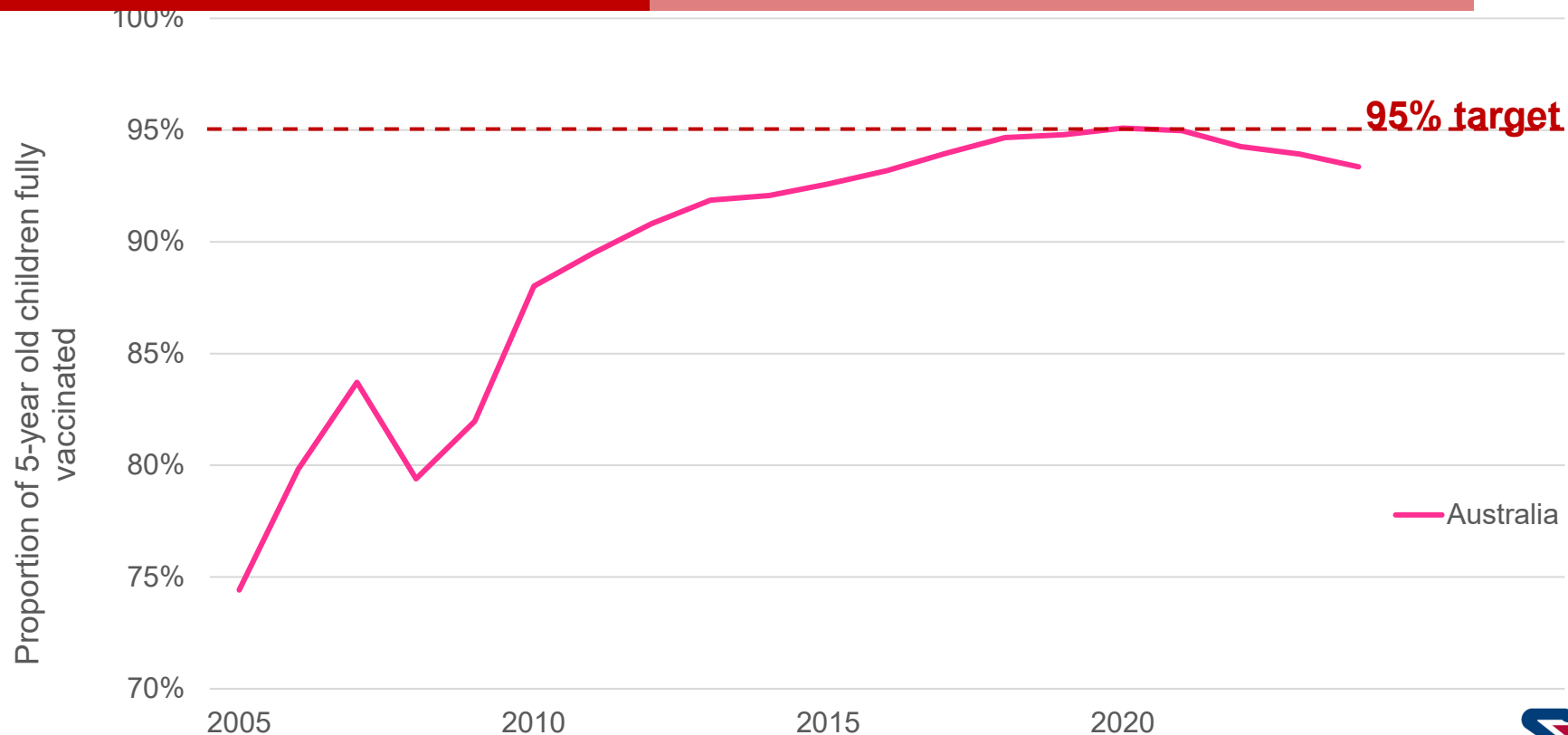
A joint Australian, State and Territory Government initiative





# Vaccination trends

## Childhood (5 years age)

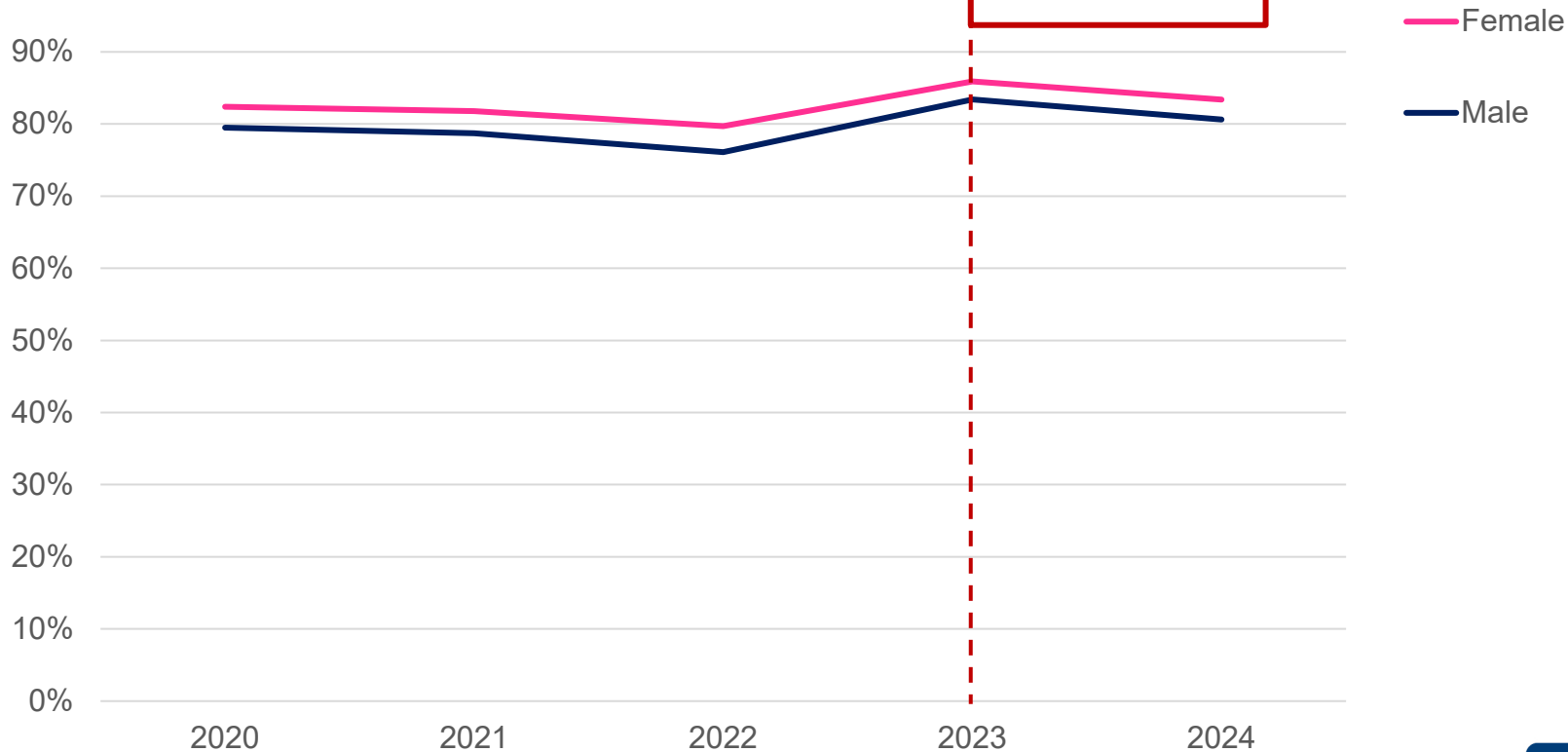


# Vaccination trends

## HPV

Shift from two-dose vaccine to one-dose vaccine

Proportion 15-yr adolescents fully vaccinated for HPV



# Maturing role as vaccinators

## Campaign vaccinator

- Demand-driven
- Focused on specific antigen(s)

Experience

NIP

Formulary growth

Community trust

NIPVIP

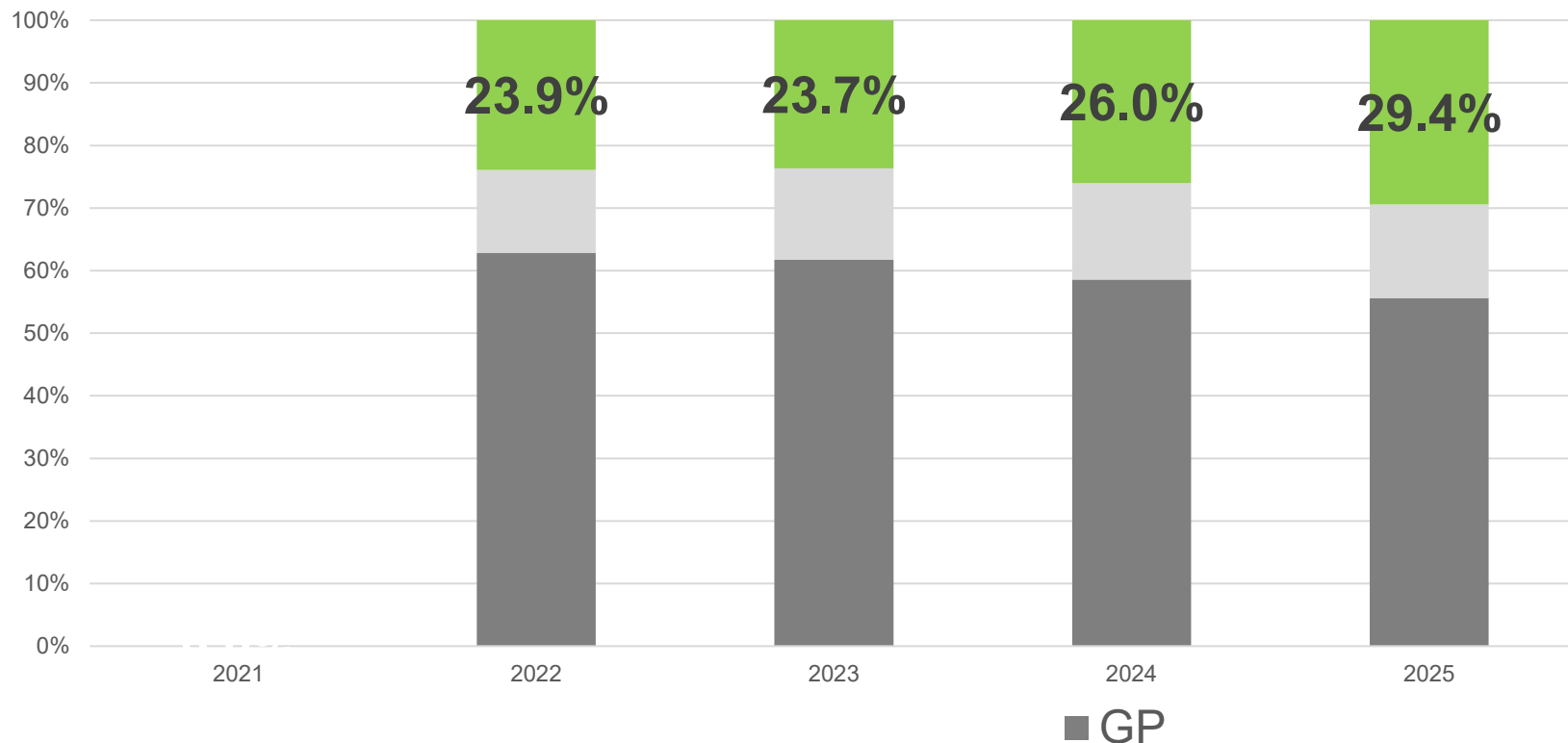
## Whole-of-life vaccinator

- Proactive offer of vaccination
- Consideration of all required, routine and recommended vaccines
- Patient recall and engagement



# Influenza vaccination

Proportion influenza vaccines administered  
Australia (national) (all doses - Wk 35)



Source: AIR via Department of Health (Cwlth), Data as at 5 October 2025

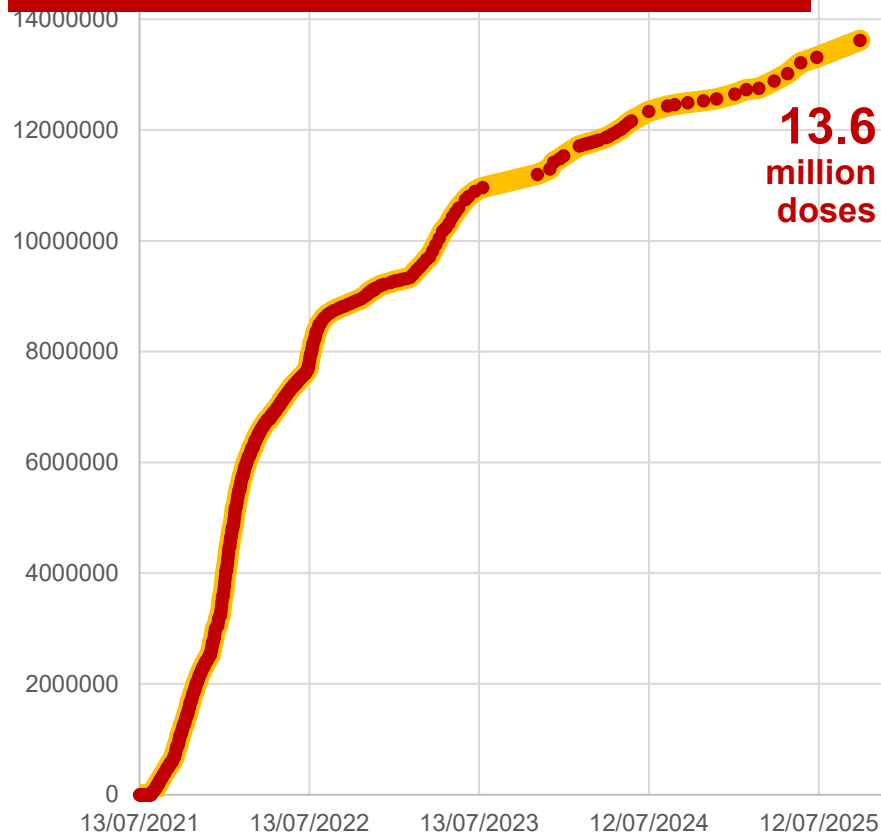


# COVID-19 vaccination

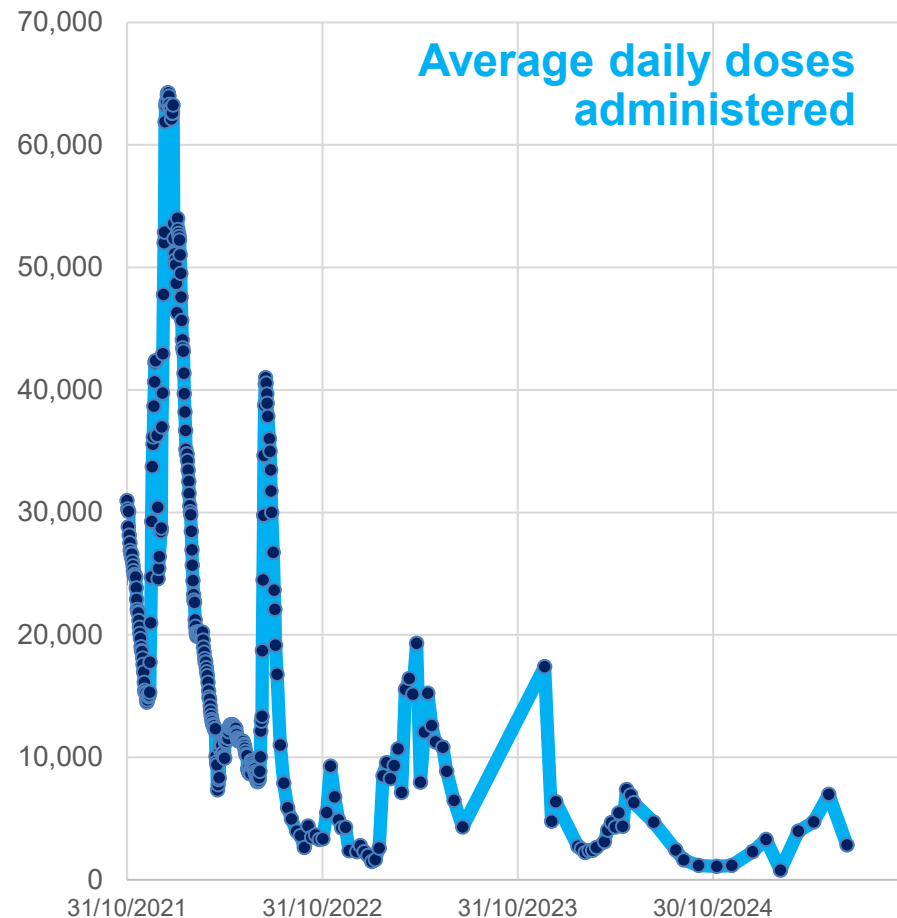


## AUSTRALIA: Pharmacy

# COVID-19 vaccination

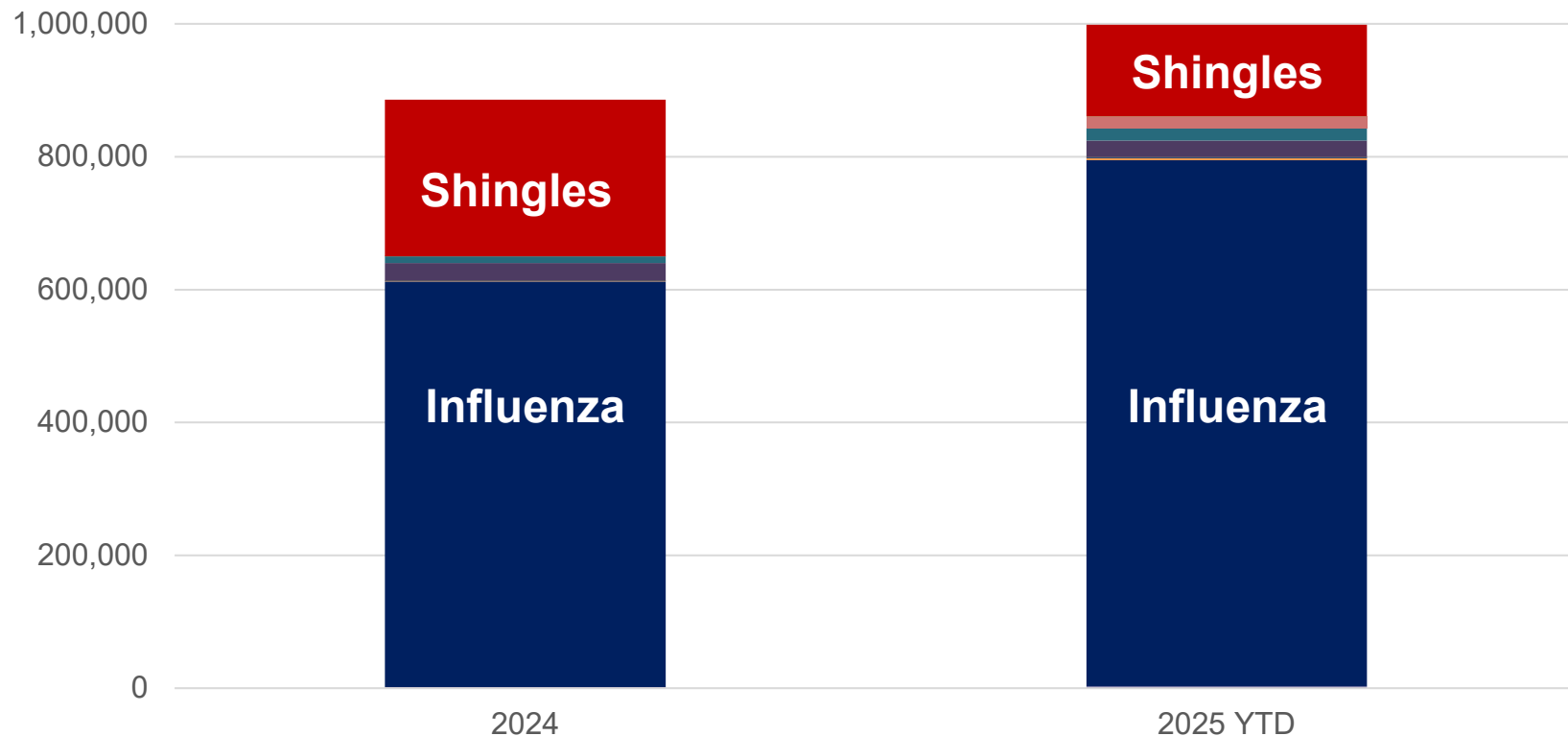


13.6  
million  
doses



Average daily doses  
administered

# NIPVIP claims: by antigen



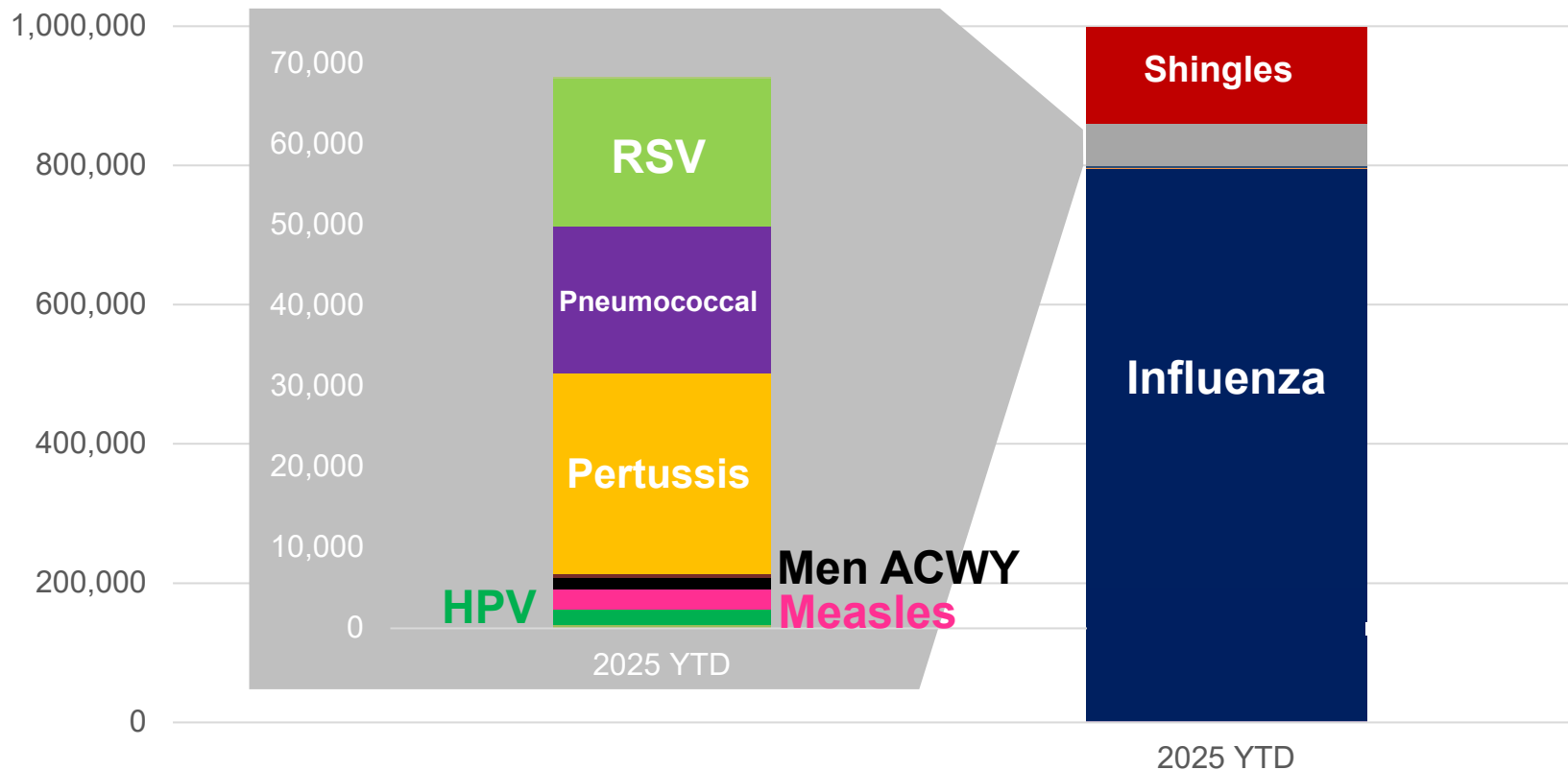
Source: Department of Health (Cwlth), data current 30 September 2025





2025 YEAR TO DATE

# NIPVIP claims: by antigen



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# PSA Vaccination Ambassador

Anna Theophilos



**ICC** INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
SYDNEY CENTRE

COVID-19  
VACCINATION  
Effective. Free.





**Where to next?**



# Practice changes to drive vaccination



# Addressing barriers

## **Parental Hesitancy**

- Concerns about side effects and vaccine safety.
- Influence of misinformation and social media.
- Distrust.

## **Access and equity**

- Remote and rural areas face clinic shortages.
- Difficult appointment scheduling for working families.
- Barriers like transportation, cost, or lack of awareness.

## **Cultural and Language Barriers**

- Different cultural beliefs about illness and treatment.
- Need for multilingual resources and outreach.

## **System Pressures**

- Daily workflow
- Reminder system.
- Supply issue.





# Evidence based conversations

## Ready to vaccinate

- Prevent hesitancy
  - Promote timely vaccination
- 
- Encourage patients to ask questions
  - Talk about what to do after vaccination, including adverse effects
  - Vaccinate and book follow-up

## Patients with questions

- Vaccinate
  - Increase vaccine confidence
- 
- Questions **to saturation**.
  - Gather full list of questions before responding.
  - Share resources
  - Book appointment(s)

## Declining vaccination

- Maintain trust
  - Keep conversation brief
- 
- Discuss decision
  - Avoid debates about **validity** of beliefs
  - Acknowledge choice and respect
  - Offer patient resources and information
  - Revisit the discussion later
  - Refer if relevant



# Review missing vaccines at every vaccination event

 Australian Government  
Services Australia

**medicare**

## Immunisation history statement

As at: 29 June 2021  
For: JILL I CITIZEN  
Date of birth: 07 July 2007  
Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI): 8003 6086 6679 8731  
NIP Immunisation status: not up to date

Date given	Immunisation	Brand name given
07 Sep 2007	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Polio	Quadracel
07 Oct 2007	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Polio	Adacel Polio
12 Dec 2007	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Polio	Adacel Polio
01 Feb 2021	Hepatitis B	H-B-Vax II
	Measles Mumps Rubella	MMR II
	Varicella	Varivax
15 Feb 2021	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis	Boostrix
	Meningococcal ACWY	Nimenrix

**Next NIP immunisation/s due**

Measles Mumps Rubella	Date due
Hepatitis B	01 Mar 2021
	01 Jun 2021

**Notices**

Vaccine shortage for Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hib Hepatitis B Polio recorded on 22 Jun 2021  
expire on 01 Jul 2021.

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## Focus on co-administration

For older patients, in 2025 they are recommended for up to five vaccines:

- COVID-19
- Influenza
- RSV (*Arevexy*)
- Pneumococcal
- Shingles (*Shingrix*)

...and potentially others!



**Thank you**

