



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

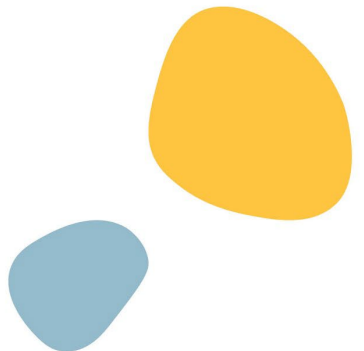
CDCD Director's address and award presentation

Dr Paul Armstrong, Director
Communicable Disease Control Directorate

13 November 2025

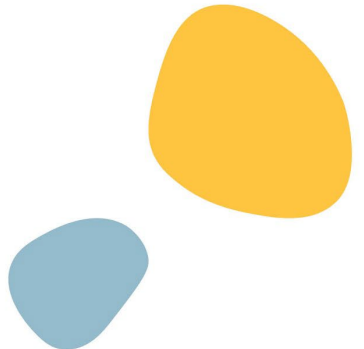
Today's topics

- Australian Centre for Disease Control
- Areas of focus for 2026
 - Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
 - Measles
 - Live attenuated influenza vaccine
- Vaccines on the horizon



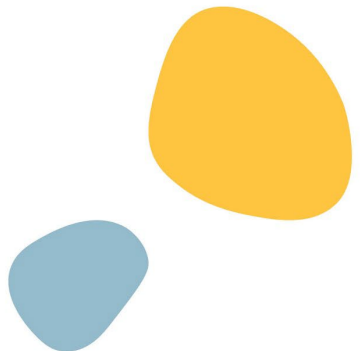
National activities – Australian CDC

- 6 November – Parliament passed the ***Australian Centre for Disease Control Bill 2025*** (awaiting Royal Assent)
- Establishes the Australian Centre for Disease Control as a **statutory Commonwealth public health authority** – to commence 1 January 2026
- **Creates functions of CDC** (Director General, Advisory Council, advice to government, publishing guidelines, health promotion campaigns, promoting research)
- **‘Transparency framework’** – default is the publication of advice, with evidence
- The **Agreement Working Group** will codify relationships between CWth and States
- Focus areas:
 - Data linkage
 - ‘One Health’
 - Pandemic preparedness
- Precise role in immunisation unclear



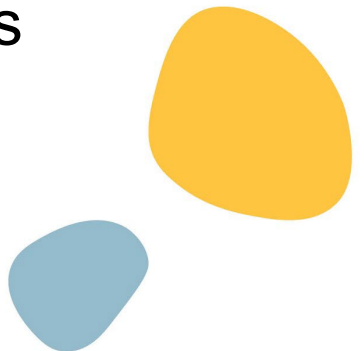
Areas of focus in 2026

- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- Measles
- Live attenuated influenza vaccine



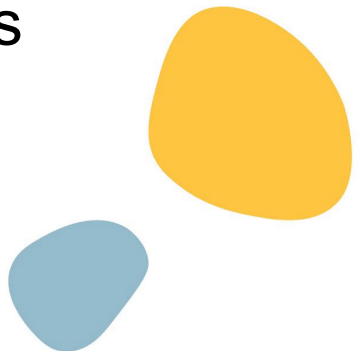
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- WA Health ran the most comprehensive program in Australia in 2024 and 2025
- In 2025, almost 10,000 infants received Beyfortus.
 - Babies born 1 Oct 2024 to 31 March 2025 - 46% of babies born were protected against RSV by either Abrysvo or Beyfortus
 - Babies born 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 - 74% of babies born were protected against RSV by either Abrysvo (60%) or Beyfortus (14%)



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

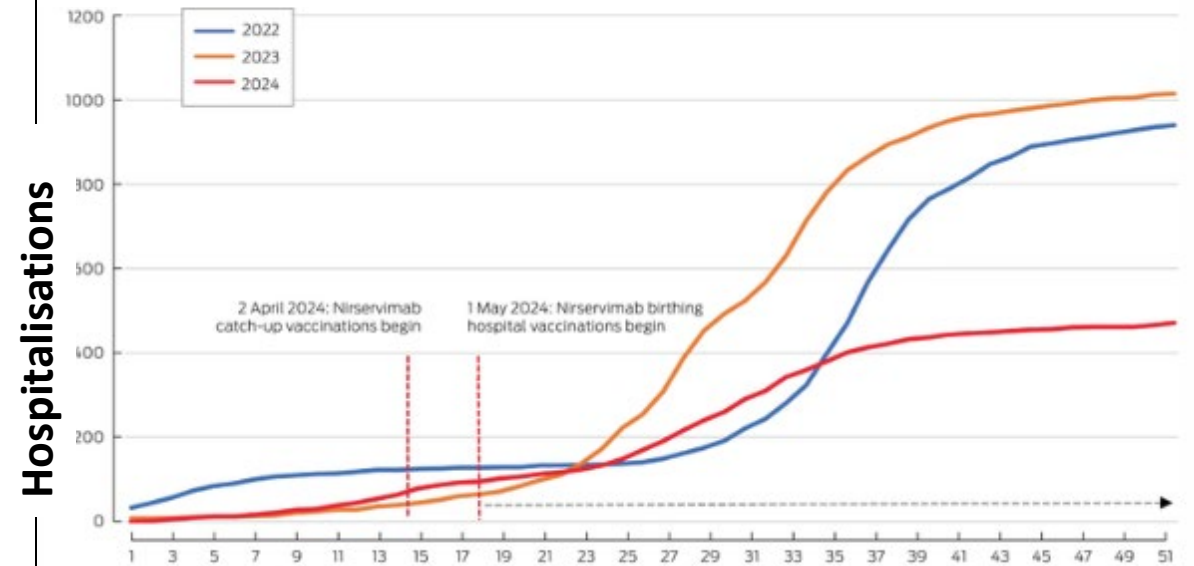
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- In 2025, almost 10,000 infants received Beyfortus.
 - Babies born 1 Oct 2024 to 31 March 2025 - 46% of babies born were protected against RSV by either Abrysvo or Beyfortus (65% in 2024)
 - Babies born 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 - 74% of babies born were protected against RSV by either Abrysvo (60%) or Beyfortus (14%) (79% in 2024)



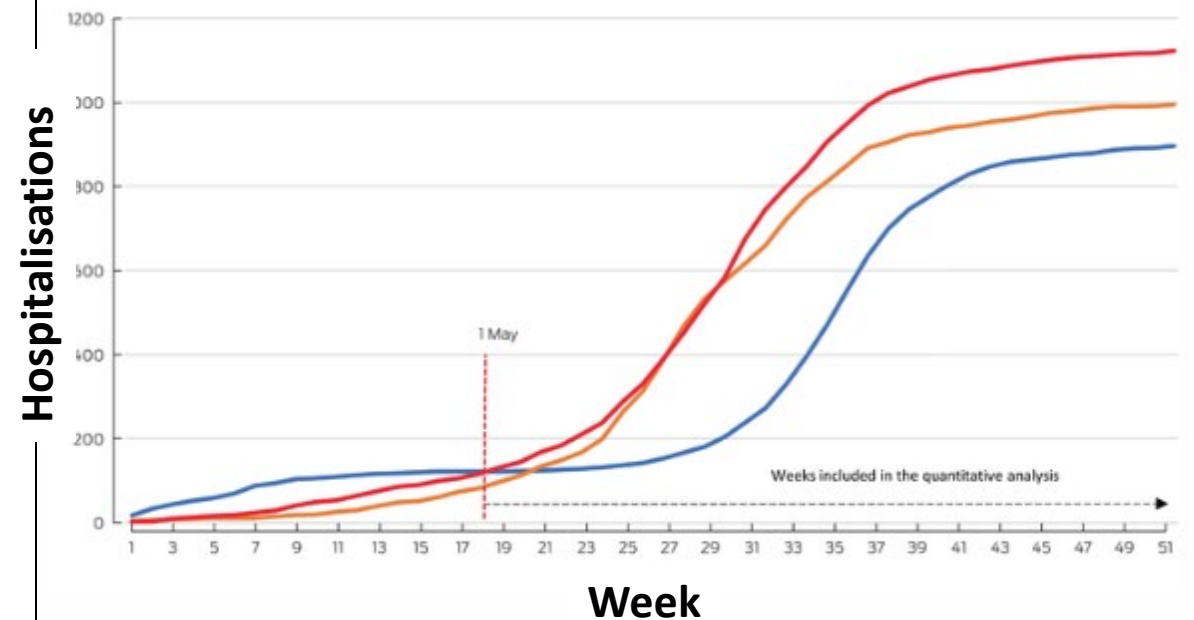
Hospitalisations due to RSV

Source: LE Blomfield
et al. Med J Aust.
Published online: 26
May 2025

Infants <1 year of age



Children 1-4 years of age



Measles



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**



About us

Improving health in WA

Health for...

Our performance



Measles alert

6 November 2025

Measles alert

Status: Active

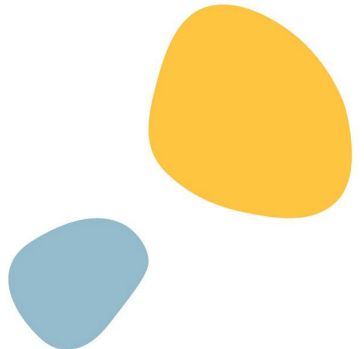
Last updated: 6 November 2025

Issued by: Director of Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Dr Paul Armstrong

Issued to: Health professionals and the WA community

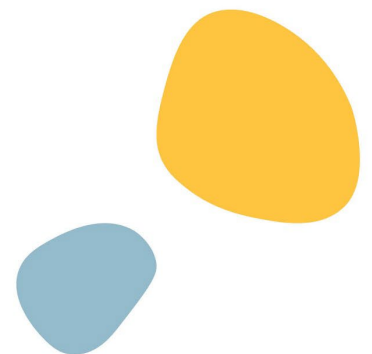
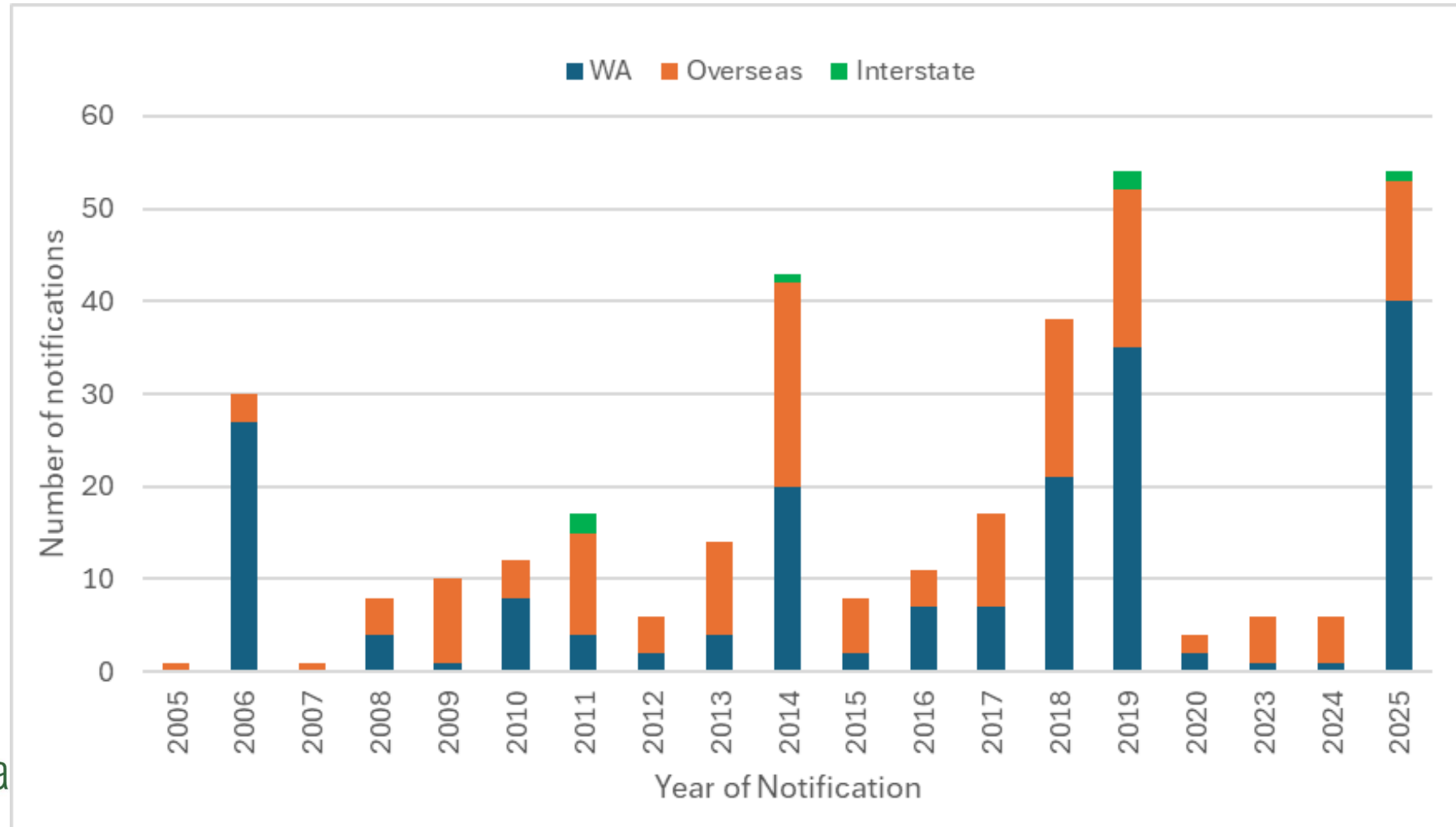
There have been **54** cases of [measles](#) identified in WA in 2025 year to date.

Health alert

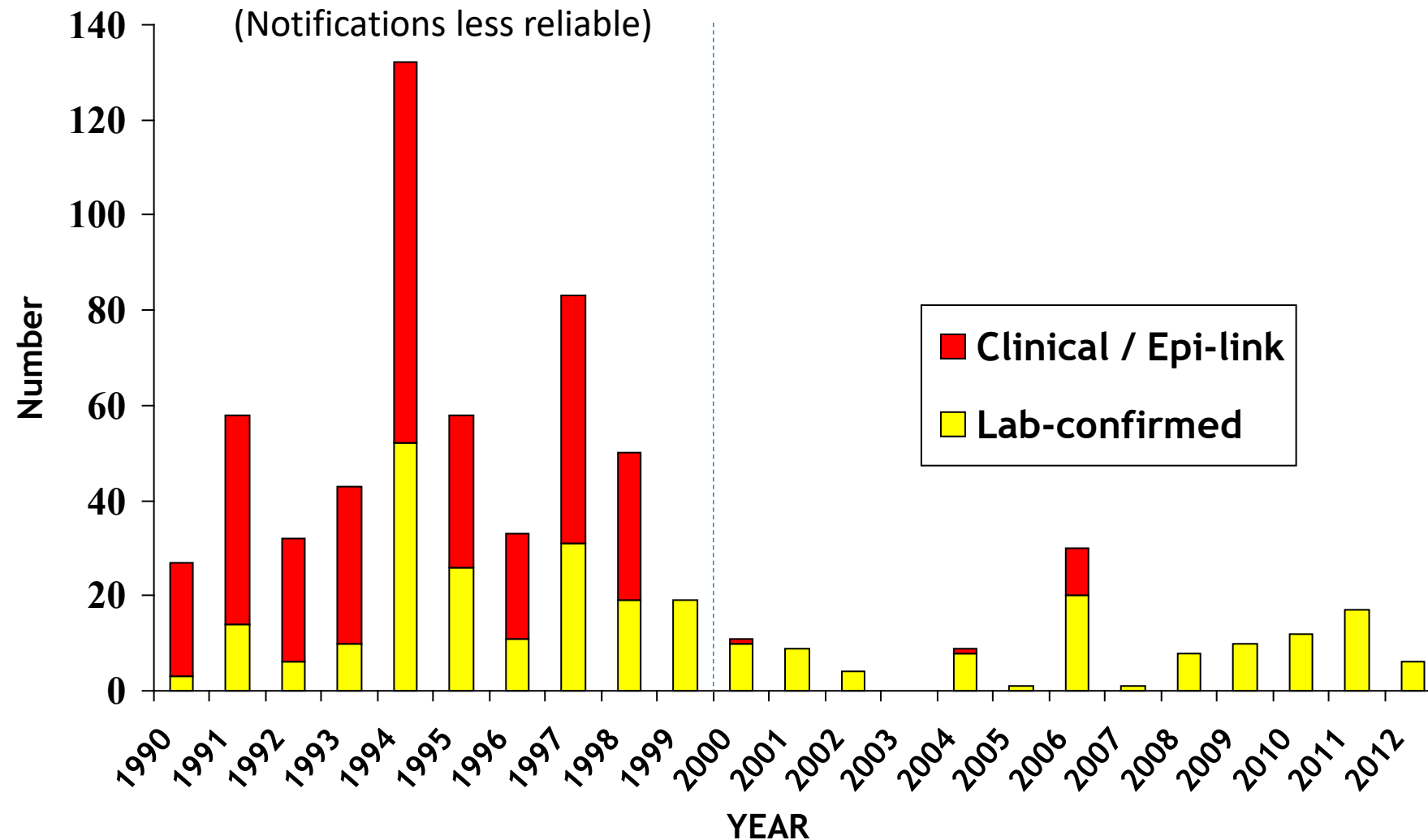


Measles

WA notifications by place of acquisition



Measles notifications in WA 1990 - 2012



Canada loses its measles-free status after ongoing outbreaks

Infectious Diseases

Tue 11 Nov



Canada has lost its measles-free status. (Reuters: Annie Rice)

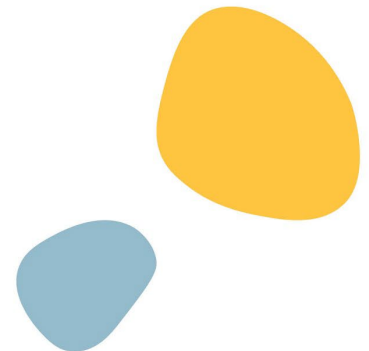
In short:

Canada has lost its measles-free status after the virus spread continuously for more than a year.

It means the Americas have also lost the measles elimination status, after only regaining it last year.

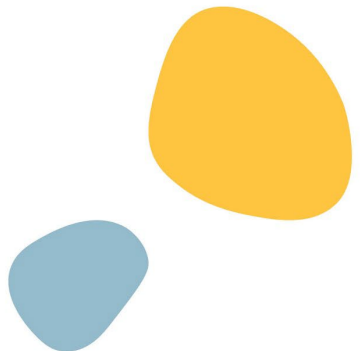
What's next?

The United States is also at risk of losing its measles-free status.



Measles vaccine eligibility-WA

- The National Immunisation Program (NIP)
 - children at 12 months and 18 months
- Western Australian Department of Health
 - individuals born after 1965 who have not already received two doses of MMR vaccine

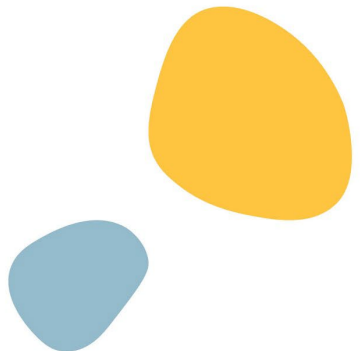


Measles vaccine eligibility-WA

- The National Immunisation Program (NIP)
 - children at 12 months and 18 months
 - Western Australian Department of Health
 - individuals born after 1965 who have not already received two doses of MMR vaccine
- infants aged 6 months to under 12 months, who are travelling overseas to countries experiencing a measles outbreak (after an individual risk assessment undertaken by a medical professional) or
 - to infants between 6 and 12 months of age if they have recently been exposed to someone with measles while they were infectious*

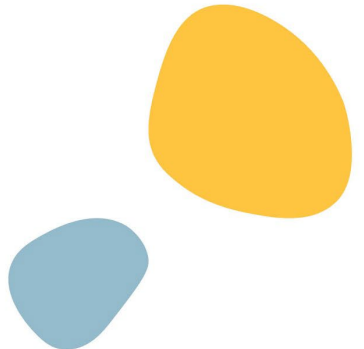
Measles vaccination coverage in WA

- 90% of two-year-olds are fully vaccinated against measles.
- So far in 2025, **685 infants aged under 12 months** have received a dose of MMR vaccine.
- So far in 2025, **almost 18,000 MMR doses** have been administered to WA persons **aged over five years**. (up from approximately 14,000 each year in 2023 and 2024)



Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)

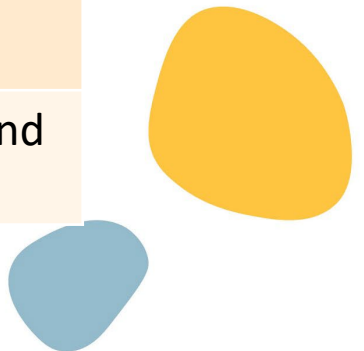
- FluMist by Astra Zeneca
- Program announced by Minister for Health in October 2025
- 2–11 year-olds in WA
- Offered via primary care (Community immunisation clinics, general practice, AMSs, community pharmacies)
- SASA for Community Pharmacists to be varied



National Immunisation Strategy 2025-30: WA Health contributions

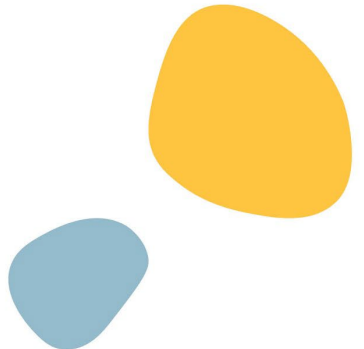
- National Immunisation Strategy implementation plan

Area	Description
Priority Area 1	Improve access to immunisation, with a focus on equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other priority populations
Priority Area 2	Build trust , understanding and acceptance of immunisation in communities
Priority Area 3	Use data more effectively to target immunisation strategies and monitor performance
Priority Area 4	Strengthen the Immunisation Workforce
Priority Area 5	Harness new technologies to respond to the evolving communicable disease and vaccine landscape
Priority Area 6	Implement sustainable reform in vaccine program governance, program delivery and accountability



National Immunisation Strategy implementation plan

- WA Health Immunisation program participated in series of workshops looking at:
 - Potential **activities and initiatives** to address each of the six NIS 2025-30 Priority Area/s.
 - The **barriers that need to be addressed** to progress these activities/initiatives
 - The **resources and mechanisms required** to implement these activities/initiatives



Vaccines on the horizon

- **The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)**

Applications - not approved yet

- Moderna seeking NIP listing for **RSV vaccine for people 75+** and Aboriginal people aged over 60
- GSK seeking reduction in age for NIP listing for **Shingrix to 60**
- MSD seeking NIP listing for **21v pneumococcal conjugate vaccine** for older adults and Aboriginal people aged 25-49

Outcomes from July meeting

- Arexvy and Abrysvo RSV vaccine for older adults was recommended for NIP listing – no timeline provided yet

Others

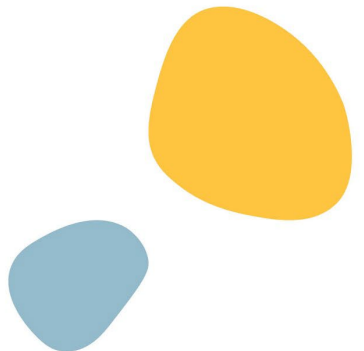
- Monoclonal antibody (Beyfortus) to be added to the NIP schedule?
- COVID-19?



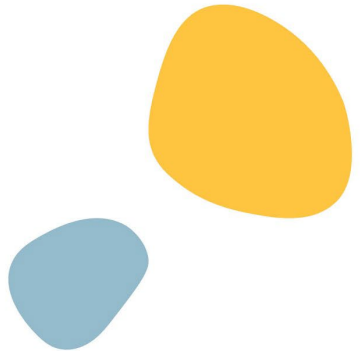
Thank you

Further queries?

Email: Immunisation@health.wa.gov.au



2025 Public Health Update Immunisation Awards



Nominees for the Inoculate Accolade award

Janene Naude

Wannipa Tongrueang

Andrea Padley

Anna Moore

Deb Thomas

Pargan Sanghera

Ben Scalley

Emma McCabe

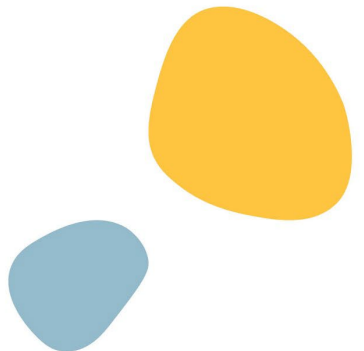
Kerry Lewis

Mirrabooka School Based Immunisation Program

Stan Perron Immunisation Centre Immunisation Team

Boorloo Public Health Unit Immunisation Team

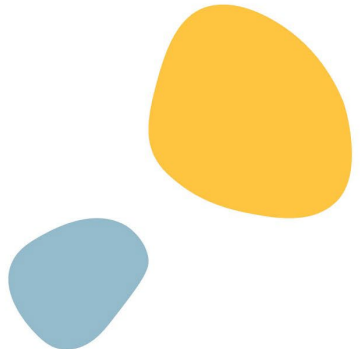
Child and Adolescent Community Health Immunisation Team



Winner of the individual category

Janene Naude

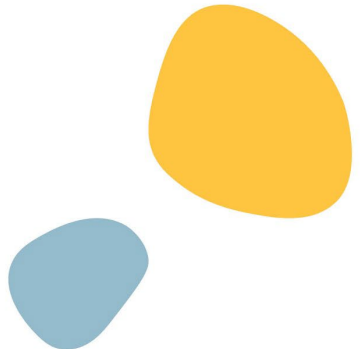
- Clinical Nurse Specialist/Regional Immunisation Coordinator, Southwest PHU
- Sought additional funding for walk in clinics
- Co-led the Understanding Parental or Carer attitudes and behaviours to immunisation in the Southwest project.
- Strong advocate for the vulnerable



Winner of the individual category

Ben Scalley

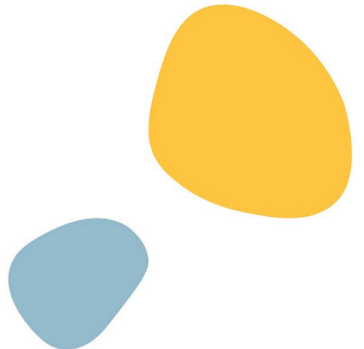
- Created Catch up Automation Response Letter (CARL)- program enabling catch up plans in very short timeframe
- Has resulted in reduced turn around time
- Specifically improved efficiency of the Moorditj Kids home visiting program
- Used in other settings e.g. hospitals



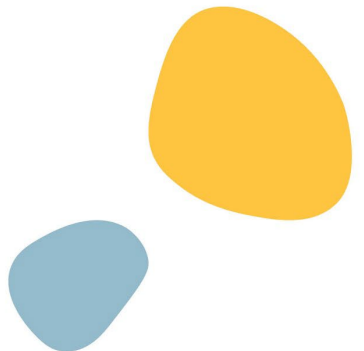
Winner of the team category

Stan Perron Immunisation Centre Immunisation Team

- Nominated for outstanding delivery of 2025 Flu vaccination program at PCH
- Set up pop up clinics, sent SMS messages to families with upcoming outpatient appointments
- 46% increase in childhood flu vaccination coverage rate from 2024
- Strong staff engagement resulting in very positive family response



Concurrent sessions- Attendee information



Morning tea break



**We will recommence at
11.15am**

