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The NCIRS-AIP is an interactive discussion forum and a source of reliable information for professionals working in the area of immunisation. **Subscribers to the NCIRS-AIP receive the NCIRS “Weekly Jab” newsletter** – a weekly dose of immunisation news. For more information and to subscribe to the NCIRS-AIP [click here](#).

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the team at NCIRS



Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday season and all the best for 2018 from the team at NCIRS.

## 20 Year Anniversary Publications

The NCIRS 20 Year Anniversary Report and NCIRS Publications List (1997–2017) are now available for [download on the NCIRS Website](#).

## NCIRS 20 Year Anniversary Showcase Highlights – Friday 3rd November

We had a wonderful time celebrating our 20 Year Anniversary. Thanks to everyone involved, our showcase at Sydney University was an amazing day with presentations from international and Australian immunisation experts.

We hope you enjoy the following highlights from the day. Please click on the relevant links to access these resources.

[Read the official opening by Mr Trent Zimmerman, MP, Federal Member for North Sydney](#)

[View the program and presentation files from the showcase on the NCIRS website](#)

[Watch the showcase highlights video](#)



## NCIRS Seminar Series Videos

In 2017 we launched our NCIRS Seminar Series with seven talks throughout the year from highly regarded experts in immunisation and vaccine-preventable diseases. Videos from the seminars (where available) can be viewed [on our website](#). Links to select videos are below. We look forward to the 2018 Series. More information will follow in the new year.

### NCIRS Seminar 22/11/17- Tailoring Immunization Programmes (TIP)

[Talk 1: Why do we need to TIP for measles elimination?](#)

Professor David Durrheim, University of Newcastle & Director of Health Protection, Hunter New England Health

[Talk 2: WHO Tailoring Immunization Programmes \(TIP\)](#)

Associate Professor Julie Leask, University of Sydney

[Talk 3: TIP: a pilot study in Maitland, NSW](#)

Patrick Cashman, Hunter New England LHD Immunisation Coordinator

[Q&A: Tailoring Immunization Programmes \(TIP\)](#)

### NCIRS Seminar 27/9/2017 - Addressing vaccine hesitancy and refusal

[Talk: Addressing vaccine hesitancy and refusal](#)

Associate Professor Julie Leask, University of Sydney

[Q&A: Addressing vaccine hesitancy and refusal](#)

## AusVaxSafety exceeds 200 SmartVax sites nationwide

[AusVaxSafety active vaccine safety surveillance](#) data are provided by [SmartVax](#), [Vaxtracker](#) and [STARSS](#). No safety signals have been identified through active surveillance to date. AusVaxSafety active surveillance data continue to be updated regularly on the [website](#).

*Influenza:* From 1 April 2017 to 3 September 2017, 102,663 individuals aged 6 months and older were enrolled for influenza vaccine surveillance. With an over 70% response rate, 73,560 participants consistently replied that any events after vaccination were generally mild and within expected ranges.

*Zoster:* As of 3 December 2017, a total of 10,739 persons aged 70–79 years have participated in zoster surveillance since 1 November 2016, yielding a response rate of 68%.

*Pertussis:* As of 10 December 2017, 29,592 children aged 12 months–<7 years have participated in pertussis surveillance since 14 March 2016, yielding a response rate of 72.4%.

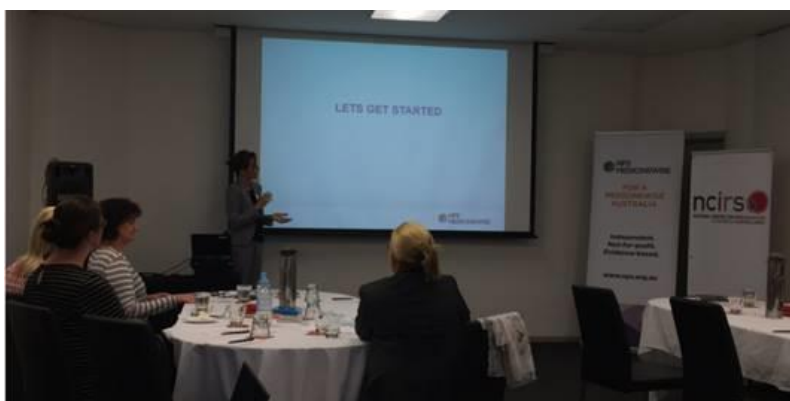
As of 4 December 2017, there are 201 SmartVax sites nationwide. A live map can now be accessed on the [SmartVax website](#).



## PHN Immunisation Support Program

NCIRS has partnered with NPS MedicineWise to develop a national Primary Health Network (PHN) immunisation support program on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health. The program will help PHNs to coordinate services and better assist immunisation providers to implement the National Immunisation Program.

The first stage of the project to develop a formative research report has now been completed and has served to understand the current landscape and explore the challenges and opportunities associated with establishing a support program.



Three stakeholder workshops, held in Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney, followed by a co-design workshop in Sydney have identified the specific elements of the program. [Read more...](#)

For more information, please contact Lauren Dalton [Lauren.Dalton@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lauren.Dalton@health.nsw.gov.au)

## Paediatric Active Enhanced Disease Surveillance (PAEDS)

In 2017, [PAEDS](#) celebrated its 10th anniversary with a showcase held in Melbourne in conjunction with the annual face-to-face meeting of PAEDS members and stakeholders. The year started off with the addition of two new conditions to the surveillance: invasive meningococcal disease and invasive group A streptococcus disease. Enhanced surveillance for pertussis, which included recruitment of controls for estimating vaccine effectiveness, and expansion of influenza surveillance in collaboration with [FluCAN](#) has been supported by our NHMRC Partnership Grant (#1113851). PAEDS also expanded surveillance with two new sites at Royal Darwin Hospital (Northern Territory) and Monash children's Hospital (Victoria). The influenza season this year was one of very high activity, particularly for PAEDS sites in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. Data for influenza are still being collated, with analysis and results expected early 2018. Encephalitis also experienced high activity in conjunction with the flu season. PAEDS is looking to embrace the new year under a program of research framework (for most sites) and with the addition of a new study arm - Kawasaki Disease.

### SAVE THE DATE: ASID Adult Immunisation Satellite Workshop



#### **'Vaccination is not just for kids': what infectious disease physicians need to know**

This workshop, organised by the AusVaxSafety group at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS), in partnership with Surveillance of Adverse Events Following Vaccination In the Community (SAEFVIC), is being held prior to the ASID Annual Scientific Meeting on **Wednesday, 9 May 2018, 2.30 pm – 5.30 pm at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa.**

**Who should attend:** Adult infectious disease physicians, public health physicians, general practitioners and nurses

**Why you should attend:** National experts will present the latest updated information on adult vaccination - specifically, zoster and influenza vaccines, as well as tips on vaccinating immunosuppressed individuals and managing adverse events.

Find out what physicians and nurses need to know. [Register now](#)

## International Conferences & Meetings

### **International Vaccines Task Force (IVTF) Meeting**

Professor Peter McIntyre (Director, NCIRS) attended the inaugural IVTF face-to-face meeting held at the World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC on 10 November 2017.

### **Foundation Mériex Conference: Vaccinology - Hanoi, Vietnam**

In October 2017 Professor Kristine Macartney (Deputy Director, NCIRS) attended this symposium for Asia Pacific experts and presented on 'Active surveillance to assess vaccine benefits and risks'.

### **International Conference for Realist Research, Evaluation and Synthesis - October 24–26, 2017**

Dr Penny Haora (Research Fellow, Social Science, NCIRS) attended this multidisciplinary conference in Brisbane, reconnecting with international colleagues utilising realist methods for evaluation and evidence synthesis.

## SAVE THE DATE: Collaboration on Social Science & Immunisation (COSSI) Workshop

### Immunisation 'gains, gaps and goals': Understanding attitudes, barriers and experiences. A COSSI workshop

Please save the date for a face-to-face workshop COSSI is hosting on **Monday, June 4 2018 in Adelaide** (pre-PHAA National Immunisation Conference). This will be a full-day workshop to provide an important information-sharing and networking opportunity for researchers, academics, policy makers, public health/health services/program managers and evaluators, immunisation providers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care workers and those working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and anyone interested in immunisation communications and/or working in the field of social science and immunisation. Please contact [samantha.carlson@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:samantha.carlson@health.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

The Collaboration on Social Science and Immunisation (COSSI) is an initiative of NCIRS and the University of Sydney. It was established in 2016 to better inform Australian immunisation policy and practice with high-quality evidence from the social sciences by supporting capacity in research and evaluation, collaborations and translations. [Find out more & join COSSI here.](#)

## NSW Immunisation Specialist Service (NSWISS) Biennial Report 2015–2017



In September 2015, the NSW Immunisation Specialist Service (NSWISS) was established in partnership with NSW Health, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) and the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN). The aim of NSWISS is to provide better access to vaccination and to improve immunisation coverage for children with chronic medical conditions, their siblings and parents.

The four core activities of NSWISS are:

- A drop-in opportunistic immunisation clinic
- A Specialist Immunisation Clinic
- A specialist immunisation telehealth service
- A telephone advice line (1800 NSWISS)

[The NSW Immunisation Specialist Service \(NSWISS\) Biennial Report 2015–2017 is now available.](#)

## Message Stick Newsletter



The latest National Indigenous Immunisation message stick newsletter is now available. [View the December 2017 Message Stick newsletter on the NCIRS website.](#)

## NCIRS in the Media October – December 2017

[What is meningococcal disease and what are the options for vaccination?](#) – Associate Professor Nicholas Wood

[Calls for free vaccines to protect against deadly new meningococcal strain](#) – Professor Peter McIntyre

[Anti-vax pamphlets flooding mailboxes](#) – NCIRS

[Pneumococcal pneumonia and the future of vaccination](#) – NCIRS

[Research suggests vaccinating children against deadly meningococcal B from two months of age](#) - Professor Peter McIntyre

[Babies and Indigenous children most at risk from common meningococcal strain](#) – Professor Peter McIntyre

[Pressure grows to add meningococcal B strain to immunisation schedule, cases of disease rising](#) – Professor Robert Booy

[Should meningococcal B vaccine be subsidised?](#) Professor Robert

[Experts slam 'utterly false' claims Australians given budget flu vaccine](#) – Professor Robert Booy

## NCIRS Publications October – December 2017

1. Wiley K, Regan A, McIntyre P. Immunisation and pregnancy – who, what, when and why? Australian Prescriber 2017;40:122-4. [Abstract](#)
2. Newcombe PJ, Kaur R, Wood N, Seale H, Palasanthiran P, Snelling TL. Paediatrician beliefs and practices around influenza vaccination. Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health 2017;53:711-4. [Abstract](#)
3. Britton PN, Dale RC, Blyth CC, Macartney K, Crawford N, Marshall H, Clark J, Elliott E, Webster RI, Cheng AC, Booy R, Jones CA. Influenza-associated encephalitis/encephalopathy identified by the Australian Childhood Encephalitis study 2013–2015. Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal 2017;36:1021-6. [Abstract](#)
4. Britton PN, Blyth CC, Macartney K, Dale RC, Li-Kim-Moy J, Khandaker G, Crawford NW, Marshall H, Clark JE, Elliott EJ, Booy R, Cheng AC, Jones CA. The spectrum and burden of influenza-associated neurological disease in children: combined encephalitis and influenza sentinel site surveillance from Australia, 2013-2015. Clinical Infectious Diseases 2017;65:653-60. [Abstract](#)
5. Yin JK, Jayasinghe SH, Charles PG, King C, Chiu CK, Menzies RI, McIntyre PB. Determining the contribution of Streptococcus pneumoniae to community-acquired pneumonia in Australia. Medical Journal of Australia 2017;207:396-400. [Abstract](#)
6. Sheel M, Beard FH, Dey A, Macartney K, McIntyre PB. Rates of hospitalisation for herpes zoster may warrant vaccinating Indigenous Australians under 70. Medical Journal of Australia 2017;207:395-6. [Abstract](#)
7. Archer BN, Chiu CK, Jayasinghe SH, Richmond PC, McVernon J, Lahra MM, Andrews RM, McIntyre PB. Epidemiology of invasive meningococcal B disease in Australia, 1999–2015: priority populations for vaccination. Medical Journal of Australia 2017;207:382-7. [Abstract](#)
8. Beard FH, Leask J, McIntyre PB. No Jab, No Pay and vaccine refusal in Australia: the jury is out [letter in reply to Jamrozik Med J Aust. 2017;207(9):407]. Medical Journal of Australia 2017;207:407-8. [Abstract](#)
9. Torresi J, Richmond PC, Heron LG, Qiao M, Marjason J, Starr-Spires L, van der Vliet D, Jin J, Wartel TA, Bouckenoghe A. Replication and excretion of the live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine CYD-TDV in a flavivirus-naive adult population: assessment of vaccine viremia and virus shedding. Journal of Infectious Diseases 2017;216:834-41. [Abstract](#)
10. Christie D, Rashid H, El Bashir H, Sweeney F, Shore T, Booy R, Viner RM. Impact of meningitis on intelligence and developmental delay: a systematic review and meta-analysis. PLOS ONE 2017;12:e0175024. [Abstract](#)
11. Costantino V, Gidding HF, Wood JG. Projections of zoster incidence in Australia based on demographic and transmission models of varicella-zoster virus infection. Vaccine 2017;35:6737-42. [Abstract](#)
12. Pillsbury A, Quinn H, Cashman, Leeb A, Macartney K. Active SMS-based influenza vaccine safety surveillance in Australian children. Vaccine 2017;35:1701-06. [Abstract](#)
13. Khatami A, Khan F, Macartney KK. Enteric fever in children in Western Sydney, Australia, 2003–2015. Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal 2017;36:1124-28. [Abstract](#)