

NCIRS 2016 Immunisation Coverage Report – Summary of key findings

The Annual Immunisation Coverage Report 2016 focusing on immunisation data from 1 January to 31 December 2016 was prepared by NCIRS and is available at <http://bit.ly/NCIRScoverage>.

Fully immunised rates

- In mid-2016, 'fully immunised' coverage at 1 year of age reached 93.9% - its highest ever recorded level (**Figure 1**).
- In mid-2016, 'fully immunised' coverage at 5 years of age reached 93.5%, also a record high (**Figure 1**).
- The Australian Government's 'No Jab No Pay' policy, implemented from 1 January 2016, is likely to have contributed to these increases.

Adolescent vaccine catch-up

- Of the 411,157 10- to 19-year olds without a second dose of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine recorded at the end of 2015, 43,103 (10.5%) had received it by the end of 2016 (**Table 4**). Many of these 'catch up' doses were likely to have been given due to 'No Jab No Pay' requirements.

HPV immunisation rates

- 78.6% of females completed a full course of HPV vaccine in 2016, up from 77.8% in 2015 (**Table 5**).
- 72.9% of males completed a full course of HPV vaccine in 2016, up from 67.1% in 2015 (**Table 5**).

Coverage and timeliness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

- Although levels of on-time vaccination (within 30 days of recommended age) increased for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and non-Indigenous children in 2016, delayed vaccination remained substantially higher among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (**Figure 14 and 15**).
- The gap in immunisation coverage at 12 months of age between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and non-Indigenous children decreased 4-fold, from 6.7% lower in 2013 to 1.7% lower by the end of 2016 (**Figure 5**).

Coverage and timeliness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continued

- In 2016, coverage of the 2nd dose of hepatitis A vaccine for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in jurisdictions where it is supplied free under the National Immunisation Program (NT, QLD, SA and WA) reached its highest ever recorded level of 74.7% (**Figure 8**).
- In 2016, coverage for the booster dose of pneumococcal vaccine in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in relevant jurisdictions (NT, QLD, SA and WA) reached its highest ever recorded level of 74.3% (**Figure 9**).
- Coverage for the influenza vaccine program for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to <5 years, which commenced in 2015, remained suboptimal at 11.6% in 2016 (**Figure 12**).

Medical exemption data

- The number of medical exemptions to vaccination more than doubled in 2015 compared with 2014 (635 to 1401), but decreased in 2016 (**Figure 20**), likely due to the stricter eligibility criteria introduced in that year.