

Sixth PHA National Immunisation Conference, Melbourne, November 1998

Agenda for Action

The PHA notes:

- the appointment of a National Director for Immunisation within the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services, as recommended by previous PHA immunisation conferences
- recent and ongoing increases in national commitment to improving the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
- the policy commitment to measles elimination in Australia
- and applauds the Commonwealth's recent allocation of funds to support an influenza and pneumococcal immunisation program for identified risk groups.

The PHA recommends that:

- governments act to strengthen the existing arrangements to ensure high quality independent technical advice that supports and informs national policy development
- as a matter of urgency, plans are developed for the immediate realisation of a national measles elimination strategy
- combination vaccines are introduced into the routine childhood schedule as soon as they become licensed so that a universal infant hepatitis B immunisation program can be implemented
- the need to improve the completeness and utility of the ACIR to immunisation service providers is given priority in the ongoing development of the ACIR
- immunisation programs be coordinated at a regional level to promote an integrated approach between public and private providers
- as a matter of urgency, public sector provider incentives should be developed to complement those recently developed for the private sector
- the Commonwealth Minister for Health provides funding to support independent evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of financial incentives for parents and providers
- immunisation providers in both the public and private sectors must collaborate effectively to achieve acceptable levels of immunisation amongst that part of the population identified as hard-to-reach
- immediate action is taken to strengthen surveillance of vaccine safety with funding support from the Commonwealth health portfolio
- a national evaluation of the delivery of the adolescent hepatitis B program is undertaken to obtain evidence of compliance with, and efficacy of, the NHMRC recommendations
- all states and territories commit the necessary effort to enforce laws requiring certification of immunisation status at entry to child care and school
- adequate surveillance of the impact of the influenza and pneumococcal immunisation program targeting identified risk groups should be implemented
- the Commonwealth should take action to establish a system that ensures adequate monitoring and evaluation of adult immunisation status.