

Immunisation at the crossroads - Challenges and Strategies
9th National PHAA Immunisation Conference / 1st PHAA Asia-Pacific Vaccine
Preventable Diseases Conference
19 & 20 August 2004

Agenda for Action/Conference Resolutions

The Public Health Association of Australia recommends that:

1. The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register becomes a whole of life immunisation register for vaccines administered in infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood.
2. Commonwealth, State and Territory, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other relevant stakeholders develop a comprehensive new National Immunisation Strategy that includes explicit disease control objectives and performance measures, including vaccination coverage for special groups and evaluation and reporting of adverse events following immunisation.
3. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) announces the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule for the following year at an agreed time. This notification should be at least six months prior to implementation to ensure availability of vaccines and adequate communication with all vaccine service providers.
4. The Australian Government agrees to fund all vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council for the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule based on pre-determined criteria of cost-effectiveness and public health benefit.
5. Introduction of all new vaccines should include adequate provision for on-going surveillance, including laboratory surveillance and adverse events surveillance. This surveillance capacity should include maintenance of a national collection of stored sera to facilitate investigation of any unexpected problems in vaccine programs.
6. That State and Territory governments and the Australian Government work collaboratively with all vaccine providers to ensure adequate transport and storage of vaccines from supply to delivery, proportionate to the increasing cost of vaccines in general use.
7. The Australian Government, through the National Health & Medical Research Council or otherwise, makes specific provision for the public sector funding of vaccine research in both Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, designed to complement research currently sponsored by industry.
8. The specific phrase "the provision of EPI vaccines for all children" be included among the primary goals of the Australian Government aid programs for countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

9. ATAGI provides comprehensive best practice schedule options and makes national recommendations for immunisation of groups with special needs, such as persons with varying levels of immune suppression.