

Foreword

ADGP is pleased to provide you with this resource "*Immunisation Kit: a practical guide to effective vaccine management for general practice staff*" for use by the Divisions Network.

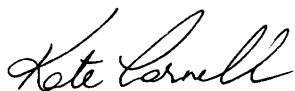
Two hundred years after Edward Jenner first demonstrated that vaccination offered protection against smallpox, vaccines are now recognised by public health authorities as one of the most cost effective health interventions available today. Australia's vaccination program continues to reduce the burden of increasing numbers of bacterial and viral diseases. We now have a nation with immunisation rates at 90%, equalling that of other leading OECD countries, and live at a time where we look forward to the global eradication of polio, and vaccine developments that can protect us from pandemics, biological weapons, and other potential threats.

This generation that has greatly benefited from such advances, now faces the new danger of not understanding the deaths, disfigurement, and various negative impacts to our well being that would arise from the actual diseases the vaccines prevent. It is now more important than ever to continue to promote child and adult immunisation at the grass roots community level, and to ensure that all Australians have access to quality, timely, and well coordinated immunisation information and service delivery both in general practice and across all parts of the health system.

A significant part of the Network's role is to support general practice in meeting these quality and safety of care needs in their communities. This support for the general practice team – general practitioners, practice nurses and practice staff - with the intricacies of childhood and adult immunisation will continue to make a significant difference to the health and well being of Australians.

In providing this resource for use by Division staff, ADGP recognises the contribution of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for their materials included in this one-stop Immunisation kit, and the significant immunisation related work of the Royal Australian College of General Practice, AGPAL, National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, State & Local Divisions, and many other individuals and organisations that are too numerous to mention

I commend this "*Immunisation Kit: a practical guide to effective vaccine management for general practice staff*" to you, as you continue to support general practice in this key public health area.



Kate Carnell
Chief Executive Officer
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