

Edition 21

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## Australian Childhood Immunisation Register coverage reporting

### Great coverage results

National immunisation coverage increased for all reported age cohorts during the last quarter. Coverage, reported nationally as at 30 September 2002, included:

- 12 - 15 month cohort coverage is 91.2% - up 1.0% since the June quarter
- 24 - 27 month cohort coverage is 88.8% - up 0.7%
- 72 - 75 month cohort coverage is 81.4% - up 0.8%

The results for the 12 - 15 month cohort are particularly strong. For the first time **all** States and Territories have achieved over 90% coverage, including Northern Territory which managed to exceed the national average.

Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (the Immunisation Register) coverage reports are produced at the end of each calendar quarter for children registered with Medicare who are aged between 12 - 15 months, 24 - 27 months and 72 - 75 months.

Immunisation coordinators and others 'in the field' know that there are a number of barriers to improving coverage, including delays in immunisation service delivery and reporting service details to the Immunisation Register. The results suggest we are overcoming these barriers. Well done to everyone who has played a role in helping improve Australia's childhood immunisation coverage rates.

### Coverage calculation for children aged between 12 - 15 months

Children need to have received the following by 12 months of age:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis—dose 3
- Polio—dose 3
- Hepatitis B dose 2 or 3
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)—dose 2 or 3

Where any of the above vaccines were administered after the child turned 12 months of age, these are not included in the coverage calculation. The following table outlines the coverage percentage as at 30 September 2002 for children born between the first of April and the end of June 2001.

State	No. in State	% DTP	% OPV	% HEPB	% HIB	% Fully
ACT	953	92.3	92.4	94.5	94.2	90.8
NSW	21034	92.3	92.2	95.2	94.4	91.0
VIC	14799	92.7	92.7	94.4	94.9	91.3
QLD	12716	92.6	92.4	95.1	94.7	91.4
SA	4293	92.8	92.8	95.2	95.0	91.8
WA	5993	91.8	91.6	94.0	94.5	90.3
TAS	1385	93.4	93.3	96.4	96.4	92.9
NT	913	92.4	92.1	96.9	96.8	91.3
AUST	62086	92.5	92.4	94.9	94.7	91.2

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## Coverage calculation for children aged between 24 - 27 months

Children need to have received the following by 24 months of age:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis—dose 4
- Polio—dose 3
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella—dose 1
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)—dose 3 or 4

Where any of the above vaccines were administered after the child turned 24 months of age, these are not included in the coverage calculation. The following table outlines the coverage percentage as at 30 September 2002 for children born between the first of April and the end of June 2000.

State	No. in State	% DTP	% OPV	% MMR	% HIB	% Fully
ACT	1114	89.4	93.1	91.6	92.8	87.2
NSW	21839	90.1	94.1	93.1	94.0	87.7
VIC	15264	91.6	95.5	94.2	94.7	89.5
QLD	12417	91.9	94.7	94.2	94.5	89.9
SA	4461	91.4	95.5	94.8	95.0	90.0
WA	6168	89.5	94.1	93.3	93.2	87.1
TAS	1473	93.7	96.1	95.2	95.5	92.8
NT	905	88.2	96.1	95.6	94.8	87.4
AUST	63641	90.9	94.7	93.8	94.3	88.8

## Coverage calculation for children aged between 72 - 75 months

Children need to have received the following by six years of age:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis—dose 5
- Polio—dose 4
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella—dose 2

Where any of the above vaccines were administered after the child turned six years of age, these are not included in the coverage calculation. The following table outlines the coverage percentage as at 30 September 2002 for children born between the first of April and the end of June 1996.

State	No. in State	% DTP	% OPV	% MMR	% Fully
ACT	1023	85.5	85.4	84.4	83.5
NSW	22081	83.4	83.4	81.0	79.1
VIC	15740	85.8	86.3	86.0	84.4
QLD	13011	83.9	84.4	83.6	82.1
SA	4758	84.5	84.8	83.0	81.7
WA	6759	81.8	82.1	81.5	79.3
TAS	1549	85.9	86.1	85.2	84.5
NT	822	85.2	86.7	85.9	83.3
AUST	65743	84.1	84.4	83.1	81.4

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## Immunisation Register Internet site

Providers' access to all HIC services, including the Immunisation Register, is via the selection—'Health Care Providers'. HIC's website can be viewed at [www.hic.gov.au](http://www.hic.gov.au)

## General Practice Immunisation Incentives scheme update

On 7 November 2002 the Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator, the Hon Kay Patterson, announced three important changes to the GPII scheme.

### **GPII scheme will continue until 30 June 2004**

### **Catch up to be included in GPII from 1 July 2003**

Vaccinations administered as catch up schedules will be included in the calculations for GPII outcomes payments from 1 July 2003.

### **85% outcome threshold to stay until 1 July 2003**

The planned increase in eligibility for receiving outcomes payment from 85% to 90% immunisation coverage, due to take effect on 1 January 2003, will be postponed for six months until 1 July 2003 when the inclusion of catch up takes effect. Outcomes payments will continue to be made to practices with 85% immunisation coverage until the end of June 2003. After this, practices will need a minimum of 90% immunisation coverage to receive an outcomes payment.

The first outcomes payment calculation to use the new eligibility criteria will now be the August 2003 quarter, using the reference period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003. It is therefore important that practices continue to improve their immunisation coverage.