



Primary Source Immunisation

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From the Immunisation Principal Network Adviser

Immunisation has been in the news recently with discussions about the effectiveness of vaccines and their safety and possible compensation for alleged adverse events following vaccination. Sometimes it seems that we are fighting a battle we should not need to fight. We are all aware of the importance of immunisation as a cornerstone of population health and the successes of immunisation over the previous hundred years. Unfortunately that success has led to the situation where the diseases are not visible, the side effects of the disease are basically unknown and it is easy for the population to become complacent.

It is only when we have a disaster such as the death of a baby or unvaccinated young adult, that immunisation gets the priority it deserves in the media and in the minds of the population in general. Advocating for immunisation and constantly educating and repeating messages about the importance of timely and safe vaccinations is part of the never ending role we play. It's lucky that those working in the immunisation world are passionate and dedicated, keen to maintain that vigilance and overcome that general complacency. Well done!!

You can now follow **AGPN on twitter:** www.twitter.com/agpn_ceo

Helen Moore Immunisation Principal Network Adviser

Horvath Review of the management of vaccine adverse events released

The former Chief Medical Officer, Professor John Horvath AO was commissioned by the Australian Government to review the management of vaccine adverse events. This followed the withdrawal of the seasonal flu vaccine for children in the 2010 flu season after reports of an unusually high incidence of fever and convulsions in children under five years of age. The report recommends a more cohesive and coordinated national plan to deal quickly and effectively with health concerns about vaccines. It includes a call for an improved system of governance for vaccine safety monitoring, surveillance and timely reporting of adverse events following immunisation along with better health professional awareness about vaccine safety monitoring and more transparency by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The report can be viewed at <http://immunise.health.gov.au/>



[AGPN National Forum 2011](#)

[Click here to view the events calendar.](#)

Recent changes to pneumococcal vaccine for children

From 1 July, the pneumococcal vaccine for children as part of the National Immunisation Program has been changed in a straight replacement for all states and territories except the Northern Territory. Prevenar 13® which is a 13-valent conjugate vaccine has replaced Prevenar 7®, the 7-valent vaccine.

Information on this [vaccine](#) and on pneumococcal disease at [pneumococcal disease](#) can be found at the Federal Government's immunise.health.gov site.

Immunisation grants program launches to improve adult health in local Aust. communities

GlaxoSmithKline announced this week the launch of its fourth Adult Immunisation Grants program for healthcare professionals working in immunisation. The grants are designed to support innovation in adult immunisation by improving awareness of, access to and implementation of adult immunisation and to demonstrate GlaxoSmithKline's ongoing commitment to improving adult health in Australia.

Network members have been successful winners in previous years and two examples of their wonderful work can be found on the GSK website.

- Yorke Peninsula Division of General Practice in South Australia received a grant from GSK in 2009 to improve immunisation rates for influenza and pneumococcal disease among Aboriginal communities in their local region.
- GP Down South Division of General Practice in Western Australia received a grant in the same year to develop a best practice manual template for protecting staff through immunisation from vaccine preventable diseases such as influenza, whooping cough, hepatitis A and B and measles, mumps and rubella.

Grant submissions can be lodged now until 5.30pm AEST 12 September, 2011. Visit [GSK's website](#) for more information.

Global immunisation effort

Recently Bill Gates delivered a key note address to the World Health Assembly in which he re-emphasised the importance of immunisation and the need to continue to develop and deliver vaccines especially to those in the world who are often left behind. He called on the World Health Organisation to make this the "Decade of Vaccines" to provide the leadership for a healthy future. He described his vision.

"Vaccines are an extremely elegant technology. They are inexpensive, they are easy to deliver, and they are proven to protect children from disease. At Microsoft, we dreamed about technologies that were so powerful and

yet so simple. Today, I like to imagine what the future will look like when world leaders start using vaccine technology to its utmost.

Let me describe the future I see.

- Early in this decade we will eradicate polio.
- By the end of the decade, five or six new vaccines will be available to all countries at prices they can afford to pay
- And crucially, every country in the world will have built a system to deliver vaccines to every last child.

To put an end to polio and reach all children with new vaccines, we must create strong immunization programs.”

The full speech can be found at; <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/speeches-commentary/Pages/bill-gates-2011-world-health-assembly.aspx>

National Pertussis Workshop – Strategies to prevent severe pertussis in the next decade

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has organised this workshop bringing together both national and international experts to share the latest information on pertussis. It is being held in Sydney on 25 & 26 August 2011 at the Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour and is supported by GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi Pasteur. Information about how to register for this important workshop can be found at: <http://ncirs.edu.au/news/index.php>

Vaccines in Public Health workshop

The University of Sydney and the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance [NCIRS] are running a two day workshop **Vaccines in Public Health** on 31 August - 1 September 2011. This course is an elective within the Master of Public Health and Master of International Health programs at the University and is also available to interested health professionals and immunisation providers.

The workshop includes interactive lectures and small group case studies on epidemiology, program implementation, indigenous health, adverse events and public controversies. Information on how to register for this workshop can be found at <http://ncirs.edu.au/news/index.php>

NCIRS influenza Fact Sheet

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance [NCIRS] has produced a new [Fact Sheet](#) on influenza. Other Fact Sheets on immunisation and vaccine preventable diseases can be found on the website at www.ncirs.edu.au

Health Service Development/Models of Care Master Class – registrations now open

[Wednesday 17 August and Thursday 18 August](#)
[Citigate King George Square, Brisbane](#)

AGPN is pleased to offer Network members a [Master Class](#) focusing on developing the skills on how to collect, measure and analyse the evidence to inform health service design and how to take the systematic steps needed to re-design a service to meet specific needs.

A key function of Medicare Locals is to take responsibility and provide for the health needs of respective populations. This requires that population needs must be understood – but what do you measure? How do you analyse the information? What's the priority going to be? As part of this responsibility, Medicare Locals will plan, purchase and, in some circumstances, provide direct services. Ultimately this requires an evidence-based understanding of how to design and develop services in a primary health care environment that responds to the needs of the local population.

The program will be available in the week commencing 11 July and will include topics such as:

- Population health planning frameworks including needs assessments, service and provider mapping and consultation
- Techniques for ensuring service redesign is informed by the patient voice
- The role of clinical networks in service redesign and how to support and strengthen clinical leadership
- Changing service cultures
- Funder purchase provider models

Survey on unmet health promotional material – for online resources

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency [ANPHA] is conducting a [survey](#) to determine unmet health promotion online resource needs.

Network members are encouraged to complete the survey which will take around ten minutes. ANPHA will produce an overview report and publish the findings on its website. The survey is open until Friday 22 July.

Primary Source: subscription

AGPN produces a number of e-bulletins under the banner of Primary Source. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving Primary Source send them to [AGPN's subscription page](#) for:

- Medicare Locals – Transition
- Immunisation
- eHealth
- Nursing in General Practice
- Close the Gap
- Chronic Disease Management

- Mental Health
- Quality Use of Medicines

Visitors can also subscribe to AGPN’s media releases and its quarterly magazine, [Network Connect](#).

National Primary Health Care Awards – nominations close August

Australia’s primary health service providers will now be able to achieve well earned recognition and rewards for outstanding performance through the inaugural [HESTA Primary Health Care Awards](#).

HESTA in conjunction with AGPN created these awards to mark excellence in primary health care.

ME Bank has provided \$30,000 in prize money for the awards which will culminate in an awards dinner at the AGPN’s National Forum on Wednesday 16 November, to which finalists will be flown.

HESTA CEO Ms Anne-Marie Corboy said the awards were designed to recognise innovation and leadership.

“These are two fundamental elements of a skilled and responsive health workforce,” Ms Corboy said.

AGPN CEO David Butt said the awards were timely in light of the incredible health reform agenda facing this sector.

“These awards recognise the role of all those who are usually the first the community turns to when they are sick or injured,” Mr Butt said.

There are three categories for nominations:

Young leader

Individual distinction

Team excellence

Nominations can be made online at <http://www.phcawards.com.au/>

Immunisation project contact: hmoore@agpn.com.au [Click here to unsubscribe](#)



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