



Primary Source Immunisation

Vol No.1 Issue No.6 September 2011

From the Immunisation Principal Network Adviser

We do live in interesting times. We have new and different vaccine delivery methods in development, plans to deliver a single dose oral vaccine which does not need refrigeration and protects against all diseases. We have commitments of funding from philanthropic organisations and individuals as well as some great successes in the global fight against some of the worst of those vaccine preventable diseases. It is an exciting time ahead in the vaccination world, so 'watch this space' as we embark on new ways and means to keep our rates of immunisation at effective levels.

The following links are to some inspiring and reassuring talks given by people supporting immunisation and stressing the need to maintain that vigilance to ensure we continue to improve the health and well-being of as many people as possible.

The following is a talk as part of the Shine Dome Public Lecture series by [Prof. Peter Doherty](#) the Nobel prize winning Australian. He covers bat viruses, measles and influenza along with other things. [The video does not work until the 22:53 point so slide the timer along to that point].

The TED series of lectures often provides an interesting look at immunisation. This one given by Bruce Aylward is entitled *How we'll [stop polio for good](#)*. He covers a broad range of immunisation issues and is very good viewing.

Of course the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation has been a supporter of immunisation for some time. The Gates foundation site often gives different approaches to communicating the immunisation message. Gates' address to the WHO has many good quotes and this [vaccines saves lives](#) animation is worth viewing as well.

The [Lancet's Decade of Vaccines](#) gives a little history and something for the future and this from [India Real Time](#) media on a technique to improve immunisation rates.

Finally, this [US news](#) item could stimulate some discussion. It concerns a practice which is only accepting people who have been vaccinated. It begs the question of what happens to access for those who want information, those who are hesitating or the fence sitters? These are often the ones we can influence.

The articles or talks do take some time, but are worth the effort. Enjoy!



[AGPN National Forum 2011](#)

[Forum program](#)

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Recent changes to pneumococcal vaccine for children

Prevenar13® which is a 13-valent conjugate pneumococcal vaccine has now replaced Prevenar7®, the 7-valent vaccine as part of the National Immunisation Program (NIP). This has been in place from 1 July in all states and territories except the Northern Territory and was done as a straight replacement. From 1 October 2011, the Northern Territory will also be using Prevenar13®. If you require more information about this [vaccine](#) or [pneumococcal disease](#) it can be found at the Federal Government's <http://immunise.health.gov.au/site>.

Supplementary program for Prevenar13®

The Department of Health and Ageing will be rolling out a program to provide a single supplementary dose of Prevenar13® from 1 October 2011 to those children aged between 12 and 35 months who have completed their primary pneumococcal vaccination with Prevenar7®. This will give these children protection against an additional six serotypes of pneumococcal disease.

Over the next six months the Commonwealth will notify by mail the parents of those children who are eligible for this supplementary dose of Prevenar13®. If parents or providers need further information, it will be available at <http://immunise.health.gov.au/>

ACIR and Prevenar13®

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register or ACIR is working to ensure that all Prevenar13® data is captured when entered by providers. They have been interacting with the software providers to deal with recent issues and are also looking to capture the data which has been lodged as Prevenar7® instead of Prevenar13® by checking the batch numbers.

Last Days to apply for the GSK Adult Immunisation Grants!!

Time is running out to apply for one of this year's GlaxoSmithKline Adult Immunisation Grants. The closing date has been extended to 19 September 2011 so get your application in now!

All the information you need can be found on the [GSK's website](#).

The grants are designed to support innovation in adult immunisation by improving awareness of, access to and implementation of adult immunisation. 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.

You can apply yourself or work with others if you have a project or program you would like considered.

National Pertussis Workshop

The recently held National Pertussis Workshop brought together national and international experts to share the latest information on Pertussis. The presenters and delegates keenly discussed ways to work towards developing better and more effective programs, vaccines and strategies to beat the pertussis epidemic cycles. The program/abstract booklet and some of the presentations can be found on the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) website at <http://ncirs.edu.au/news/archive.php>

Pertussis website gives national view

Australian healthcare professionals, public health workers and patients now have another weapon in the fight against whooping cough, with the launch of www.whoopingcough.com.au. With more notifications of whooping cough in Australia than ever before and 51% higher than 2010 YTD¹, the need for comprehensive, up-to-date and engaging information about whooping cough has never been more critical.

The site has been developed by vaccines manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur and offers easy to use and interactive tools such as an Australian map with information tailored by State, a 10 question quiz and Facebook sharing in order to help spread the message.

If new parents or other close contacts of a newborn have questions about how to prevent whooping cough, they should visit www.whoopingcough.com.au and combine this with a visit to their family doctor for professional advice.

References: 1. Australian Government DoHA, National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System. Accessed on 1 August, 2011 at http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/Source/Rpt_3.cfm.

COAG Reform council – Essential vaccines partnership

This council recently released its report on the National Partnership Agreement on Essential Vaccines. The objective of this partnership is to improve the health and well-being of Australians through the cost-effective delivery of immunisation programs under the NIP. The council assessed the performance of the jurisdictions against four benchmarks based on maintaining or improving immunisation coverage rates. The report can be found at www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au

Meningococcal Disease Workshop

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance [NCIRS] is hosting the Meningococcal Disease workshop on 15 November 2011 in Melbourne. This workshop will bring together national and international experts to share the latest information on the biology, epidemiology, prevention and complications of meningococcal disease. The program, registration form and other information can be found at <http://ncirs.edu.au/news/index.php>

Needle Free Vaccinations – now a possibility

Nanopatch™ has been developed by The University of Queensland and will now become a commercial possibility thanks to the Australian Government's Innovation Investment Fund. The patch will provide needle free vaccinations using less vaccine than a syringe, prevent needle-stick injuries and eliminate the need for vaccines to be refrigerated. Clinical trials will be conducted within the next three years and follows eight years of development led by Professor Mark Kendall at the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology. Immunisation providers everywhere will be delighted at the prospect of such a vaccine delivery method. More information can be found at www.one-ventures.com.

Getting those four year olds immunised

SA Health has launched a state-wide awareness campaign to remind parents about the importance of the booster vaccinations that are required before their child goes to Kindy. The campaign focuses on preparing children for big adventures before starting Kindy and informs parents that these immunisations can be safely given from three and a half years of age.

The campaign revolves around a delightfully engaging storybook focusing on a young child going to receive his booster immunisations. The story offers a fun way for parents to connect with children in this age group about boosters, and also highlights to parents the significant benefits of keeping their child's immunisations up to date.

The storybook is mailed out by Medicare Australia to all children turning three and a half years of age, along with an information brochure for parents, all contained in an activity wrap which children can colour in. A reminder card will also be mailed out to children who remain unimmunised with their booster vaccines at three years and 11 months of age. Promotional materials (storybook character face masks and stickers) have also been developed for providers to offer children once immunised, and can be ordered from the Immunisation Section.

The campaign was launched at the start of August by the SA Minister for Health and information materials were sent to health providers, Kindies and child care centres. To date the campaign has been very well received with a high demand for more promotional materials.

Although South Australia has high vaccination coverage rates in the one and two year old age group the four year

old rates have been below the national average for the past two years. According to ACIR as at March 2011, 87.1% of all eligible children in South Australia have received their four year old booster vaccines [Infanrix IPV and MMR]. However this figure drops down to 76.9% for Aboriginal children.

The campaign is designed to improve the timeliness and increase the coverage rate of vaccines scheduled for children at four years of age.

For further information please contact the Immunisation Section, SA Health on 1300 232 272 or immunisation@health.sa.gov.au or visit the website at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/boosters

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
- Coordinated Veterans' Care Program
- Events

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

Nominations now CLOSED for HESTA PHC Awards



AGPN and HESTA wish to thank the many individuals and organisations that participated in nominating colleagues

for the [HESTA Primary Health Care Awards](#) for 2011 and look forward to promoting the finalists very soon. 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

Finalists will be flown to the:

HESTA Primary Health Care awards dinner at AGPN's National Forum on Wednesday 16 November,

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

**AGPN acknowledges the financial support of the
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing**

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