Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Vaccine Update 514- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse identifiers consultation, Whooping Cough Day and Australian Centre for Disease Control inaugural annual report

11/11/2026

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse identifiers in datasets online consultation

Understanding and monitoring equity in immunisation programs requires reliable information on culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) populations. As such, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS), on behalf of the Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC), is seeking feedback through an online consultation on the use of CALD identifiers in datasets. You are invited to participate.

The consultation aims to gather perspectives on the quality, usefulness, feasibility and acceptability of CALD identifiers used within immunisation programs and vaccine preventable disease (VPD) surveillance systems, and will help identify opportunities to strengthen the collection, analysis, and use of CALD data for VPD disease burden monitoring and immunisation program evaluation.

The survey takes approximately 15–20 minutes to complete.

Link to online survey:
https://redcap.ohmr.health.nsw.gov.au/surveys/?s=9JT4ACLJFXY33XD3

Survey responses are requested by **Friday 13 November 2026.**

Whooping Cough Day

Whooping Cough Day was on 8 November, this day raises awareness of the importance of immunisation, including booster doses throughout life.

This is an important reminder of the ongoing threat of whooping cough (pertussis) and the role immunisation plays in protecting individuals, families and communities.

Whooping cough is a highly infectious bacterial disease that affects the airways and can cause severe, uncontrollable coughing. While people of all ages can become infected, babies and young children are at greatest risk of serious complications, including pneumonia, breathing difficulties and, in some cases, death. Whooping cough is a notifiable disease in WA.

Immunisation remains the best protection against whooping cough, however, immunity wanes over time. Please review the immunisation status of all your patients, regardless of reason for visit, and offer the vaccine at every appropriate opportunity, particularly during pregnancy and when in close contact with young infants.

Pertussis-containing vaccines are recommended and free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for:

- children aged 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 18 months and 4 years.
- adolescents ages 11 to 13 years, typically provided though the School-based Immunisation Program (SBIP) to Year 7 students
- pregnant people during each pregnancy, preferably between 20 and 32 weeks gestation.

Vaccination coverage data is published on the Australian immunisation dashboards. Current vaccination coverage in Western Australia (WA) is approximately:

- 92 per cent of children under 5 years of age are fully vaccinated against pertussis
- 93 per cent of Aboriginal children under 5 years of age are fully vaccinated against pertussis
- 80 per cent of adolescents turning 15 in 2026 have received an adolescent dose of pertussis
- 70 per cent of Aboriginal adolescents turning 15 in 2026 have received an adolescent dose of pertussis

in 2025, 75 per cent of women who gave birth received a dose of pertussis-containing vaccine during pregnancy.

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Australian Centre for Disease Control inaugural annual report

The Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) has just released its first Annual Report (2025-2026), highlighting key achievements since its establishment on 1 January 2026.

The report showcases the work of the Australian CDC over the past six months, including:

- supporting national responses to Australia's largest recorded diphtheria outbreak
- providing advice on the emergence of Andes virus hantavirus among international travellers
- monitoring international Ebola outbreaks
- supporting preparedness and response activities following the detection of bird flu in Australia
- strengthening national surveillance, risk assessment and public health coordination

bringing together expertise and information from across Australia and around the world to support evidence-based decision-making.

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