

Significant events in **influenza** vaccination practice in Australia

Year	Month	Intervention
Pre-1991		Seasonal influenza vaccination recommended for individuals at risk of complications or death from influenza: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persons >65 years of age • persons of all ages with chronic debilitating disease (2 doses required for children) • persons receiving immunosuppressive therapy • persons engaged in medical and health services
1991		List of at-risk individuals for whom seasonal influenza vaccination recommended expanded to include residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities
1994		Seasonal influenza vaccination recommended for individuals aged ≥65 years and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged ≥50 years Seasonal influenza vaccination recommended to be considered for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individuals with underlying medical conditions that increased their risk of severe influenza or complications • residents of aged care and other chronic care facilities • staff members who care for immunocompromised patients and staff members of aged care and other chronic care facilities
1997		<i>Vic only:</i> Influenza vaccine funded for all adults aged ≥65 years
1999		Funding provided for both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the national Older Australian Flu Program (for adults aged ≥65 years); and • the National Indigenous Pneumococcal and Influenza Immunisation Program (for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged ≥50 years and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15–49 years who had at least one of a range of underlying medical conditions that increased their risk of influenza or complications)
2000	March	List of underlying medical conditions and population groups for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended expanded. Additional groups included pregnant women, healthcare workers and (under specified conditions) travellers Recommended upper age for children requiring 2 doses in the first year they receive influenza vaccine specified as <10 years
2002	October	First enhanced trivalent influenza vaccine (adjuvanted) registered for use in adults aged ≥65 years
2003	September	List of underlying medical conditions and population groups for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended further expanded
2008	January	Seasonal influenza vaccine recommended annually for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged ≥15 years
	April	<i>WA only:</i> Seasonal influenza vaccination program funded for all children aged 6 months to <5 years
2009	March	Intradermal influenza vaccine (9 µg) registered for adults aged 18–59 years
		Intradermal influenza vaccine (15 µg) registered for adults aged ≥60 years

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2009 (cont.)	September	Pandemic (A/H1N1 2009) influenza vaccine registered, recommended and funded for children aged ≥ 10 years and adults (1 dose)
	December	Pandemic (A/H1N1 2009) influenza vaccine registered, recommended and funded for children aged 6 months to ≤ 9 years (2 doses)
2010	January	Seasonal influenza vaccine funded for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all persons aged ≥ 6 months with medical conditions predisposing to severe influenza for whom influenza vaccination is recommended (previously subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme [PBS]) pregnant women (previously subsidised under PBS) all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged ≥ 15 years
	April	Use of the 2010 seasonal influenza vaccine in children aged < 5 years (including the WA vaccination program) suspended due to an increased incidence of high fevers and febrile convulsions post-vaccination
	August	Use of seasonal influenza vaccine in children aged < 5 years resumed. Vaccine associated with increased risk of febrile convulsions (Fluvax, CSL Biotherapies) no longer for use in children aged 6 months to < 5 years
	October	Second pandemic influenza vaccine (A/H1N1 2009) registered in Australia for use in adults aged ≥ 18 years
	December	Pandemic (A/H1N1 2009) influenza vaccine no longer available
2011	March	Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)/Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issue revised recommendations for brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in children aged 6 months to ≤ 9 years (due to safety data)
	July	First pre-pandemic (A/H5N1) influenza vaccine registered
2012	February	Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in children aged 6 months to ≤ 9 years issued
2013	February	Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in persons aged ≥ 6 months issued Second pandemic influenza vaccine (A/H1N1 2009) no longer registered in Australia for adults aged 18–19 years
	March	Seasonal influenza vaccine recommended for children aged 6 months to 5 years (2 doses) List of underlying medical conditions for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended expanded to include Down syndrome without congenital heart disease, obesity (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m ²) and alcoholism (not funded under the National Immunisation Program [NIP]) List of population groups for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended further expanded to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> homeless people persons involved in the commercial poultry or pork industry or in culling poultry or pigs during confirmed avian or swine influenza activity persons providing essential services
	August	First inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 3 years

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2014	March	Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in persons aged ≥ 6 months issued
	December	Second inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 6 months. Second inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered as two formulations: a half-dose for children aged 6 months to 3 years and a standard dose for individuals aged ≥ 3 years
2015	March	Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in persons aged ≥ 6 months issued Seasonal influenza vaccine funded for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to < 5 years List of underlying medical conditions for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended modified to include chronic liver disease (rather than alcoholism) and obesity with BMI ≥ 40 kg/m ² Recommended upper age for children requiring 2 doses in the first year in which they receive influenza vaccine changed from < 10 years to < 9 years First cell-based inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in adults aged > 18 years
	June	List of population groups for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended further expanded to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 5–14 years
2016	March	Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in persons aged ≥ 6 months issued
	April	Quadrivalent influenza vaccines funded for use in those groups for which trivalent vaccine had been previously funded
	July	Third inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 18 years
	October	First live attenuated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in individuals aged 2 to < 18 years
2017	March	Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in persons aged ≥ 6 months issued
	November	Fourth inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 18 years
	December	Second enhanced trivalent influenza vaccine (high-dose) registered for use in adults aged ≥ 65 years
2018	February	Third inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in people aged 5–17 years Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in persons aged ≥ 6 months issued
	March	List of underlying medical conditions for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended modified to include any preterm infants (< 37 weeks gestation) instead of preterm infants (< 37 weeks gestation) with underlying conditions

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2018 (cont.)	April	Enhanced trivalent influenza vaccines (high-dose and adjuvanted) funded for all adults aged ≥ 65 years <i>ACT, NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic:</i> Annual seasonal influenza vaccination program funded for all children aged 6 months to < 5 years
	May	First inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in lowered age from 3 years to 6 months
2019	February	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adolescents aged 5–14 years funded for influenza vaccine under NIP
	March	<i>NT:</i> Annual seasonal influenza vaccination program funded for all children aged 6 months to < 5 years Age for which the third inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use lowered from 5 years to 3 years
	April	Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in people aged ≥ 6 months issued Second enhanced trivalent influenza vaccine (high-dose) no longer funded for adults aged ≥ 65 years
	May	<i>ACT, NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic:</i> Annual seasonal influenza vaccination program funded for all children aged 6 months to < 5 years
	June	Fifth inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 6 months
	July	Age for which fourth inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use lowered from 18 years to 3 years
	August	Age for which second inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use lowered from 3 years to 6 months Second inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine half-dose formulation no longer available
	October	First enhanced quadrivalent influenza vaccine (adjuvanted; Flud Quad) registered for use in people aged ≥ 65 years
2020	March	SA government provided free annual seasonal influenza vaccination program for people who are homeless Flud Quad funded for people aged ≥ 65 years All children aged 6 months to < 5 years funded for influenza vaccine under NIP Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in people aged ≥ 6 months issued First enhanced trivalent influenza vaccine (adjuvanted) no longer available WA government provided free annual seasonal influenza vaccination program for primary school-aged children (pre-primary to year 6)
	September	First cell-based inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine (Flucelvax Quad) registered for use in people aged ≥ 9 years

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2021	March	Flucelvax Quad available on private prescriptions
	May	First recombinant quadrivalent influenza vaccine (Flublok Quad) registered for use in people aged ≥ 18 years
	October	Fourth inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine (Influvac Tetra) indication age extended to include use in children aged 6 months to 3 years
	November	Flucelvax Quad vaccine indication age extended to include use in children aged 2–9 years Second enhanced quadrivalent influenza vaccine (Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent) registered for use in adults aged ≥ 60 years
2022	March	Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent vaccine available on private prescriptions
	June	NSW, Qld, Vic, SA and WA governments provided state-funded influenza vaccination program for all residents from 1 June–30 June 2022
2023	July	Flucelvax Quad vaccine indication age extended to include use in children aged ≥ 6 months Qld government provided free influenza vaccinations from 17 July to 31 August 2023 for all Qld residents aged ≥ 6 months
	October	In the absence of confirmed detection of B Yamagata lineage virus circulating since 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended continued inclusion of this antigen in quadrivalent influenza vaccines no longer warranted. The Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee supported WHO's position to exclude this component from influenza vaccines as soon as possible
	November	Qld government committed to providing ongoing free influenza vaccinations in 2024 flu season for all Qld residents aged ≥ 6 months
2024	January	SA government provided free influenza vaccination for adults and children who are experiencing homelessness and are not eligible to receive NIP or state-funded influenza vaccines
	March	WA government provided free influenza vaccinations for all WA residents from May–June 2024 Flucelvax Quad vaccine available on NIP
	April	All influenza vaccines in Australia remained as quadrivalent vaccines for the 2024 season
2025	March	Qld government provided free influenza vaccinations between 1 March and 30 September 2025 for all Qld residents aged ≥ 6 months
	June	WA government provided free influenza vaccinations between 1 May and 31 July 2025 to all WA residents aged ≥ 6 months
	October	Fluad vaccine indication age expanded to include use in adults aged ≥ 50 years
2026	Feb	All influenza vaccines in Australia registered as trivalent vaccines for the 2026 season
	Mar	Intranasal live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV; FluMist) is funded for eligible children in NSW, Qld, SA and WA, and is also available on private prescription across Australia ATAGI revised the 2-dose schedule recommendation for unvaccinated healthy children by lowering the upper age threshold from <9 years to <2 years.