

Significant events in meningococcal vaccination practice in Australia

Year	Month	Intervention
1991		A single dose of meningococcal ACWY polysaccharide vaccine recommended for at-risk individuals: travellers to countries with frequent epidemics; close contacts in outbreaks of serogroup A, C, W-135 or Y; pilgrims attending the hajj; and persons aged >2 years with high-risk medical conditions (functional or anatomical asplenia, complement disorders). The need for revaccination to be assessed after 2–3 years
2000	March	In at-risk individuals, revaccination with meningococcal ACWY polysaccharide vaccine recommended after 3–5 years
2001	June	Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥6 weeks
2002	August	Two more meningococcal C conjugate vaccines registered for use in individuals aged ≥6 weeks
2003	January	Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine recommended and funded for children at 12 months of age Funded national meningococcal C vaccination catch-up program commenced for all children aged 1–19 years
	September	Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine recommended for at-risk individuals: close contacts in outbreaks of serogroup C and persons aged >6 weeks with high-risk medical conditions (functional or anatomical asplenia, complement disorders). Doses required vary according to age At-risk group expanded to include laboratory personnel who frequently handle <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>
2008	January	At-risk group expanded to include close contacts aged ≥2 years of cases of serogroup A, W-135 or Y and close contacts aged >2 months of cases of serogroup C. Doses of meningococcal C conjugate vaccine required vary according to age Recommended age for vaccination with meningococcal ACWY polysaccharide vaccine in individuals with high-risk medical conditions lowered from >2 years to ≥2 years
	June	National meningococcal C catch-up program completed
2010	June	Combined Hib (PRP-T) and meningococcal serogroup C vaccine registered for use in children aged <2 years
	November	Combined Hib (PRP-T) and meningococcal serogroup C vaccine included on the NIP list of vaccines but not in use
2011	July	Meningococcal ACWY diphtheria toxoid (DT) conjugate vaccine registered for use in individuals aged 2–55 years
2012	May	Meningococcal ACWY CRM ₁₉₇ conjugate vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥11 years
2013	March	High-risk medical group expanded to include persons treated with eculizumab and those post-haematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine recommended for at-risk individuals aged ≥9 months, in preference to meningococcal ACWY polysaccharide vaccine. Doses required vary according to age A booster dose of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine recommended every 5 years for at-risk individuals (with the exception of persons ≥9 months with a medical risk, previously vaccinated with meningococcal ACWY polysaccharide vaccine, for whom first booster dose recommended after 3 years)

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2013 (cont.)	July	Combined Hib and meningococcal serogroup C vaccine funded for infants aged 12 months
	August	Multicomponent recombinant meningococcal B vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 2 months – vaccine not available in Australia Meningococcal ACWY tetanus toxoid (TT) conjugate vaccine registered for use in individuals aged 1–55 years
2014	March	Multicomponent recombinant meningococcal B vaccine available on private prescription
	April	Multicomponent recombinant meningococcal B vaccine recommended for children aged < 24 months, adolescents aged 15–19 years, children and adults with high-risk medical conditions and laboratory personnel who frequently handle <i>Neisseria meningitides</i> . Doses required vary according to age
	July	Multicomponent recombinant meningococcal B vaccine recommended for close contacts in outbreaks of serogroup B and close contacts within a household with at least two serogroup B cases. Doses required vary according to age High-risk medical group expanded to include persons infected with HIV A booster dose of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine recommended every 5 years for at-risk individuals aged ≥ 7 years. For those at-risk individuals aged < 7 years, the first booster dose is recommended after 3 years, then every 5 years thereafter
2015	July	One meningococcal C conjugate vaccine ceased to be available in Australia
2016	December	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by WA for all children aged 0–4 years and adolescents aged 15–19 years in selected affected and at-risk regional areas
2017	February	Meningococcal ACWY polysaccharide vaccines ceased to be available in Australia
	March	WA ceased funding for meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for all children aged 0–4 years and adolescents aged 15–19 years in selected affected and at-risk regional areas
	April	Meningococcal B vaccine herd immunity study commenced in SA for grade 10–12 students at participating schools
	May	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by NSW for grade 11–12 students and adolescents aged 15–19 years who no longer attend school Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by Vic for grade 10–12 students and adolescents aged 15–19 years who no longer attend school Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by Qld for grade 10 students and adolescents aged 15–19 years who no longer attend school Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by WA for grade 10–12 students and adolescents aged 15–19 years who no longer attend school
	July	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by Tas for grade 10–12 students and persons aged 15–19 years who no longer attend school Age for which meningococcal ACWY CRM ₁₉₇ conjugate vaccine indication age extended to include use in children aged 2 months to 11 years
	September	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine program funded by NT for at-risk people aged 1–19 years living in specified remote regions, including Nhulunbuy, Alice Springs, Barkly and Katherine, and for residents of institutions

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2017 (cont.)	October	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by SA for all people aged ≥ 2 months living in selected affected and at-risk regional areas
	November	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by WA for people of all ages in selected affected and at-risk regional areas
		Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by Qld for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 1–19 years in selected affected and at-risk regional areas
December	<p>Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by Vic for gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men</p> <p>Qld ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 1–19 years in selected affected and at-risk regional areas</p> <p>Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine program expanded in NT to include all children at 12 months of age</p> <p>WA ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for people of all ages in selected affected and at-risk regional areas</p>	
2018	January	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by WA for children aged 12 months to 4 years
	February	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by ACT for grade 10 students and adolescents aged 16–19 years who no longer attend school
	April	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by SA for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adolescents aged 12 months to 19 years living in the Eyre and Far North and the Flinders and Upper North regions
	May	Age for which meningococcal ACWY DT conjugate vaccine registered for use lowered from 2–55 years to 9 months to 55 years
	July	<p>Meningococcal ACWY TT conjugate vaccine funded for all children at 12 months of age, replacing combined Hib (PRP-T) and meningococcal C vaccine</p> <p>Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine recommendations expanded to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children aged < 2 years • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 2 months to 19 years • adolescents aged 15–19 years • adolescents and young adults aged 20–24 years who live in close quarters • adolescents and young adults aged 20–24 years who are current smokers <p>Doses required vary according to age</p> <p>Meningococcal B vaccine recommendations expanded to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 2 months to 19 years • adolescents and young adults aged 20–24 years who live in close quarters • adolescents and young adults aged 20–24 years who are current smokers <p>Doses required vary according to age</p> <p>Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by Tas all people aged 6 weeks to 21 years</p>
	August	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine program expanded in NT to include all people aged 1–19 years

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2018 (cont.)	September	<p>First meningococcal ACWY TT conjugate vaccine indication age extended to include use in individuals aged ≥ 6 weeks</p> <p>A 2+1 dose schedule for infants aged 2–5 months approved for multicomponent recombinant meningococcal B vaccine</p> <p>SA ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for all people aged ≥ 2 months living in selected affected and at-risk regional areas</p>
	October	SA state-wide Meningococcal B Immunisation Program for children aged 6 weeks to 12 months made available. A catch-up program also made available for those from 12 months to <4 years of age
	December	<p>ACT ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for grade 10 students and people aged 16–19 years who no longer attend school</p> <p>Vic ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents</p>
2019	January	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by WA for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 weeks to <12 months
	February	<p>SA state-wide Meningococcal B Immunisation Program expanded to include grade 10 students</p> <p>SA commenced meningococcal B catch-up program for grade 11 students and those from 17 to <21 years of age</p> <p>Tas ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for all people aged 6 weeks to 21 years</p>
	March	<p>Qld ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents</p> <p>NSW ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents</p> <p>WA ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents</p>
	April	<p>Meningococcal ACWY TT conjugate vaccine funded under the NIP for adolescents aged 14–16 years, delivered through a school-based program; and for adolescents aged 15–19 years, delivered through primary care providers as part of an ongoing catch-up program</p> <p>A 2+1 dose schedule for infants aged 2–5 months approved for meningococcal ACWY CRM₁₉₇ conjugate vaccine. This was previously a 3+1 dose schedule</p>
	December	SA ceased funding of meningococcal B catch-up program for children aged 12 months to <4 years on 31 December 2019
2020	February	SA ceased funding of meningococcal B catch-up program for grade 11 students and those 17 to <21 years of age on 29 February 2020
	July	<p>Meningococcal B vaccine funded for people of all ages with asplenia, hyposplenia and complement deficiency and for those undergoing treatment with eculizumab</p> <p>Meningococcal B vaccine funded for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged <12 months. Catch-up available for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children up to 23 months of age for 3 years, until 30 June 2023</p>
	October	Second meningococcal ACWY TT conjugate vaccine registered for use in people aged 12 months and above

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2022	September	Quadrivalent meningococcal diphtheria toxoid conjugate vaccine (Menactra) no longer available and replaced by another quadrivalent meningococcal tetanus toxoid conjugate vaccine (MenQuadfi)
	December	A single booster dose of meningococcal B vaccine is recommended for individuals with medical conditions associated with increased risk of invasive meningococcal disease (refer to the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>)
2023	July	Catch-up program of meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero) available for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants aged <2 years (originally due to end on 30 June 2023)
2024	March	Queensland (Qld) provides free meningococcal B vaccine for eligible infants, children and adolescents in addition to NIP-eligible groups, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all infants and children aged <2 years all adolescents aged 15–19 years
	December	Meningococcal B vaccine (Trumenba) no longer available in Australia
2025	January	NT commences free meningococcal B vaccine program for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infants aged 6 weeks–12 months and year 9 students from January 2025 children aged 12 months–2 years and adolescents aged 15–19 years as part of a 2-year catch-up program until 31 December 2026
	February	Qld expands the free meningococcal B vaccine program, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for infants, aged 6 weeks–<12 months catch-up immunisation for children aged 12 months–<2 years who have not yet started or completed a course of meningococcal B immunisation with the Bexsero vaccine for adolescents aged 15–<20 years
	October	Meningococcal C vaccine (Neis-Vac) no longer available in Australia