

Significant events in influenza vaccination practice in Australia

Year	Month	Intervention
Pre-1991		<p>Seasonal influenza vaccination recommended for individuals at risk of complications or death from influenza:</p> <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 <p>as well as persons engaged in medical and health services</p>
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		<p>Seasonal influenza vaccination recommended for individuals aged ≥65 years and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged ≥50 years</p> <p>Seasonal influenza vaccination recommended to be considered for individuals with underlying medical conditions that increased their risk of severe influenza or complications, for residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities, and for staff who care for immunocompromised patients and staff of nursing home and other chronic care facilities</p>
1997		VIC only: influenza vaccine funded for all adults aged ≥65 years
1999		Funding provided for both the national Older Australian Flu Program (for adults aged ≥65 years) and the National Indigenous Pneumococcal and Influenza Immunisation (NIPII) 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	<p>List of underlying medical conditions and population groups for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended was expanded – additional groups included pregnant women, healthcare workers and travellers under specified conditions</p> <p>The recommended upper age for children requiring 2 doses in the first year they receive influenza vaccine specified as <10 years</p>
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 was further expanded
2008	January	Seasonal influenza vaccine recommended annually for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged ≥15 years
	April	WA only: 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
	March	Intradermal influenza vaccine (15 µg) registered for adults aged ≥60 years
	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)

Year	Month	Intervention
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 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.
	December	Pandemic (A/H1N1 2009) influenza vaccine no longer available
2011	March	ATAGI/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 prepandemic (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
	March	Seasonal influenza vaccine recommended for children aged 6 months–5 years (2 doses)
	March	List of underlying medical conditions for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended expanded to include: Down syndrome without congenital heart disease, obesity ($BMI \geq 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$), alcoholism (not funded under the NIP)
	March	List of population groups for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended further expanded to include homeless people, persons involved in the commercial poultry or pork industry, or in culling poultry or pigs during confirmed avian or swine influenza activity, and persons providing essential services
2013	August	First inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 3 years
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
2015	March	Annual ATAGI/TGA recommendations regarding brands of seasonal influenza vaccine for use in persons aged ≥ 6 months issued
	March	Seasonal influenza vaccine funded for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to < 5 years
	March	List of underlying medical conditions for which seasonal influenza vaccination recommended modified to include chronic liver disease (rather than alcoholism) and obesity with $BMI \geq 40 \text{ kg/m}^2$
	March	The recommended upper age for children requiring 2 doses in the first year they receive influenza vaccine changed from < 10 years to < 9 years
	March	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

Year	Month	Intervention
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–<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	March	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
	April	Enhanced trivalent influenza vaccines (high-dose and adjuvanted) and enhanced trivalent influenza vaccine (adjuvanted) funded for all adults aged ≥65 years
	April	ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC only: seasonal influenza vaccination program funded for all children aged 6 months to <5 years
	April	Age for which one quadrivalent influenza vaccine registered for use lowered from 3 years to 6 months