

Significant events in meningococcal vaccination practice in Australia

Year	Month	Intervention
1991		A single dose of meningococcal ACWY 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 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 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
	January	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). The doses required vary according to age.
	September	At-risk group expanded to include laboratory personnel 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. The doses of meningococcal C conjugate vaccine required vary according to age.
	January	Recommended age for vaccination with meningococcal ACWY vaccine in individuals with high-risk medical conditions lowered from >2 years to ≥2 years
	June	National catch-up program ceased
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)
	March	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine recommended for at-risk individuals aged ≥9 months, in preference to meningococcal ACWY vaccine. The doses required vary according to age.
	March	A booster dose of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine recommended every 5 years for at-risk individuals (with the exception of people ≥9 months with a medical risk, previously vaccinated with meningococcal ACWY vaccine, for whom first booster dose recommended after 3 years)
2013 (cont.)	July	Combined Hib and meningococcal serogroup C vaccine funded for infants aged 12 months

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	August	Multicomponent recombinant meningococcal B vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 2 months – vaccine not available in Australia
	August	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 meningitidis</i> . The 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. The doses required vary according to age.
	July	High-risk medical group expanded to include persons infected with HIV
	July	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 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 grades 10–12 students at participating schools
	May	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by NSW for grades 11–12 students and adolescents aged 15–19 years who no longer attend school
	May	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by VIC for grades 10–12 students and adolescents aged 15–19 years who no longer attend school
	May	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by QLD for grade 10 students and adolescents aged 15–19 years who no longer attend school
	May	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by WA for grades 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
	July	Age for meningococcal ACWY CRM ₁₉₇ conjugate vaccine registered for use lowered from ≥ 11 years to 2 months of age
	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
	October	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by SA for all people aged ≥ 2 months living in selected affected and at-risk regional areas
	October	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by WA for people of all ages in selected affected and at-risk regional areas

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	November	Bivalent recombinant meningococcal B vaccine registered for use in individuals aged ≥ 10 years
	November	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	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by VIC for gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men
	December	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
	December	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine program expanded in NT to include all children at 12 months of age
	December	WA ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for people of all ages in selected affected and at-risk regional areas
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 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–55 years
	July	Meningococcal ACWY TT conjugate vaccine funded for all children at 12 months of age, replacing combined Hib (PRP-T) and meningococcal C vaccine
	July	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine recommendations expanded to include: <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 The doses required vary according to age.
	July	Meningococcal B vaccine recommendations expanded to include: <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 The doses required vary according to age.
	July	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by TAS all people aged 6 weeks to 21 years
	August	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine program expanded in NT to include all people aged 1–19 years
	September	First meningococcal ACWY TT conjugate vaccine indication age extended to include use in individuals aged ≥ 6 weeks.
September	A 2+1 dose schedule for infants aged 2–5 months approved for multicomponent recombinant meningococcal B vaccine.	

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	September	SA ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for all people aged ≥ 2 months living in selected affected and at-risk regional areas
	October	SA state-wide Meningococcal B Immunisation Program for children aged 6 weeks to 12 months made available. A catch-up program also available for those 12 months to less than 4 years of age.
	December	ACT ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents for grade 10 students and people aged 16–19 years who no longer attend school
	December	VIC ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents
2019	January	Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine funded by WA for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 weeks to <12 months
	February	SA state-wide Meningococcal B Immunisation Program expanded to include grade 10 students
	February	SA commenced Meningococcal B catch-up program for grade 11 students and those 17 to less than 21 years of age
	February	TAS ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for all people aged 6 weeks to 21 years
	March	QLD ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents
	March	NSW ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents
	March	WA ceased funding of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine for adolescents
	April	Meningococcal ACWY TT conjugate vaccine funded under the NIP for adolescents aged 14–16 years delivered through a school-based program and adolescents aged 15 to 19 years delivered through primary care providers as part of an ongoing catch-up program.
April	A 2+1 dose schedule for infants aged 2–5 months approved for meningococcal ACWY CRM ₁₉₇ conjugate vaccine. This was previously a 3+1 dose schedule.	
2020	January	SA ceased funding of meningococcal B catch-up program for children aged 12 months to <4 years on 31 December 2019
	March	SA ceased funding of meningococcal B catch-up program for grade 11 students and those aged 17 to <21 years on 29 February 2020
	July	Meningococcal B vaccine funded for people of all ages with asplenia and hyposplenia, complement deficiency and those undergoing treatment with eculizumab. Meningococcal B vaccine funded for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (age <12 months). Catch-up available for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children <2 years of age (up to 23 months) for 3 years - until 30 June 2023.
	October	Second meningococcal ACWY TT conjugate vaccine registered for use in people aged 12 months and older.