

# Adult vaccination in Queensland

## Vaccine-preventable illness is costly

Vaccine-preventable pneumonia and influenza hospitalisations for Queenslanders 15+ in 2023-24 cost **\$146 million**.<sup>†</sup>



The average length of hospital stay for these avoidable hospitalisations was **5.5 days**.<sup>†</sup>

## Adult vaccination rates are too low...

### Coverage rates (%) for select age-based clinically recommended adult vaccinations

	QLD	ACT	NSW	NT	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Aust.
COVID-19 up-to-date 65-74	24	40	24	13	27	38	27	25	26
COVID-19 up-to-date 75+	14	22	13	6	15	22	14	14	14
Influenza 15+	37	48	36	27	42	44	40	37	38
Influenza 65+	60	66	58	35	67	68	62	60	61
Shingles 50-64*	2.2	3.7	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.2	1.6	2.2
Shingles 65+*	50	50	43	24	51	51	45	45	46
Pneumococcal 70+	44	45	38	25	50	52	41	42	42
Whooping cough up-to-date 65+ <sup>^</sup>	27	30	24	24	24	28	23	22	25

Note: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination is recommended 75+. Coverage rates are not yet published, as vaccines only became available in 2024.

## ...with rates even lower for some groups

Influenza vaccination rates for Queenslanders aged 65+ are **lowest** in the Far North/Outback North (rates below 40%).



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have **lower** comparable adult vaccination rates than non-Indigenous Queenslanders, except shingles 50-64.

Vaccination is vital for lung health. Higher rates of adult vaccination would:

- **reduce** pressure on hospitals and health system costs; and
- **improve** the productivity, equity, and health of Queenslanders.

<sup>†</sup> AIHW 2025. \* Shingles is not a respiratory infection like the other five infections are, but it disproportionately affects people with **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease**. <sup>^</sup> The reporting of whooping cough vaccination for adults is not mandatory, so these are likely under-estimates. Rates from **NCIRS 2024**; **NCIRS 2025**. As at end of 2024 for COVID-19, shingles, pneumococcal and whooping cough; 1 March-31 August 2025 for influenza.

# Recommendations to improve **adult vaccination** rates in Queensland

We surveyed over 3,300 Australians to better understand adult vaccination. There were **626 Queensland** respondents. Survey findings informed our 5 recommendations for Australian governments:



## Implement adult vaccination targets

**81%** of Queenslanders agree there should be adult vaccination targets, like there are for children. State Immunisation Strategies must include adult targets and a plan to achieve them.



## Recognise lung disease as a priority population for vaccination

**49%** of Queenslanders with lung disease are very worried about contracting a respiratory infection, compared with 18% not living with lung disease. This warrants targeted vaccination resourcing.



## Invest in community awareness and education

**84%** of Queenslanders agree that government should increase investment in vaccination information. Consumer-led peak bodies are well-placed to deliver effective campaigns.



## Support primary care to provide adult vaccination

**76%** of Queenslanders prefer vaccination from General Practice. State support for programs like the **Lung Learning Hub** would enable vaccination upskilling for primary care providers.



## Make recommended vaccinations free

**39%** of Queenslanders say it is difficult to afford all the adult vaccinations recommended for them. Victoria and Western Australia's funding of RSV vaccination in their aged care homes is good policy.



*I don't know what vaccines I need as an adult, the information available is very confusing. I just gave up trying to figure it out.*

30-49-year-old male from Queensland



Scan the QR code to access Lung Foundation Australia's immunisation information and resources