

Adult vaccination in Tasmania

Vaccine-preventable illness is costly

Vaccine-preventable pneumonia and influenza hospitalisations for Tasmanians 15+ in 2023-24 cost **\$18 million**.[†]



The average length of hospital stay for these avoidable hospitalisations was **8 days**.[†]

Adult vaccination rates are too low...

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

	TAS	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	Aust.
COVID-19 up-to-date 65-74	38	40	24	13	24	27	27	25	26
COVID-19 up-to-date 75+	22	22	13	6	14	15	14	14	14
Influenza 15+	44	48	36	27	37	42	40	37	38
Influenza 65+	68	66	58	35	60	67	62	60	61
Shingles 50-64*	2.4	3.7	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.2	1.6	2.2
Shingles 65+*	51	50	43	24	50	51	45	45	46
Pneumococcal 70+	52	45	38	25	44	50	41	42	42
Whooping cough up-to-date 65+ [^]	28	30	24	24	27	24	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 Tasmanians aged 65+ are **lowest** in the Central Highlands (rates between 40-60%).



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tasmanians have **lower** comparable adult vaccination rates for COVID-19 than non-Indigenous Tasmanians.

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 Tasmanians.

[†] AIHW 2025. * Shingles is not a respiratory infection like the other five infections are, but it disproportionately affects people with **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease**. [^] 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 Tasmania

We surveyed over 3,300 Australians to better understand adult vaccination. There were **99 Tasmanian** respondents. Survey findings informed our 5 recommendations for Australian governments:



Implement adult vaccination targets

81% of Tasmanians 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

58% of Tasmanians with lung disease are very worried about contracting a respiratory infection, compared with 20% not living with lung disease. This warrants targeted vaccination resourcing.



Invest in community awareness and education

85% of Tasmanians 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

70% of Tasmanians 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

48% of Tasmanians 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.

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Vaccines have been weaponised and politicised. I would like there to be a well researched campaign to get people back on track about why vaccines are important.

30-49-year-old female from rural Tasmania



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



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