



Vaccination Advocacy, Knowledge, and Support through Collaboration (VAKS-Co)

Communique 4: Update from the April 2026 Steering Group Meeting

Background

VAKS-Co was established in 2024 as a collaboration between the North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS), Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) and Department of Health to provide a coordinated approach to WA Health immunisation activities in the Perth metropolitan area.

VAKS-Co activities are overseen by a Coordinating Group, which meets 6 times a year. The Coordinating Group reports to a Steering Group, which meets 3 times a year.

Update from the coordinating group

The workplan has been updated for 2026 to include the four workstreams or projects shown below.

Other VAKS-Co activities are:

- Establishing a time-limited group to coordinate catch-up rules across services.

26.1 Advice service model development workstream

Aim: *Develop options for an immunisation clinical advice service for WA that meets consumer and provider needs, has organisational support, and for which implementation is feasible.*



The working group has been formed, and an initial workshop has been scheduled.

26.2 Inpatient immunisation project (CARL-B)

Aim: *Address gaps in immunisation coverage in high-risk paediatric populations in a tertiary hospital inpatient and outpatient setting through the implementation of an automated, system-level approach.*



CARL-B is being used to produce catch-up plans in bulk to all in-patients at Perth Children's Hospital and is producing approximately 95 catch-up plans per week.

26.3 Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) issues affecting coverage workstream

Aim: *Identify issues in reporting AIR data that may impact coverage calculations in metropolitan Perth, and support immunisation stakeholders to address these issues.*



The workstream will continue to examine issues affecting AIR coverage but will address a wider range of practices, including dose errors.

26.4 ImmsOnTIME

Aim: *Increase immunisation coverage for children at 12 months of age by using digital innovation to anticipate vaccination needs and to support families for vaccination in metropolitan Perth.*



A model has been developed under a Future Health and Innovation Funding Grant with Curtin University.

A collaborative implementation pilot and evaluation is being planned between Boorloo Public Health Unit and Child and Adolescent Community Health.

Discussion at the Steering Group meeting

- Members agreed to extend an invitation to the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) to join VAKS-Co.
- Members are focused on planning and implementing the 2026 Winter Strategy.

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