



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

Communique 5: Update from the June 2026 Steering Group Meeting

Background

VAKS-Co is a collaboration between the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), North Metropolitan Health Service and WA Country Health Service to provide a coordinated approach to improving immunisation activities provided by WA Health.

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. The Department of Health provides guidance and strategic direction to these two Groups.

Update from the Coordinating Group

An update on activities of the four VAKS-Co 2026 workstreams is provided below.

In addition, a time-limited group has met to develop consistent catch-up rules, for cases where the Australian Immunisation Handbook does not provide clear direction.

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.



A workshop was held to develop more details for a proposed state-wide immunisation advice service that includes both website and phonline advice.

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.



Perth Children's Hospital are planning to start a pilot program on 1 July 2026 to implement catch-up plans produced by CARL-B.

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.



- Dose errors affecting coverage are being investigated.
- Providers with low uploads to AIR who are not part of a group practice are being investigated

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.



- Boorloo PHU nurses are offering SMS and/or phone call support to help families of high-risk children with vaccination.
- Families requesting further support are being offered home visits or intensive support from CACH nurses.

Discussion at Steering Group meeting

- WACHS has signed a Letter of Agreement to join VAKS-Co.
- A change to the TORs for VAKS-Co Steering and Coordinating Groups to clarify the role of the Department of Health was approved by members.
- Members are focused on delivering the Winter Strategy, including delivering immunisations at additional sites, for extended hours, at events and to people living with homelessness.
- Difficulty accessing immunisation records in hospitals was discussed, which might be affecting delivery of Nirsevimab to newborns.
- Uptake of influenza vaccinations, including by WA Health staff, was discussed.

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