



Vaccine Update 511- Have your say: draft standards for the accreditation of immunisation education programs, Whooping Cough Day

26/10/2026

Have your say: draft standards for the accreditation of immunisation education programs

Health Education and Services Australia (HESA) is inviting stakeholder feedback on the [draft revised Standards for the Accreditation of Immunisation Education Programs](#) (the Standards). The Standards are applied to education programs seeking or maintaining HESA accreditation.

Your input will help ensure the Standards continue to reflect current policy, practice, education and workforce development, and maintain nationally consistent expectations that support public health and safety.

Feedback will be collected, analysed and used by HESA, and the Standards Review Committee, to refine the Standards. Following approval by the HESA board, the Standards will be published alongside accreditation resources and implementation guidance.

Have your say: stakeholders are encouraged to review the standards and share their feedback. You can provide feedback by

- submitting a written response
- providing comments directly within the draft standards PDF.

Submission details:

Email: consultation@hesa.com.au

Subject line: Immunisation Education Standards Consultation

Consultation closes: Monday 30 November 2026

Whooping Cough Day

[Whooping Cough Day](#) is on 8 November and aims to raise awareness of the importance of immunisation, including booster doses throughout life.

This is an important reminder of the ongoing threat of whooping cough (pertussis) and the role immunisation plays in protecting individuals, families and communities.

[Whooping cough](#) is a highly infectious bacterial disease that affects the airways and can cause severe, uncontrollable coughing. While people of all ages can become infected, babies and young children are at greatest risk of serious complications, including pneumonia, breathing difficulties and, in some cases, death.

Immunisation remains the best protection against whooping cough, however, immunity wanes over time. Please review the immunisation status of all your patients, regardless of reason for visit, and offer the vaccine at every appropriate opportunity, particularly during [pregnancy](#) and when in close contact with young infants.

Pertussis-containing vaccines are recommended and free under the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#) for:

- [children](#) aged 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 18 months and 4 years.
- [adolescents](#) ages 11 to 13 years, typically provided through the School-based Immunisation Program (SBIP) to Year 7 students
- [pregnant people](#) during each pregnancy, preferably between 20 and 32 weeks gestation.

In Western Australia (WA) currently:

- 92 per cent of children under 5 years of age are fully vaccinated against pertussis
- 93 per cent of Aboriginal children under 5 years of age are fully vaccinated against pertussis
- 80 per cent of adolescents turning 15 in 2026 have received an adolescent dose of pertussis

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2026

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.

health.wa.gov.au

- 70 per cent of Aboriginal adolescents turning 15 in 2026 have received an adolescent dose of pertussis
- in 2025, 75 per cent of women who gave birth received a dose of pertussis-containing vaccine in pregnancy.

Whooping cough is a [notifiable disease](#) in WA. To report cases of whooping cough, please use the [WA infectious and related disease notification form](#). Vaccination coverage data is published on the [Australian immunisation dashboards](#).

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2026

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.

health.wa.gov.au