



17 June 2024

To whom it may concern,

Re: ASCIA Response to Consultation - Australia's National Immunisation Strategy 2025-2030

This submission is made on behalf of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA). ASCIA is the peak professional body of clinical immunology/allergy specialists in Australia and New Zealand.

We write this submission in support of immunisation policies and programs as part of Australia's National Immunisation Strategy, that encourage both routine immunisation for all Australians and prioritised specific immunisation for at-risk groups.

We wish to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of access to funded vaccines for people who are immunocompromised due to inborn errors of immunity. This is one of the main groups of the Australian population that are at greatest risk of recurrent and severe infections.

Inborn errors of immunity (IEI) include primary immune deficiencies (PID), and are a group of more than 480 potentially serious chronic medical conditions. They are caused by defects in genes that control the immune system and can lead to frequent or severe infections.

Many people with inborn errors of immunity require ongoing antimicrobial therapy to prevent infections and reduce complications from recurrent and/or severe infections. It is therefore important that this group has improved access to funded vaccines, to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Based on the information summarised above, ASCIA recommends that:

- People with inborn errors of immunity, including those with primary immune deficiencies, of any age, be included in the highest category of "at-risk" groups in the National Immunisation Program, to enable access to funded vaccines, and additional vaccines if required.
- Consultation with ASCIA be automatic with all potential listings of new vaccines or changes to the National Immunisation Program.
- Clinical immunology representation on ATAGI be considered.

We welcome the opportunity for further discussion about the recommendations listed above.

Please email jill@allergy.org.au if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A/Professor Theresa Cole
ASCIA President

Jill Smith
ASCIA CEO