

7 June 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)

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Ref: H202204219

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 18 March 2022. Please find responses to each of your questions below.

How many catch up vaccination programs have there been such as the July 2020 measles catchup campaign, in the past 20 years for vaccines that are not in the standard immunization schedule?

In addition to the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) catch up programme, there have been three national catch-up vaccination programmes, namely:

- Meningococcal B: 2004 – 2008 – Meningococcal B (MeNZB) Vaccine campaign
- Human papillomavirus (HPV): September 2008 to 1 December 2010 – HPV catch-up campaign
- Zoster: July 2018 to 31 December 2021 – for those aged 66 years to 80 years

How many vaccines were given, what was the size of the target audience, what was the cost of the program and how long did the program run for each campaign or program?"

Meningococcal B campaign

In the late 1990s New Zealand scientists noted an increasing number of cases of meningococcal disease linked to a strain of the meningococcal B bacterium. A vaccine, MeNZB, was developed to protect young people (those at highest risk) against this strain, which was called 'the epidemic strain'. The MeNZB vaccine was introduced as a short-term measure to reduce risk during an epidemic, as it was not expected to provide life-long protection. Between 2004 and 2006 New Zealand offered free MeNZB vaccination to anyone under the age of 20. Immunisation for babies and pre-schoolers continued until June 2008.

Meningococcal B vaccinations by age				
Age	Estimated population size	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3
6 weeks - 4 years	278,402	247,232	231,606	210,294
5 – 17 years	786,270	708,436	695,515	673,827
18-19 years	121,680	76,571	71,305	65,073
Total	1,186,352	1,032,239	998,426	949,194

Human papillomavirus (HPV) campaign

HPV immunisation was added to the National Immunisation Schedule (the Schedule) for girls in school year 8 (or age 12 if not delivered in a school-based programme) on an ongoing basis, with a phased catch-up programme available for girls or young women born on or after 1 January 1990. The phased catch-up programme commenced from 1 September 2008 for girls or young women born in 1990 and 1991, delivered by their family doctor or practice nurse, Māori and Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings and aimed to extend the benefits of HPV immunisation. The school based catch-up programme was phased over 2009 and 2010.

HPV vaccinations administered by birth cohort As at 11 October 2011			
Birth cohort	Estimated population size	Vaccination events	
1990-1991	64,670	Dose 1	31,790
		Dose 2	29,315
		Dose 3	26,196
1992-1998	152,370	Dose 1	83,763
		Dose 2	80,596
		Dose 3	75,233

Further data on HPV vaccinations is available at:

www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/hpv_selected_cohorts_all_dhbs_31_dec_2017_0.xls.

Given the length of time since the MeNZB and HPV campaigns were conducted, and as the National Immunisation Register (the Register) is a live database, the Ministry is unable to provide an accurate depiction of the vaccines given. There was no central register until 2005 when the Register was introduced. Therefore, there are fewer data available about the MeNZB programme as the rollout was delivered in 2004 and 2005.

Costs

Given the passage of time, the Ministry is unable to advise the exact costs of the Meningococcal B and HPV programmes. However, the funding allocated to the programmes when established was up to \$200 million for the MeNZB campaign, and up to \$164.2 million for the HPV campaign.

The Ministry published reports after the initial national rollout phases of the MeNZB and HPV vaccination programmes that outline the vaccines given and target audience:

- www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/menzb-implementation-evaluation-nov06.pdf.
- www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/hpv-immunisation-programme-evaluation-v2.pdf.

Zoster campaign

In 2018, the Zoster vaccine was added to the Schedule to include a single funded vaccine dose for people aged 65 years. There was an initial period after the vaccine was added to the Schedule up to 31 December 2021, where individuals aged between 66 and 80 years were eligible for a funded vaccine.

Pharmac are responsible for setting eligibility for funded vaccinations, and as such procured sufficient stock for the catch-up age group. There was no target audience for this campaign, the catch-up allowed those who were already over the age of 65 to access funded Zoster vaccination.

Zoster vaccinations by age group for the years 2018 – 2021 As at 5 April 2022			
Vaccine	Age Group (years)	Vaccination Year	Vaccination Events
Zoster	66 - 80	2018	162,756
		2019	50,859
		2020	21,606
		2021	13,179

Funding for the Zoster catch-up campaign was drawn from the standard operating costs of the Schedule. As such, it is not possible to separate the costs specific to the catch-up campaign.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Astrid Koornneef
Director
National Immunisation Programme