

COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION

Key Statements

The prevention of disease by the production of active or passive immunity (immuno-prophylaxis) of the Australian population can be improved for vaccine-preventable diseases, particularly for groups such as older people, children and immunocompromised individuals who, on exposure to potential infection, are at greatest risk of communicable disease.

Nurses have a professional responsibility to provide evidence-based, balanced and accurate information when informing individuals and the community of the benefits and risks of vaccinations including possible side effects.

Nurses have a responsibility to inform parents and guardians of young children about measures to take in alleviating pain associated with immunisation.

Nurses have a responsibility to be aware of their own immuno-prophylactic status and to make judgements about how they can best protect themselves and those for whom they care.

Nurses should take an active role in opportunistic immunisation and promote the benefits of immunisation in preventing disease where appropriate.

RCNA supports the continuing education of nurses to undertake immunisation programs that will enable the community to have improved access to immunisation services.

[Link to Background, Rationale, Recommendations, References for further information.](#)