

# Valuing Vaccines

Ensuring Australia's access to vaccines today and tomorrow



## Time to guarantee access to vaccines – now and for the future

A new report urges the Australian Government to review policies for vaccine funding to ensure Australia is prepared for a new era of vaccine innovation.

*Valuing Vaccines: Ensuring Australia's access to vaccines today and tomorrow*, a report by Shawview Consulting, finds that existing systems for valuing and funding vaccines are no longer fit for purpose and should be overhauled.

The analysis reveals that current processes to evaluate vaccines:

“are increasingly out of step with international best practice”

“are administratively cumbersome”

“do not sufficiently take the full value of vaccination and disease prevention into account when making investment decisions”

Of concern is the inability of Australia's expert advisory group on immunisation (ATAGI) to directly advise the Federal Government on National Immunisation Program (NIP) funding, instead providing its recommendations to a committee whose primary focus is advising on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listings.

The report highlights inefficiencies and low investment in vaccine procurement:

- Australians wait on average 1,375 days, or more than three years, for a vaccine to be funded once approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).
- Vaccines take longer to be listed on the NIP than medicines normally take to be funded through the PBS.
- Annual Commonwealth funding for all vaccines on the NIP is a relatively low \$450 million – a tenth of the expenditure on COVID-19 vaccines alone and insufficient to meet future requirements given the pipeline of new vaccines.



### Now is the time for reform

*“Now, 25 years on from its inception, with a review underway of Australia's National Medicines Policy and following arguably the worst global pandemic in a century, it is time to consider the National Immunisation Program and Australia's immunisation policies to ensure they continue to provide vaccines to the Australian community in a timely manner.”*

Jane Halton AO PSM  
Chair of Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness



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Delays in accessing new vaccines, problems with the current evaluation system, issues in assessing emerging vaccine technologies, and inadequate funding levels highlight the need for reform of Australia's vaccine policies.

## Four-point plan

The report proposes a four-point plan to enhance vaccine funding policies and ensure all Australians access innovative and best-in-class vaccines, now and in the future.

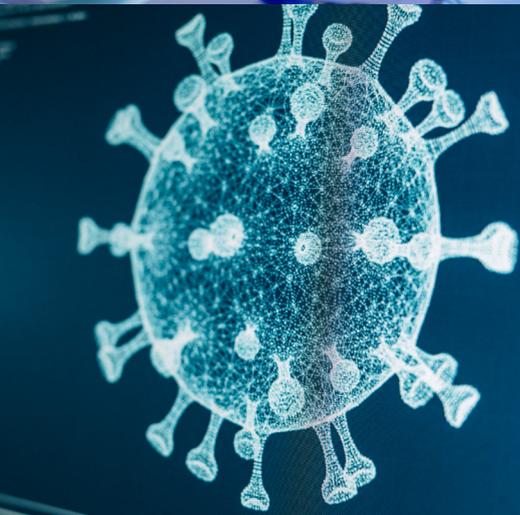


**1** Develop a long-term strategic plan for vaccines.

**2** Reform Australia's vaccine health technology assessment methodology.

**3** Reform procurement processes for NIP vaccines.

**4** Create a framework to develop a pandemic vaccination plan and ensure it remains operationally ready in the face of rapidly evolving risk.



## Vaccines are an investment

*"A sample of vaccines supplied through the NIP has provided up to \$31 billion in economic benefits to Australia at a cost of \$5 billion since their listing, providing substantially positive benefit-cost ratios."*

Shawview Consulting, *Valuing Vaccines: Ensuring Australia's access to vaccines today and tomorrow*, December 2021



The Valuing Vaccines report concludes that now is the time to review and reform immunisation funding to ensure all Australians access new and innovative vaccines.

The full report can be found at [www.shawview.com/publications](http://www.shawview.com/publications).

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