Australian Childhood Immunisation Register – Redevelopment scoping study

Why is this important?
- Australia currently has a register for monitoring childhood vaccination coverage rates and reporting on the immunisation status of all Australian children aged up to seven years. This measure will explore options for redeveloping the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) into a whole-of-life register for adult vaccination, including tetanus, influenza and pneumococcal, with the potential to improve health and reduce wastage of expensive vaccines.
- The Government also funds a number of other stand-alone population health registers such as for bowel screening and the Australian Donor Organ Register. This measure will also consider options to consolidate these registers into a single whole-of-life register.

Who will benefit?
- The scoping study funded by this measure will advise Government on how to improve the existing register to provide Australians and their health care providers with access to complete immunisation history information. Redeveloping ACIR would also better enable health agencies to monitor vaccination rates and improve targeting of low immunisation coverage areas across all ages.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?
- The Government has committed new funding of $1.2 million over the next two years to scope the feasibility of establishing a whole-of-life immunisation register.

What have we done in the past?
- The ACIR was implemented ten years ago, providing an instrument to monitor and improve childhood immunisation. That is how we know that since then, childhood immunisation rates have increased from 50 per cent to more than 90 per cent.

When will the initiative conclude?
- The study will be completed in 2007-08.