



Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) 77th meeting, 15 October 2020

Agenda item	Purpose	Discussion and outcomes
1. Welcome and open 1.1. Declarations of interest 1.2. Actions arising from previous meetings 1.3. Out-of-session items including correspondence	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATAGI welcomed new members Ms Diane Walsh (consumer representative) and Associate Professor James Wood (mathematical modelling expertise).
2. ATAGI Annual Statement on Immunisation	Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATAGI discussed progress on the annual immunisation statement and commented on draft content. The first statement will be published in early 2021.
3. Update on ATAGI reforms	Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATAGI noted progress on implementing the revised approach to vaccine evaluation for the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and associated reforms.• Information for sponsors on seeking presubmission advice from ATAGI is available on the Department of Health website.
4. Australian Immunisation Handbook	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATAGI discussed and endorsed the pilot GRADE assessment for recommendations for influenza vaccine in older adults. ATAGI supported the overall recommendation that adjuvanted influenza vaccine is recommended in preference to standard dose influenza vaccine in adults aged ≥ 65 years. However, ATAGI also emphasised that standard dose influenza vaccine is acceptable if adjuvanted vaccine is not available.• The GRADE tables and associated information will be published on the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) website, and the Australian Immunisation Handbook will be updated to reflect the GRADE recommendation.

Endorse: a decision is to be made at this meeting
Discuss: a decision is to be made at a future meeting or out of session
Information: no decision points at this stage



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<p>5. Department Updates</p> <p>5.1. Immunisation and Communicable Diseases Branch update</p> <p>5.2. Therapeutic Goods Administration / Advisory Committee on Vaccines COVID-19 update</p>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATAGI was informed that the Department is planning consultation on proposed changes to reporting requirements for the Australian Immunisation Register to improve accurate and timely reporting of vaccinations. The public consultation document will be available through the Health Consultation Hub. • ATAGI reviewed feedback and usage data on the Australian Immunisation Handbook, the Handbook app and the National Immunisation Catch-up Calculator. • ATAGI received an update from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on regulatory issues relating to potential COVID-19 vaccines, as well as postmarket issues. • ATAGI discussed the recent vaccine safety investigation following the death of a person with pre-existing immunocompromising conditions after receiving Zostavax (live attenuated herpes zoster vaccine). ATAGI noted the TGA's safety advisory on Zostavax use in people who are immunocompromised. • ATAGI was concerned that Zostavax continues to be administered to people who are immunocompromised, and discussed potential strategies to minimise this risk from both a regulatory and programmatic perspective.
<p>6. Communicable Diseases Network Australia COVID-19 update</p>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATAGI noted an update from the Communicable Diseases Network Australia about recent COVID-19 epidemiology.
<p>7. COVID-19 Taskforce update</p>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATAGI received an update from the Department on implementation of Australia's COVID-19 vaccine and treatment strategy. This includes significant investment in research; production and supply agreements with vaccine manufacturers and the COVAX facility; and work with a range of departments and agencies to prepare for a COVID-19 vaccine.
<p>8. ATAGI COVID-19 Working Group update</p>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ATAGI COVID-19 Working Group was established to facilitate detailed examination of evidence and development of advice to the government on safe, effective and equitable use of COVID-19 vaccines in Australia. • ATAGI received updates from the 3 subgroups of this working group: the Vaccine Utilisation and Prioritisation Subgroup, the Vaccine Distribution and Program Implementation Subgroup, and the Vaccine Safety, Evaluation, Monitoring and Confidence Subgroup. • Membership and terms of reference for ATAGI's COVID-19 Working Group are available on the Department of Health website.



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9. Report from Chair and members on ATAGI business	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ATAGI received an update from a recent meeting of the World Health Organization Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization.
Meeting close		

Notes and resources

- ATAGI's membership, terms of reference and declaration of interest information are available on the [Department of Health website](#).
- The digital [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) is available on the Department's website.
- A summary report of decisions of key immunisation technical advisory groups of interest will be available on the [NCIRS website](#).
- Information on NITAGs worldwide is available on the [NITAG Resource Centre website](#).
- Next ATAGI meeting: 11 December 2020, by videoconference. The [meeting agenda](#) will be published on the Department of Health website shortly before the meeting.