



Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) responses to Questions on Notice

Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Excess Deaths – June 2024 hearing

Question on Notice 1: Senator Roberts requested the AIHW provide the committee with a report, on notice, showing death by COVID vaccination status by age including the number of people who died with no shots, one shot, two shots et cetera by age.

The AIHW is progressing analyses for the *Health outcomes following a COVID-19 diagnosis by population groups and vaccination status* report, which is scheduled to be released in December 2024. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS).

- These analyses will:
 - use [the latest data available in the COVID-19 Register](#), a national linked data platform that has been iteratively updated over time
 - cover trends in COVID-19 infections and reinfections over time and over COVID-19 waves
 - describe the COVID-19 study population by demographic characteristics such as age, sex, socioeconomic groups, country of birth/language spoken, and geographical areas (state/territory, remoteness area)
 - explore use of COVID-19 antiviral treatment and health outcomes following a COVID-19 infection such as deaths, hospitalisation, ICU, continuous ventilation support, and long COVID by demographic characteristics and COVID-19 vaccination status.
- As part of this report, COVID-19 case data will be linked to the National Death Index (NDI) to identify the number of people who died after a COVID-19 diagnosis. This will include cases from 7 out of the 8 states and territories (with exception to Western Australia) who had a COVID-19 diagnosis or died from COVID-19 between 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022.

Question on Notice 2: Senator Roberts asked the AIHW to provide mortality data by vaccination status for all vaccinations in the Australian vaccination schedule, by age. Ms Gates agreed the AIHW could look into this and see what information the Australian Immunisation Register has for different vaccines.

- The AIHW's data collections include the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) data for all recorded vaccinations that were provided from July 2010 to June 2022, to people aged under 16 years, and all recorded vaccinations provided from July 2018 to June 2022 to people aged 16 years and over. The available data set includes only a short period where reporting to the AIR was mandatory, and so the sample for most post-childhood vaccinations will be too small to enable robust findings.
- There is considerable work required to understand the suitability of the data to provide meaningful information around vaccinations that requires time and expertise as well as consultation with subject-matter experts.

Question on Notice 3:

Senator Roberts asked if the AIHW can allow the Australian Medical Professionals Society, to access the COVID-19 Register data and whether this governance process was available publicly, or could be shared on notice. Ms Gates agreed to share details on notice.

- Both government and non-government researchers are eligible to apply for access to the [COVID-19 Register](#), which uses existing health data sets to strengthen evidence-based public health and health system planning and management.
 - Further information on how to access the COVID-19 Register can be found at [Researcher eligibility - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(aihw.gov.au\)](#) – **Attachment A**.
 - An overview of the approval process for projects can be found at [Overview of the project proposal review and access process \(PDF 76kB\)](#) – **Attachment B**.

Attachments:

- A – COVID-19 Register – Researcher eligibility
- B – Overview of the COVID-19 Register project proposal review and access proposal