

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-575

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: DIPHTHERIA VACCINATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

As we all know, you should have a diphtheria vaccination after 50, which is mentioned on the Queensland Health fact sheet on diphtheria but not mentioned on the Immunisation Australia fact sheet on diphtheria. Can you explain why that is the case?

I would appreciate anything you can tell me on notice, including coverage data in adults.

Answer:

*Diphtheria Factsheet*

Information on diphtheria is included in the Australian Immunisation Handbook which is also available of the Immunise Australia website.

The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends “All adults who reach the age of 50 years without having received a booster dose of dT (diphtheria and tetanus) in the previous 10 years should receive a further booster dose of dT, or preferably dTpa (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis), if this has not been given previously, to also provide protection against pertussis.”

*Diphtheria coverage data*

Since 2004, the diphtheria vaccine has been generally administered to adults as a combination vaccine with tetanus and pertussis, so the diphtheria coverage rate is assumed to be the same rate as the self reported rate for the tetanus/pertussis vaccinations in the Adult Vaccination Survey.

In 2006, of the 8,022 people surveyed 6,177 people or 77 per cent of adults surveyed reported that they had received a tetanus vaccine (and hence diphtheria vaccine) in the previous 10 years.

In 2009, of the 10,231 people surveyed, an estimated 11.3 per cent of Australians aged 18 years and over had received a pertussis vaccination (and hence diphtheria vaccine) as an adult or adolescent. Uptake was substantially higher among parents of infants aged less than 12 months old (51.5 per cent).