

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-385

OUTCOME 14: Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON IMMUNISATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Outline the decisions made by ATAGI in relation to the H1N1 pandemic and the seasonal flu season including:

- a) Meeting dates;
- b) Outcomes of meetings;
- c) Dates of any advice to Government;
- d) Dates of any advice to other government bodies, including the name of that other organisation;
- e) Were any conflicts of interest declared by any members in relation to any such meetings;
- f) How does ATAGI deal with conflicts of interest.

Answer:

a, b and c)

The dates of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) meetings, the issues relating to H1N1 pandemic influenza vaccine and seasonal influenza vaccine considered at these meetings, and advice and actions that resulted is set out in the table below.

Date of meeting	Who/what	Outcome	Date advice provided to DoHA and actions taken
7 September 2009	Joint TGA/ ATAGI Working Party	ATAGI discussed Draft Guidelines for the administration of pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine from multi dose vials (MDV). ATAGI developed a statement on the use of multi-dose vials in vaccination programs. ATAGI developed a statement on Thiomersal and pregnant women.	18 September 2009 and posted on website on the same day. 24 September 2009 and posted on website on the same day. 29 September 2009 and posted on website on the same day.
23 September 2009	Joint TGA/ ATAGI	ATAGI discussed a statement on	

Date of meeting	Who/what	Outcome	Date advice provided to DoHA and actions taken
	Working Party	Guillain-Barre Syndrome along with guidance on the use of latex-containing 1ml syringes from pandemic vaccination packs.	
30 September 2009	Joint TGA/ ATAGI Working Party	ATAGI discussed the statement on Guillain-Barre Syndrome along with the guidance on use of latex-containing 1ml syringes from pandemic vaccination packs.	
8 October 2009	Joint TGA/ ATAGI Working Party	ATAGI advice regarding influenza, influenza vaccines and Guillain-Barre Syndrome. ATAGI advice on the use of latex-containing 1ml syringes from pandemic vaccination packs.	8 October 2009 and posted on website on the same day. 9 October 2009 and posted on website on the same day.
22 October 2009	Joint TGA/ ATAGI Working Party	ATAGI to incorporate Disease Modelling and Severity of Disease documents into one report.	
10 November 2009	Joint TGA/ ATAGI Working Party	ATAGI updated the Report on the Use of Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent Vaccine - Summary of Modelling Conclusions, Immunisation of those at increased risk of complications from H1N1 and Immunisation of Children discussed. ATAGI advice on the use of seasonal vaccine as second dose in children	20 November 2010 19 November 2009 and posted on website on the same day.
Not applicable	Advice agreed out of session.	Use of panademic and seasonal influenza vaccine in children <10 years of age and summary of ATAGI dosage recommendations for pandemic H1N1 2009 (Panvax [®]) and 2010 seasonal influenza vaccination for children aged from 6 months to <10 years. Recommended clinical protocol for the administration of pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine from multi-dose vials (MDV) for children aged 6 months and under to under 3 years and for all people aged 3 years and under Advice on the Interchangeability of Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Vaccines used in	17 December 2009 Posted on the website on 17 December 2009 and updated 30 April 2010 and 30 July 2010 22 December 2009 and posted on website on 23 December 2010 10 February 2010 and posted on website on the

Date of meeting	Who/what	Outcome	Date advice provided to DoHA and actions taken
		Australia and Overseas.	same day.
Not applicable	Advice agreed out of session	Media release on departmental website advises the temporary suspension of seasonal influenza vaccine to children 5 and under.	23 April 2010 Media release posted to website 23 April 2010
25 April 2010	Joint TGA/ ATAGI teleconference to discuss data collection instruments for epidemiological investigations of the possible safety signal	To undertake a short clinical aetiological review of seasonal influenza data in WA with respect to the adverse events involving febrile convulsions following administration of seasonal influenza vaccine in children.	
29 April 2010	Joint TGA/ ATAGI Working Party teleconference	ATAGI continued its analysis of state and territory trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV) and febrile convulsions data and provided additional information on its analysis on emergency data concerning TIV relating to febrile convulsions.	30 April 2010 Media release posted to website on 30 April 2010
13 May 2010	Joint TGA/ ATAGI Working Party meeting	ATAGI to compile a summary document on conclusions to date, noting that this work is still in progress.	
20 May 2010	ATAGI	ATAGI/TGA working party interim report to the CMO recommending continued suspension of seasonal influenza vaccine for children under 5 years of age while laboratory testing, manufacturing inspections and epidemiological analyses continue.	30 May 2010 Media release posted to website 1 June 2010
10 June 2010	ATAGI	ATAGI discussed advice supplied to the Chief Medical Officer on 30 May 2010 in regards to the suspension of the use of 2010 seasonal TIV in children aged under 5 years in light of continued analyses of new evidence.	12 July 2010 and posted on website 30 July 2010
8 July 2010	Joint TGA/ ATAGI teleconference	The ATAGI discussed whether the suspension of use of 2010 trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV) for healthy children less than 5 years of age can safely be discontinued, provided the TIVs used are either Vaxigrip [®] (Sanofi Pasteur) or Influvac [®] (Abbott/Solvay), based on the availability of additional data confirming low and acceptable reactogenicity, similar to that documented for seasonal TIV in previous years.	12 July 2010 and posted on website 30 July 2010

Date of meeting	Who/what	Outcome	Date advice provided to DoHA and actions taken
15 July 2010	Joint TGA/ ATAGI teleconference	ATAGI drafted advice for dissemination to immunisation providers on resumption of the use of 2010 trivalent seasonal vaccine in children <5 years of age.	30 July 2010 and posted on website on the same day. Media release posted to website 30 July 2010
26 August 2010	ATAGI	ATAGI provided advice on the implications of the voluntary withdrawal of Panvax [®] Junior for children 6 months to 3 years of age. Updated advice on the use of pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccines in children <10 years of age.	26 August 2010 and posted on website on the same day.
13 September 2010	ATAGI	ATAGI examined further febrile convulsions data to determine if there is a signal for febrile convulsions following Panvax [®] vaccination in children.	
16 September 2010	ATAGI	Continued to review the data on febrile convulsions following immunisation in children of Panvax [®] and Panvax [®] Junior. ATAGI found the rate of febrile convulsions in young children following administration of Panvax [®] and Panvax [®] Junior within the expected range reported in the product information. Review of adverse events following immunisation in children following monovalent pandemic H1N1 vaccine (Panvax [®] and Panvax JR [®] , CSL)	17 September 2010 TGA posted advice on website 22 September 2010 Draft advice provided to the CMO for internal Departmental use 1 October 2010

- d) No written advice was provided to other government bodies. Refer to table above for joint ATAGI/ TGA Working Party advice dates provided to the department.
- e) The procedures for the management of conflict of interest applied to all ATAGI meetings including Working Party teleconferences. No conflict of interest was declared by ATAGI members attending these meetings or teleconferences.

- f) As with all Commonwealth advisory committees, the ATAGI members abide by probity rules which include the declaration of any conflict of interest. Such declarations are taken into consideration in meetings and consideration of the advice which the committee provides.

The advice provided by ATAGI represents the input of members and no particular individual interest prevails. The committee's advice is provided to the Department of Health and Ageing which, in turn, assesses the merits and advises the Government accordingly.

All members sign Conflict of Interest forms prior to all meetings. Declared conflicts of interest are assessed at each meeting by the Chair, in consultation with DoHA, with a declared conflict of interest resulting in one of the following actions:

- Preclude a member from active and full participation in the discussion of the relevant item(s) in a meeting;
- Preclude a member from participation in the final determination of recommendations but would not preclude a member from participating in discussions regarding the relevant item(s); and
- A member may exclude themselves from active and full participation in the discussion and full participation in the final determination even when a conflict of interest has not met the criteria but the member believes that his/her particular circumstance has provided him/her with a conflict of interest.