Queensland Health

About immunisation

Information for older people

Easy English

Queensland Government

Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**

- we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book

You can get someone to help you

- read this book

- know what this book is about

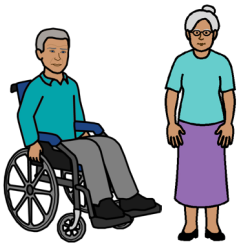
- find more information.

About this book

This book is written

Queensland Government

- by Queensland Health



- for older people.

This book is about **immunisation**.

Immunisation means your body is protected from some diseases.

You need to have a **vaccine** to be immunised.

A vaccine is protection medicine.

The medicine might be

- injected

- swallowed.

All vaccines used in Australia are safe.

Why is immunisation important?

Immunisation protects you from diseases that can

- make you sick

- cause death.

Immunisation can protect you from a lot of diseases.

For example

- the flu

- shingles

  – a painful rash that makes you very sick.

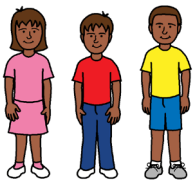
When a lot of people get immunised it is hard for diseases to spread in the community.

Who should get immunised?

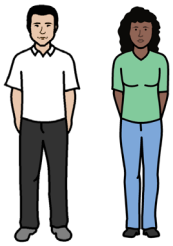
Everyone should get immunised.

For example

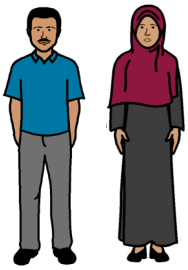
- babies



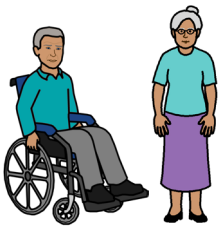
- children



- young adults



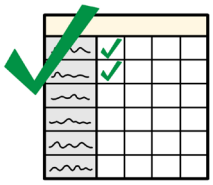
- adults



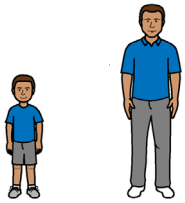
- older people.

It is very important for older people to get immunised. It is harder to fight disease when you get older.

When should you get immunised?



Australia has an immunisation **schedule**.



A schedule says which vaccines should be given at different ages.

It is important to follow the schedule.

When you follow the schedule you will be better protected from disease.

You might have to get immunised again if you do **not** have immunisation records from your home country.

If you travel outside Australia you might need immunisations to keep you safe from disease.

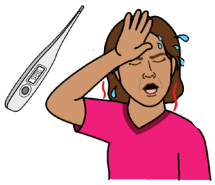
Your doctor can tell you which immunisations you will need.

Will the immunisations hurt?

You might feel a small pain when you get the injection.

You might have pain **after** the injection.

For example, a sore arm.



You might have a mild fever **after** the injection.

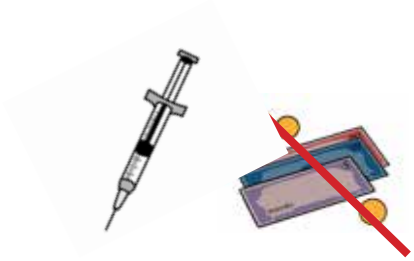
Pain and fever will usually go away.

If you are worried you can see your doctor.

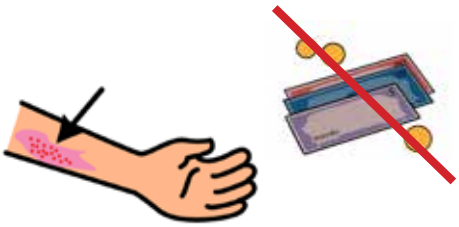
Where to get immunised

You can also get immunised by your doctor.

How much do immunisations cost?



If you are aged 65 or older you can get a free immunisation for the flu.



If you are aged 70 you can also get a free immunisation for shingles.

If you are aged 70 years or older you can also get a free immunisation for **pneumococcal disease**.

Pneumococcal disease can cause infection of the lungs, brain or blood.

If you get immunised by your doctor you might have to pay for the doctor visit.

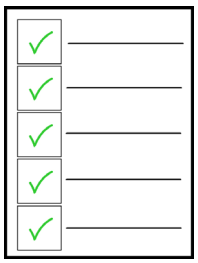
Where can you get your immunisation record?

You can get your immunisation record from

- your doctor

- the Australian Immunisation Register.

Call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809.



Ask for your immunisation history statement.

Notes

More information

For more information contact Queensland Health.

Call 13 432 584

If you need an interpreter contact the Translating and Interpreting Service

Call 131 450

This is a free service.

For information about immunisation visit

www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation

or

www.vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au

For information in your language visit

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/migrants-refugees-and-visitors

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/information-in-your-language

www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au

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Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre wrote the Easy English version in September, 2019.

To contact Scope call 1300 472 673 or visit www.scopeaust.org.au

To see the original contact Queensland Health.

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