



**The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

Our Ref: 60-15974

Hon Alison Xamon MLC
Member for North Metropolitan Region
Level 2
3 Oxford Close
WEST LEEDERVILLE WA 6007

Dear Ms Xamon *Alison,*

Thank you for your letter of 7 March 2019 with questions concerning vaccination and disease rates among Western Australian children, and the ingredients and safety of vaccines, as requested by one of your constituents. The data you are requesting is publicly available, and the sources of this information are outlined below.

Data on immunisation coverage rates in Western Australia is available on the Commonwealth Department of Health website <https://beta.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/childhood-immunisation-coverage/historical-coverage-data-tables-for-all>.

Up-to-date data on the number of children in Western Australia notified with vaccine preventable diseases is available through the Western Australian Department of Health website https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Notification-of-infectious-diseases-and-related-conditions.

The Australian Immunisation Handbook summarises information on the effectiveness of vaccines used in Australia, including references that support presented data at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>.

In Australia, all vaccines undergo a rigorous, scientific evaluation process prior to coming to market, to ensure they are safe and effective.

Vaccine registration is carried out by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Applications for TGA registration require supporting data on the quality, safety and efficacy of the product. This data is evaluated by chemists, biochemists, microbiologists, toxicologists and medical doctors as outlined at: <https://www.tga.gov.au/australian-regulation-prescription-medical-products>.

Post-marketing surveillance is also carried out by the TGA. Additional vaccine safety surveillance occurs through passive surveillance systems, such as the Western Australian Vaccine Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) system:
https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/sitecore/content/Healthy-WA/Articles/U_Z/Western-Australian-Vaccine-Safety-Surveillance-system-WAVSS,
and active surveillance systems, such as AusVaxSafety:
<http://www.ncirs.edu.au/vaccine-safety/ausvaxsafety/>.

Further information on vaccine components and safety can be found at:

- The Australian Immunisation Handbook -
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/content/handbook10-home>.
- The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance -
<http://www.ncirs.edu.au/>.

I trust this information is of assistance and allays the concerns of your constituent.

Yours sincerely



HON ROGER COOK MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH

20 MAY 2019