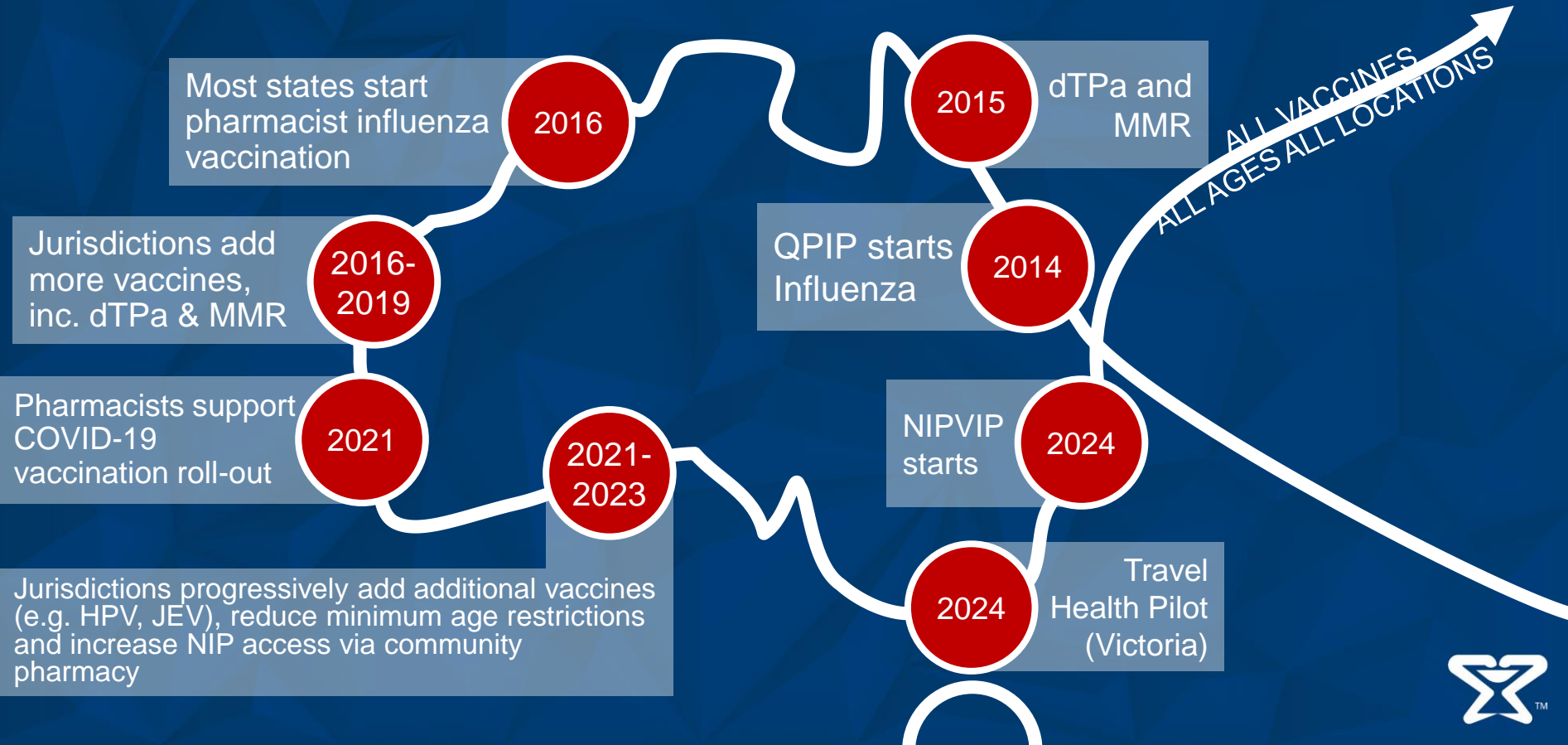


# **Beyond the counter : the role of pharmacists in influenza vaccination**

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Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

# Australia's pharmacist vaccination journey









# Vaccines that pharmacists can prescribe (initiate) and administer February 2025

|     | Cholera | COVID-19 | DTP | Hep A | Hep B | Herpes zoster | Hib | HPV | Influenza | JE | MMR | Men ACWY | Men B | Men C | Monkey Pox | Pneumococcal | Polio | Q Fever | Rabies | Rotavirus | RSV       | Tuberculosis | Typhoid | Varicella | Yellow Fever |    |
|-----|---------|----------|-----|-------|-------|---------------|-----|-----|-----------|----|-----|----------|-------|-------|------------|--------------|-------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------|-----------|--------------|----|
| ACT |         | 5        | 5   | 5     | 5*    | 50            | 5   | 10  | 5         |    | 5*  | 5        | 5     | 5     |            |              | 5     |         |        |           | 60        |              | 5       | 5         |              |    |
| NSW |         | 5        | 5   | 5     | 5*    | 18            | 5   | 9   | 5         | 5  | 5*  | 5        | 5     | 5     | 16         | 50 / 70      | 5     |         | 5      |           | 60 / ✓^   |              | 5       | 5         |              |    |
| NT  |         | 5        | 5   | 5     | 5     | 5             | 5   | 5   | 5         | 5  | 5   | 5        | 5     | 5     | 18         | 5            | 5     |         |        |           | 5         |              |         | 5         |              |    |
| QLD | 2       | ✓        | 2   | 2     | 2     | 2             | 2   | 2   | ✓*        | 2  | 2   | 2        | 2*    | 2     |            | 2            | 2     |         |        |           | ✓         |              | 2       | 2         |              |    |
| SA  | ✓       | ✓        | ✓   | ✓     | ✓     | ✓             | ✓   | ✓   | ✓         | ✓  | ✓   | ✓        | ✓     | ✓     | ✓          | ✓            | ✓     | ✓       | ✓      | ✓         | ✓         | ✓            | ✓       | ✓         | ✓            | NA |
| TAS |         | 5        | 10  | 10    | 10    | 18            |     | 10  | 5         |    | 10* | 10       | 10    |       |            | 10           | 10    |         |        |           | 60 / 18 ^ |              |         | 10        |              |    |
| VIC |         | 5        | 5#  | 5~    | 5~    | 5\$           |     | 5#  | 5         | 5  | 5&  | 5&       |       |       | 5          | 5\$          | 5~    |         |        |           | 5         |              | 5~      |           |              |    |
| WA  |         | 5        | 5   |       | 5*    | 5             |     | 5   | 5*        |    | 5*  | 5        | 5     | 5     |            | 5            | 5     |         |        |           | 5         |              |         | 5         |              |    |

NIP or CVCP funded for eligible patients

NIP funded vaccines may not be available for ordering by community pharmacies. Contact state health dept if required.

\*State funded vaccines for eligible patients (if ineligible for NIP)

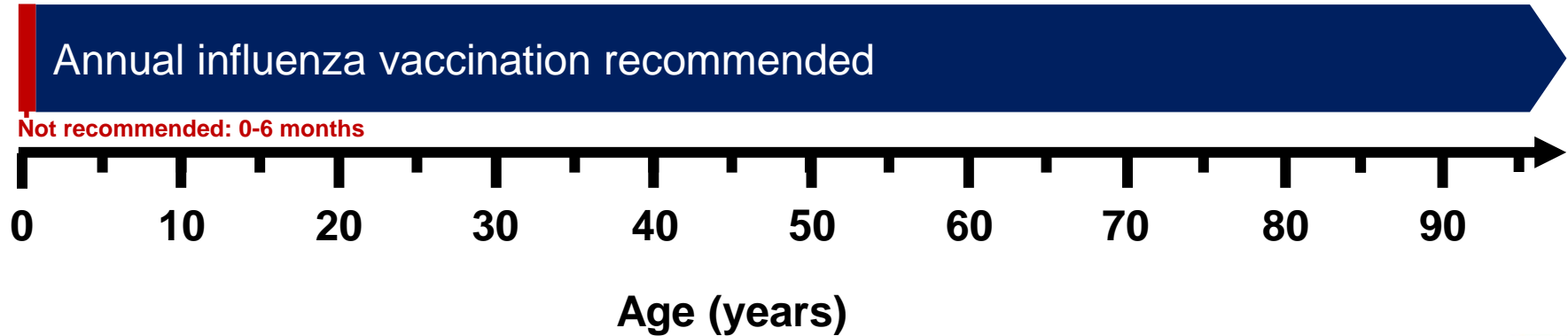
Non-govt funded vaccine only

Not permitted

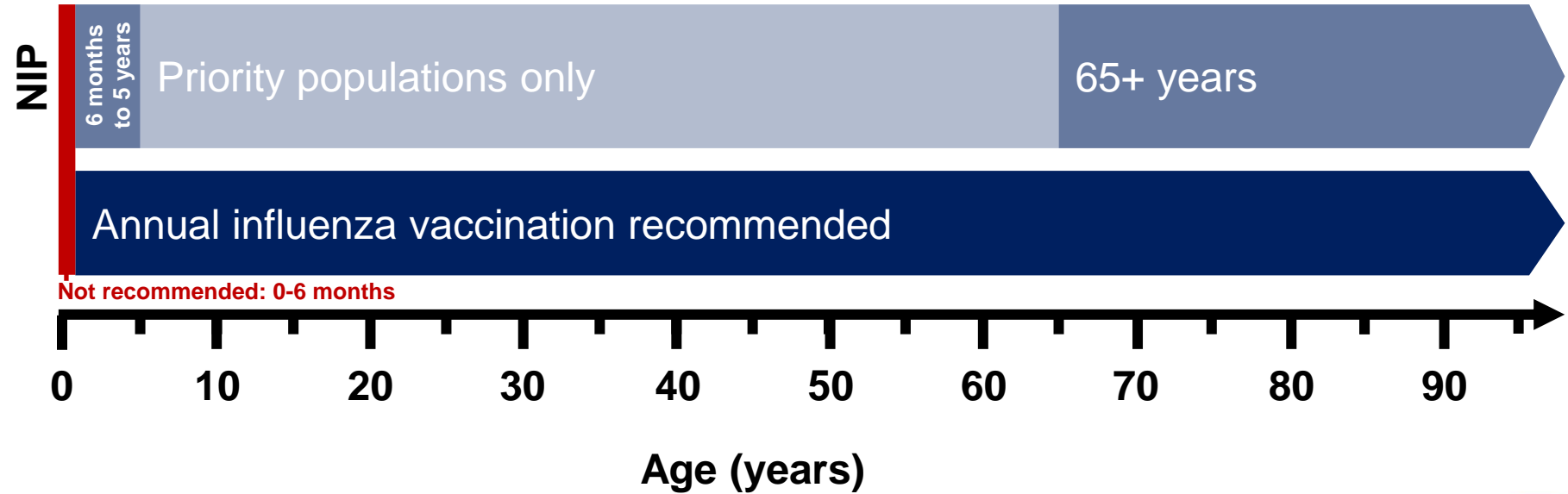
~Only under Victorian Community Pharmacist Pilot; #For travel, min age 12 and only under VCPP; &For travel, min age 15 and only under VCPP; \$For travel, min age 50 and only under VCPP; ^Pregnant women 28–36 wks gestation

**IMPORTANT:** Additional restrictions may apply. Refer to state/territory pharmacist vaccination authorisations. Pharmacists must adhere to recommendations of the Australian Immunisation Handbook and ATAGI

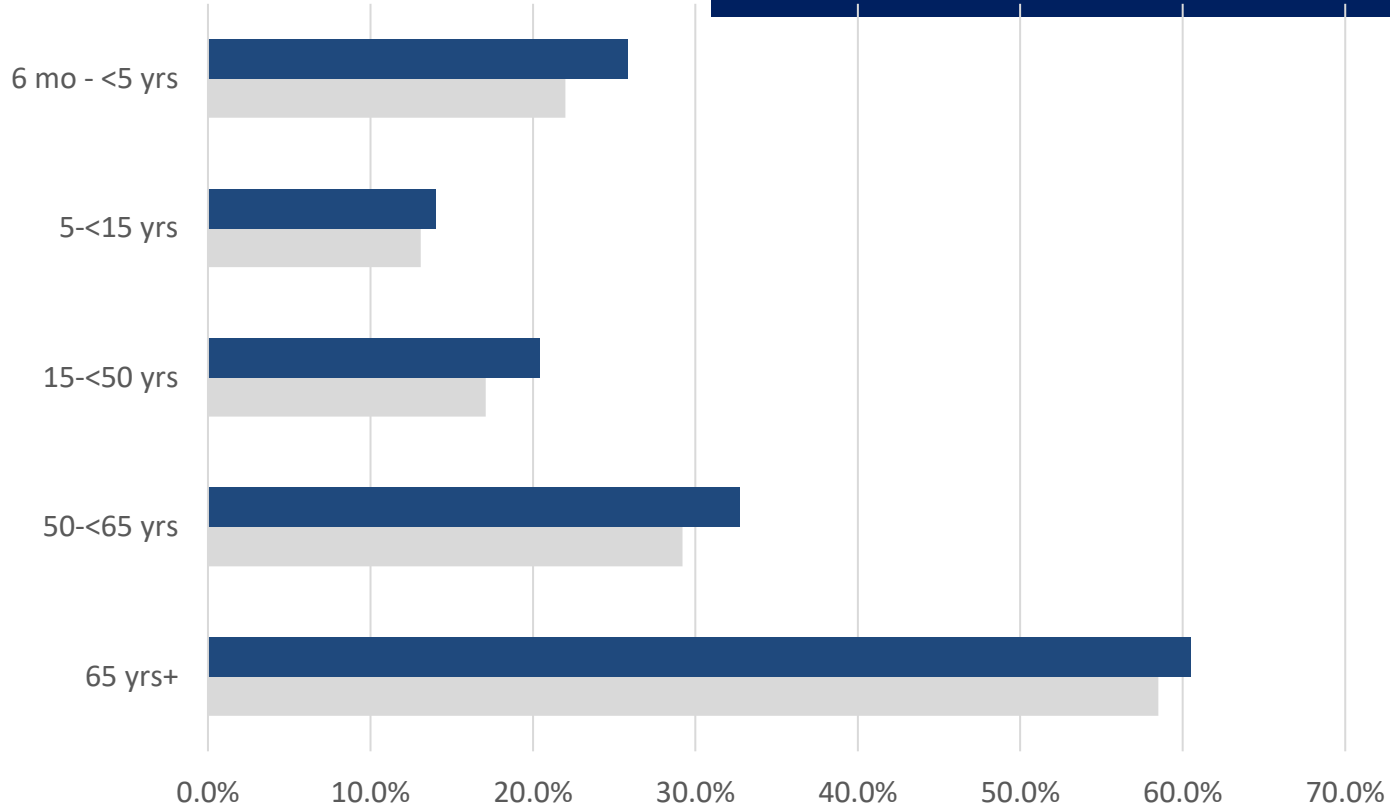
# Influenza vaccination is for everyone



# NIP funded populations across life



## 2024 influenza vaccine coverage



WA

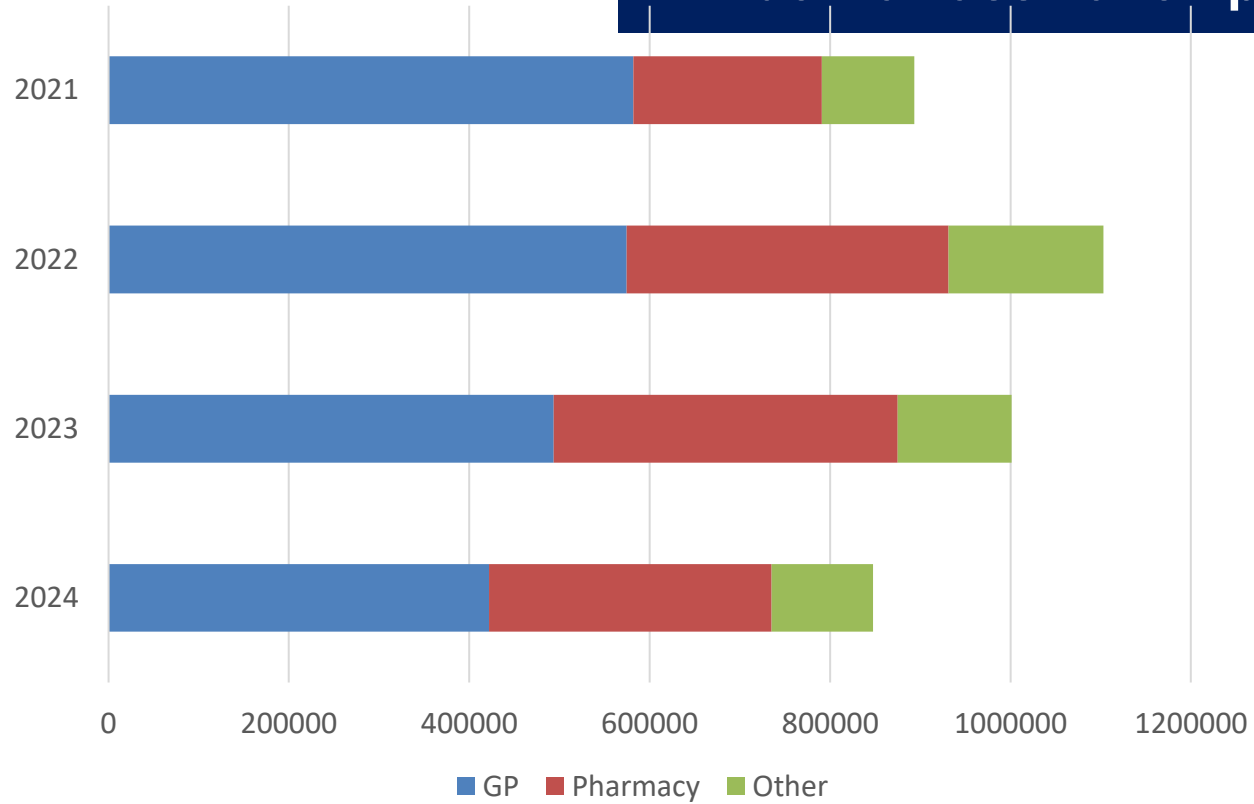
AUS

Source: NCIRS





# Influenza vaccination providers



Source: AIR



# Strategies which increase vaccine acceptance



**84.1%**

**want to get a  
flu vaccine**

**60.5%**

**actually got a  
flu vaccine** 2024



People who had a flu shot in the past 2 years are...

**10.4x**

**more likely to  
want a flu shot**

...compared to those who hadn't



## NOTES

- Pharmacies are accessible with convenient hours and locations
- Patients can book online, though bookings aren't always required
- Many West Australians visit pharmacies when well, offering an opportunity to remind them to vaccinate or provide vaccinations on the spot
- Pharmacists frequently provide medicines information
- Anecdotally, some patients worry that asking vaccination questions may make them seem 'antivax', even if they are just seeking clarification
- Pharmacists feel confident in answering vaccination questions and provide resources to help
- They also explain what to expect after vaccination and how to manage any side effects
- West Australians can attend the pharmacy for vaccinations from 5 years and up
- The scope of vaccinations pharmacists can provide has rapidly expanded over the past 12 months
- Over time, West Australians will become more familiar with which vaccines are available from pharmacies

## Can we do better?

- Pharmacists are developing strategies for opportunistic vaccination.
- Some parents prefer to have the whole family vaccinated for flu at the same time, but this isn't always possible due to illness or children being under 5.
- Pharmacists are becoming more comfortable with co-administration of vaccines, with increased focus on this approach.
- Checklists and tools from WA Health would be valuable, as resources like the NCIRS and Australian Immunisation Handbook can be time-consuming to review.
- Pharmacists are encouraged to book future vaccinations and send reminders.
- It's important to review missing vaccinations at every event.
- Anecdotal feedback suggests patients are still unaware of which vaccines can be provided by pharmacists.

# PSA Vaccination Education Hub

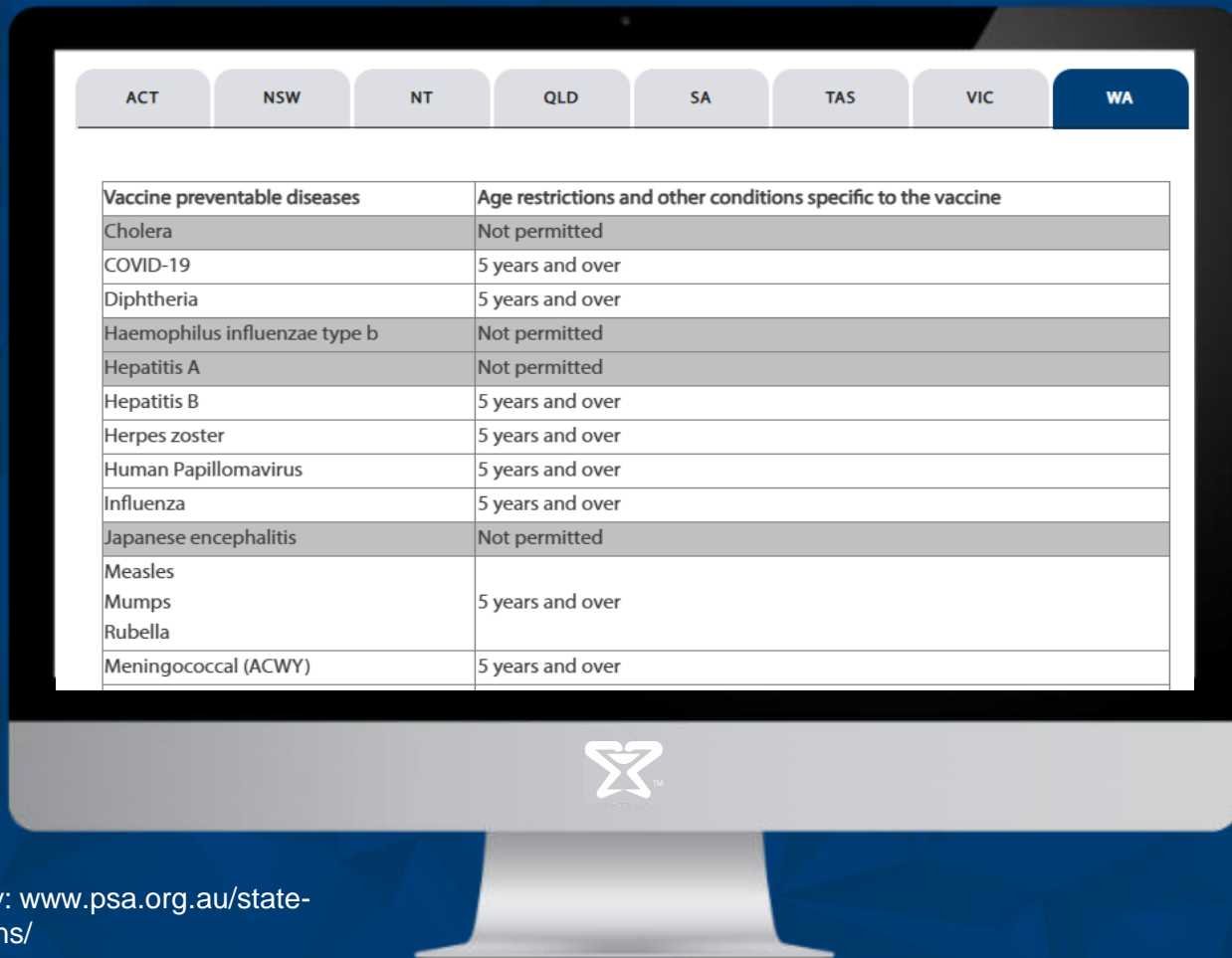
[www.psa.org.au/practice-support-industry/programs/immunisation/](http://www.psa.org.au/practice-support-industry/programs/immunisation/)



**Authorisation for pharmacist administered vaccinations & local rules for vaccine stock management**

[www.psa.org.au/state-vaccination-regulations/](http://www.psa.org.au/state-vaccination-regulations/)





ACT

NSW

NT

QLD

SA

TAS

VIC

WA

| Vaccine preventable diseases  | Age restrictions and other conditions specific to the vaccine |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Cholera                       | Not permitted   |
| COVID-19                      | 5 years and over  |
| Diphtheria                    | 5 years and over  |
| Haemophilus influenzae type b | Not permitted   |
| Hepatitis A                   | Not permitted   |
| Hepatitis B                   | 5 years and over  |
| Herpes zoster                 | 5 years and over  |
| Human Papillomavirus          | 5 years and over  |
| Influenza                     | 5 years and over  |
| Japanese encephalitis         | Not permitted   |
| Measles                       |   |
| Mumps                         | 5 years and over  |
| Rubella                       |   |
| Meningococcal (ACWY)          | 5 years and over  |

**Thank you**

