

11 July 2024

The Hon Shannon Fentiman MP  
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services  
Minister for Women

Dr John Gerrard  
Queensland Chief Health Officer  
Queensland Health

**By email:** [REDACTED]

**Subject: Whooping cough vaccination program**

Dear Minister and Dr Gerrard

We note the Queensland Government's recent efforts to raise public awareness about increasing respiratory infections in our community, particularly RSV and whooping cough.

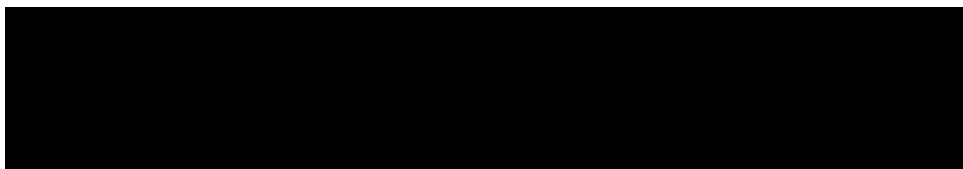
AMA Queensland was also pleased to see funding in the Queensland Budget for free Meningococcal B, RSV and influenza vaccines. Such investments in public health are vital to protect our most vulnerable patients and we welcome them wholeheartedly.

In addition to those vaccination programs, AMA Queensland urge the Government to consider broadening the current whooping cough vaccine program to include cohorts not currently covered (i.e. those outside of the National Immunisation Program which is restricted to pregnant women, children from 2 months to four years, adolescents aged 12-13 via school immunisation programs and other minor groups). This program could include those who have not had the immunisation for the past 10 years.

This strategy would reduce emergency presentations and reduce the demand on the already limited stocks of antibiotics suitable to treat mycoplasma.

We are more than happy to meet with you should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Yim  
**President**  
**AMA Queensland**

Dr Brett Dale  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**AMA Queensland**