



# Communique

<b>Security</b>	Public
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread distribution - metropolitan, regional, public
<b>Target audience</b>	All stakeholders

**Incident Name:** Targeted Regional WA MenW Outbreak Response

**Communique. 6** (covers period 13.11.2017 - 19.11.2017). **New information in bold, blue font.**

**Day, date and time:** Friday, 24 November 2017

**This communique has been authorised by:** Dr Paul Armstrong

## Background

- Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) due to meningococcal serogroup W (MenW) has risen rapidly across Australia since 2014.
- A statewide MenACWY vaccination program for 15-19 year olds commenced in April 2017 and is still continuing.
- An outbreak of MenW in central Australia started in July 2017. Aboriginal people living in communities across a broad area in the Central Australia, Barkly, and Katherine regions of the Northern Territory (NT) and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands of South Australia (SA) have been affected. There has been one related case reported in WA.
- Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccination programs have been introduced in the NT and the APY Lands in response to this outbreak.
- To prevent further transmission and cases of MenW, WA Health will offer free MenACWY vaccination to all people aged 2 months and over living in Aboriginal communities that have strong cultural links with central Australian communities affected by the outbreak, i.e. the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and Tjuntjuntjara (Goldfields); Balgo, Bililuna, Kundat Jaru (Ringer Soak) and Mulan (Kimberley); and Punmu, Kunawarritji, Parngurr (Cotton Creek), and Jigalong (Pilbara).
- The estimated target population is 3,300 people.
- The targeted vaccination program will be implemented from 18 October to 17 December 2017.
- In accordance with the *Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance* (CDPlan), on 2 November 2017, the Chief Medical Officer declared the MenW outbreak in Indigenous people in remote Central Australian communities and other communities linked through culture and mobility a 'Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance' (CDINS).

## Current situation

### Cases linked to the central Australia outbreak (NT, SA, WA, Qld)

- **Total number of cases:** 33
- **Total number of deaths:** Nil

### WA cases linked to the central Australia outbreak

- **Total number of cases:** 1
- **Total number of deaths:** Nil

### Other:

- A fatal case of MenW occurred in an Aboriginal infant from the Goldfields. This case brings the total number of MenW cases in the Goldfields region in 2017 to four, only one of which is within the boundaries of the targeted MenACWY vaccination program. In response, a proposal is being considered to commence a new phase of the program to cover those parts of the Goldfields not currently included in the targeted vaccination program.
- Queensland has recorded its MenW first cases (two) linked to the central Australia outbreak, prompting the government to introduce a MenACWY vaccination program for 1-19 year-old Aboriginal people in rural and remote areas of the state (a total of 33 000 individuals).

A meeting of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee was held on 16 November 2017 to discuss the implications of declaring the outbreak to be a CDINS. The main outcomes were that:

- the Commonwealth Department of Health will continue to work with CDNA to ensure a national response to MenW
- public communications resources will be developed, based on those developed in NT and SA
- the Commonwealth will consider a request for assistance from an affected jurisdiction, should it become overwhelmed and unable to respond.

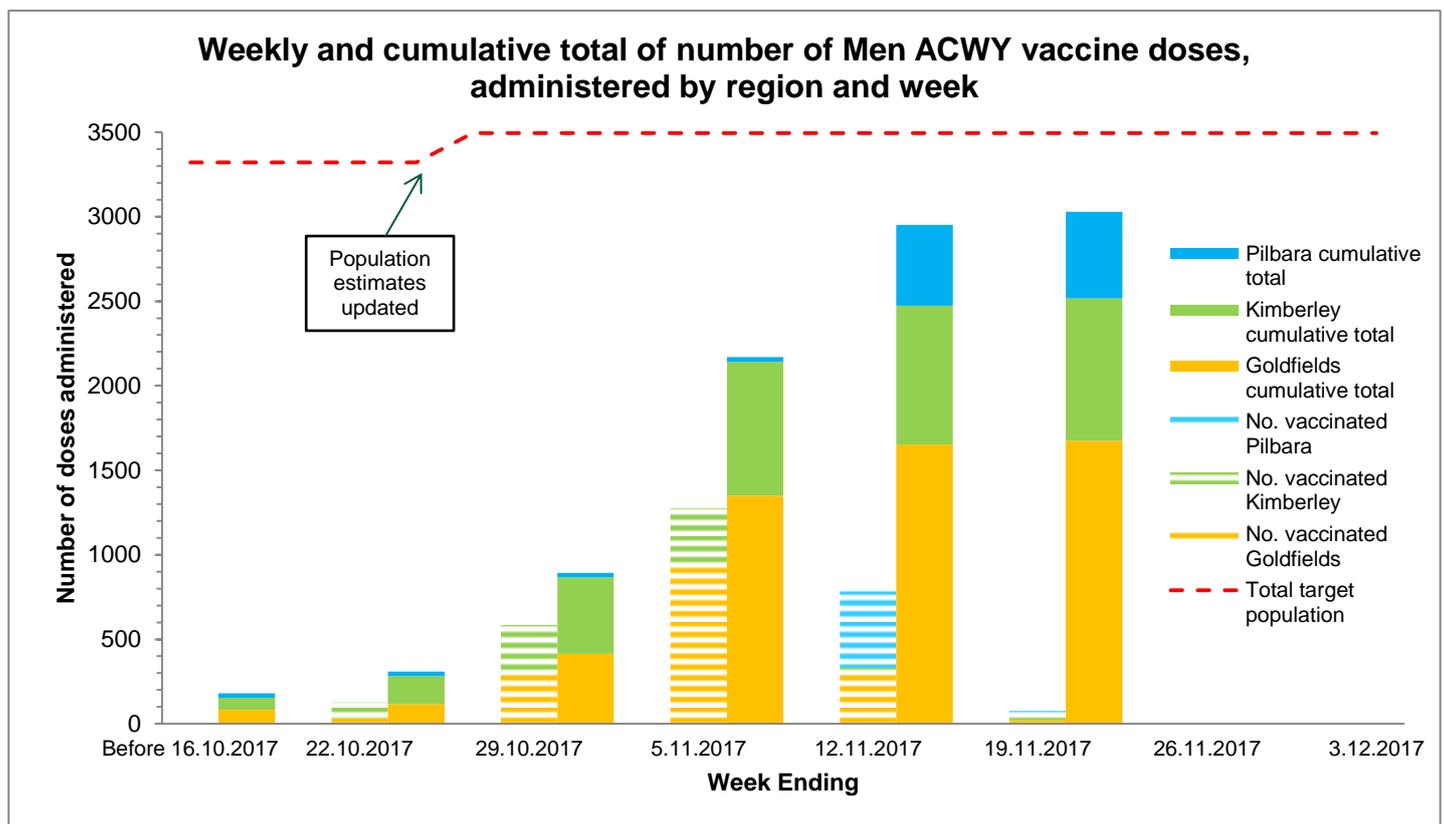
### Summary of MenACWY vaccine doses administered and estimated vaccination coverage (%), data extracted on 20.11.2017

	Goldfields		Kimberley		Pilbara		Total	
	2-11 months	12 months and over	2-11 months	12 months and over	2-11 months	12 months and over	2-11 months	12 months and over
Vaccine doses administered before 16.10.2017 <sup>1</sup>	0	82	0	71	0	27	0	180
Vaccine doses administered, 16.10.2017 onwards	17	1,574	7	766	6	478	30	2,741
<b>Total vaccine doses administered to date</b>	<b>1,673</b>		<b>844</b>		<b>511</b>		<b>3,028</b>	
<b>Total population<sup>2</sup></b>	1,769		1011		714		3494	
<b>Estimated coverage</b>	<b>95%</b>		<b>83%</b>		<b>72%</b>		<b>87%</b>	

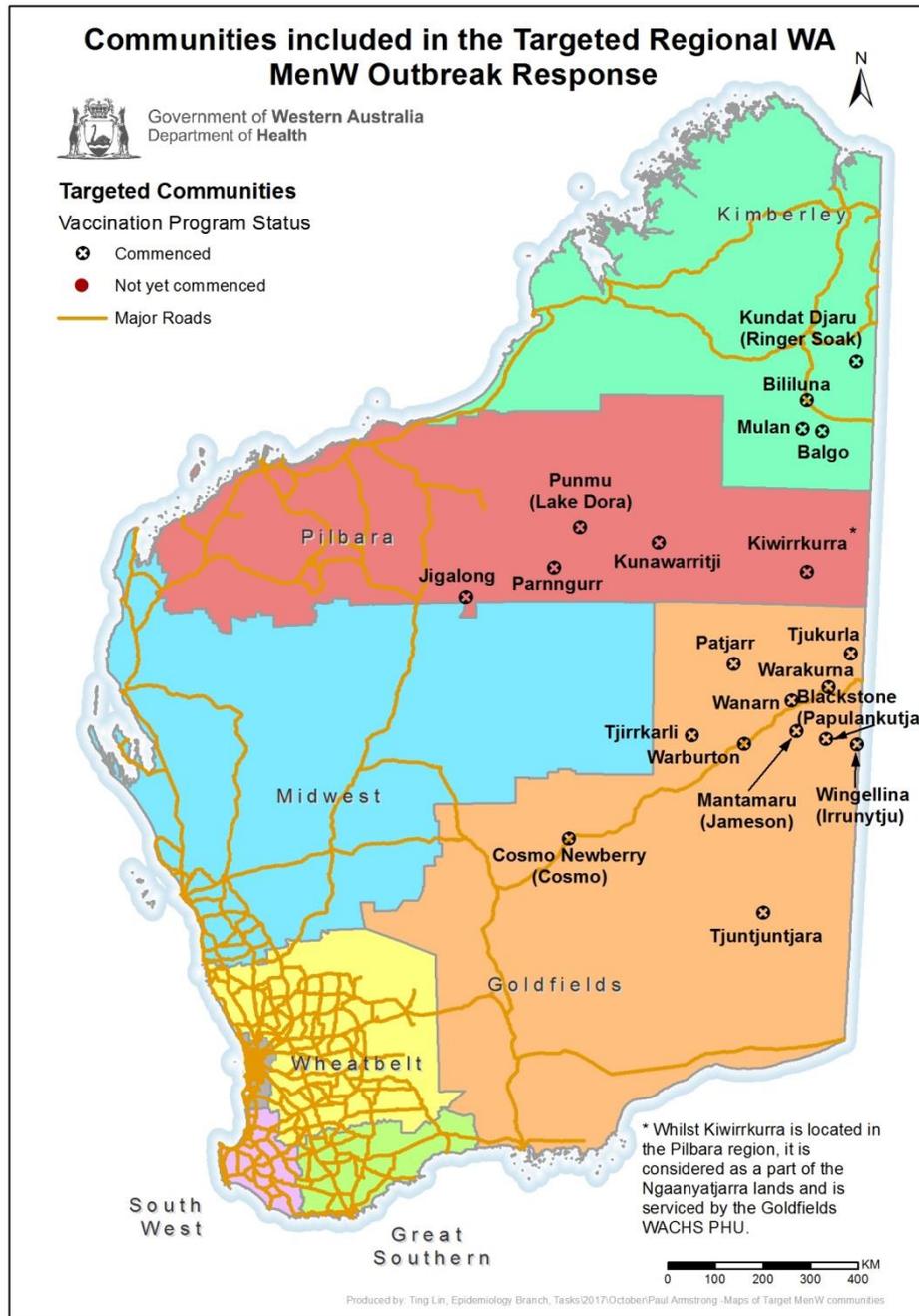
1. The majority of these figures represent those who have received vaccine as part of the state-wide MenACWY vaccination program for 15-19 year olds that commenced in April 2017.

2. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016 census.

Please note: Regional population estimates are based on 2016 census, however, populations will vary due to significant movement of people. Vaccination coverage should consider local population estimates at time of vaccination.



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## Further communiques

- The next communique will be issued on **1.12.2017**.

**WebEOC Incident Name:** 20171012 Targeted Regional WA MenW Outbreak Response

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