**Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (whooping cough)**

Immunisation is a safe and effective way to protect you from serious disease caused by whooping cough.

Whooping cough (pertussis) vaccines provide good protection from infection but immunity fades, which means that additional doses (boosters) are recommended.

Whooping cough (pertussis)-containing vaccines are only available in Australia as combination vaccines that protect against other diseases such as diphtheria and tetanus.

Free whooping cough (pertussis)-containing vaccine is available for the following people under the [National Immunisation Program](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule):

* Children at 2 months (from 6 weeks), 4 months, 6 months, 18 months and 4 years
* Adolescents in Year 7 at secondary school (or age equivalent)
* Pregnant women from 20 weeks gestation (ideally between 20 and 32 weeks) during every pregnancy.

Free [catch-up immunisations](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule#catch-up-immunisations) are also available for eligible people who have not been fully vaccinated, including:

* People aged up to 20 years
* Refugees and humanitarian entrants of any age.

Adult immunisation against whooping cough

Immunisation against whooping cough is also recommended for the following adults if they have not received a whooping cough (pertussis)-containing vaccine in the last 10 years:

* Parents, guardians and carers of infants less than 6 months of age
* People aged 65 and older
* Travellers (recommendations may vary depending on travel destination)

Booster dose

A booster dose of whooping cough (pertussis)-containing vaccine is also recommended for the following people every 10 years:

* All adults working with infants and young children less than 4 years of age
* All healthcare workers.