

Australia's first Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot - who did pharmacists inject?

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BACKGROUND

The Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot is Australia's first to allow pharmacists vaccination. The pilot ran between April 1st 2014 and August 31st 2014, with pharmacists administering influenza vaccination during the flu season.

METHODS

Participant demographics and previous influenza vaccination experiences were recorded using *GuildCare* software. Participants also completed a 'post-vaccination satisfaction survey' following their influenza vaccination.

RESULTS

A total of 11,475 participant records were analysed. Females accounted for 63% of participants, with the majority of participants aged between 45 – 64 years (53%). Overall, 49% of participants had been vaccinated before, the majority at a GP clinic (60%). Most participants reported receiving their previous influenza vaccination from a nurse (61%). Interestingly, 1% thought a pharmacist had administered their previous vaccination, while 7% were unsure which health professional had administer it. It was also of note that approximately 10% of all participants were eligible to receive a free vaccination from the National Immunisation Program, but still opted to receive their vaccine in a pharmacy.

Over 8,000 participants took part in the post-vaccination survey, 93% were happy to receive their vaccination from a pharmacy in the future while 94% would recommend this service to other people. The remaining 7% and 6% respectively had omitted to fill in those questions.

DISCUSSION

Participants were overwhelmingly positive in their response to the pharmacist vaccination pilot. These findings have helped pave the way for expanding the scope of practice for pharmacists with the aim to increase vaccination rates across the state.