

WHOOPING COUGH — WARREN–BLACKWOOD

**1014. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of reports that 16 cases of whooping cough have been reported in the Warren–Blackwood area so far this year?
- (2) Are the reports accurate?
- (3) What are the rates of vaccination in the communities of Bridgetown, Nannup, Boyup Brook and Manjimup?
- (4) What is the government doing to prevent outbreaks of this disease?

**Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question

- (1)–(2) The Minister for Health does not have day-to-day awareness of the number of notifications for particular infectious diseases at the level of towns and communities, but the Department of Health properly monitors and responds to infectious disease notifications. The Department of Health is aware that there have been 16 cases of pertussis—whooping cough—notified in the postcodes corresponding to Bridgetown, Nannup, Boyup Brook and Manjimup in the period January to August 2015.
- (3) Rates of vaccination are provided by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register for three age points for calendar year 2014. This information has been provided to me in tabular form, and I seek leave to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated —

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Local Government Area	Age 12-<15 months	Age 24-<27 month	Age 60-<63 months
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	95.2%	97.4%	85.2%
Nannup	92.3%	57.1%	90.9%
Boyup Brook	90.0%	89.5%	96.3%
Manjimup	90.9%	95.5%	93.0%

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Note that the numbers of eligible children can be small in some communities and age bands, and rates can therefore be quite variable.

- (4) Pertussis vaccination is provided free to children through the National Immunisation Program at ages two, four and six months, and with booster doses at age four years prior to school entry and during year 8 of high school. An extra booster dose will be added to the schedule at 18 months of age from the beginning of 2016, as an additional measure aimed at trying to reduce transmission in young children.  
Pertussis vaccine is also now provided free by the WA Government to pregnant women as a further measure to try to prevent transmission to newborns. The Department of Health advertises to promote increased vaccination rates. Public health staff investigate notified cases of pertussis and provide advice to cases and their contacts aimed at reducing transmission. In circumstances where unimmunised or incompletely immunised susceptible infants have been or may have been exposed to pertussis, preventive antibiotics are recommended.