CSL Welcomes New Lifetime Immunisation Register

Melbourne, Australia – CSL congratulates the Federal Government on the successful passage of legislation to establish an Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). The new register, which will be progressively introduced, will capture all vaccines that Australians receive from birth to death.

The national immunisation register will enable public health authorities to accurately track immunisation coverage, by state, region, and age group thereby facilitating targetted intervention to improve uptake, drive herd immunity, and assist researchers to better understand the impact of vaccines.

Dr John Anderson, General Manager, bioCSL said "the establishment of this register recognises the enormous contribution that vaccines have made, and continue to make, to the health and living standards of Australians".

"We know that vaccination is one of the most proven and cost-effective investments in global health and international development. But significant leadership at a national level is required to manage and implement a comprehensive population-wide immunisation strategy. With the decision to introduce this 'cradle to grave' register Australia can lay claim to having one of the most sophisticated and integrated national immunisation systems in the world" he said.

A child born in Australia today can be vaccinated against many diseases including polio, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B and rotavirus, which in the past have caused significant morbidity and mortality in infants and young children, As teenagers, they can receive immunisations which reduce the risk of cervical and other HPV-related cancers while older adults are eligible for vaccinations against influenza, shingles and pneumococcal pneumonia.

"The benefits of vaccines to both quality of life and to alleviating some of the public health cost burden should never be underestimated" said Dr Anderson.

CSL and the public health community have been advocating for the extension of the highly successful Australian Childhood Immunity Register to a whole-of-life register and we strongly commend the Government's decision to fund and facilitate the register.

In 1919, CSL helped Australia combat the Spanish Flu pandemic by tripling its workforce and manufacturing 3 million doses of vaccine against the complications of the virus. Today, CSL operates the only influenza vaccine manufacturing facility in the Southern Hemisphere, supplying seasonal influenza vaccines to Australia and global markets as well as maintaining pandemic vaccine preparedness on behalf of the Australian government. It also distributes paediatric and adult vaccines against a broad range of infectious diseases.

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