



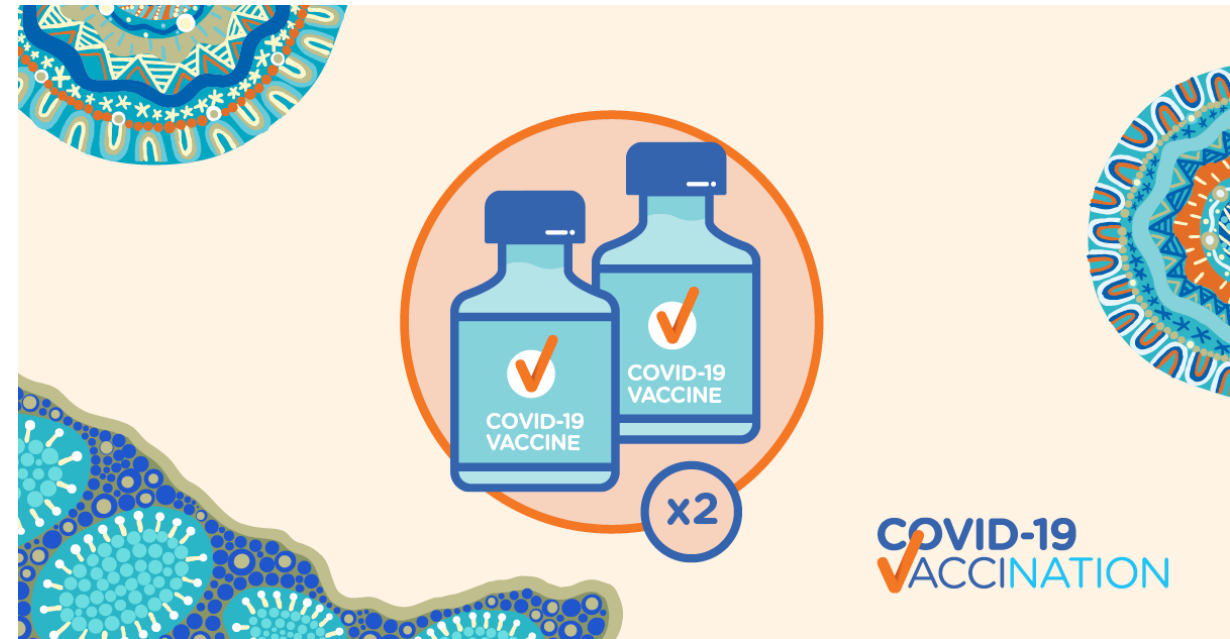
Barriers to vaccinating our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

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COVID19 in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

- Increased risk of acquiring and developing serious COVID19 illness
 - driven by social determinants of health and access to health care
 - high proportion of people in rural and remote communities
 - poorer housing infrastructure
 - higher prevalence of comorbidities
 - transport and continuity of care
- Immediate risk of COVID-19 transmission is high in metropolitan areas where most COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred



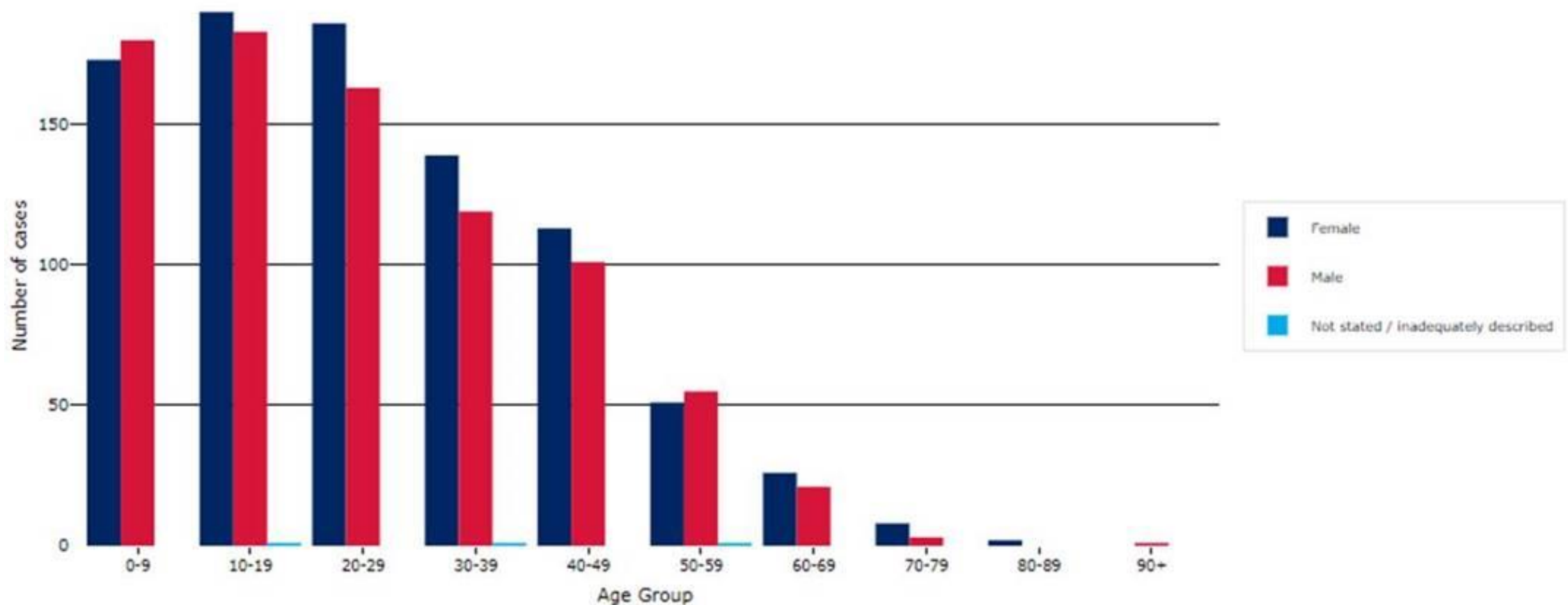
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander COVID cases since June 2021

LHD	Case Count
Western NSW	520
Western Sydney	289
South Western Sydney	190
Nepean Blue Mountains	172
Sydney	182
Far West	137
South Eastern Sydney	80
Central Coast	38
Correctional Settings	36
Illawarra Shoalhaven	37
Hunter New England	27
Total	1717

Likely source of infection	Case Count (%)
No links to known case or cluster	9 (0.6%)
Investigation ongoing	915 (53%)
Epi-linked to known case or cluster	237 (14%)
Household contact of confirmed case	556 (32%)
Total	1717

Age distribution of positive COVID cases in Aboriginal community, NSW

- Since 16 June, 10-19 age group has highest number of positive cases.



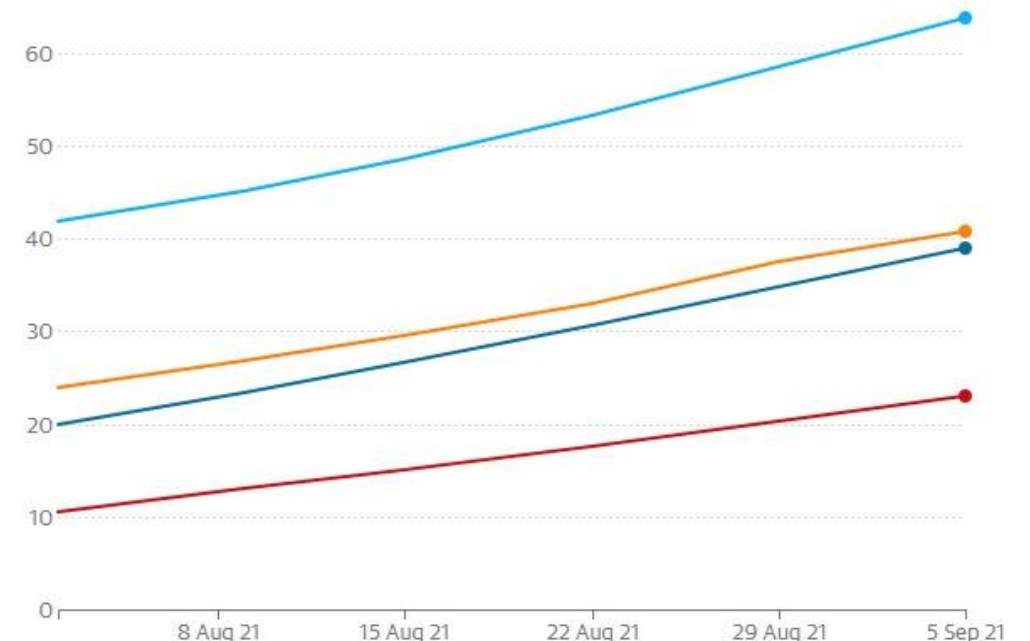
Current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander vaccination rates, over 15yo, Sept 15th

- Central Coast
 - First dose 57% (78%)
 - Fully vaccinated 31% (46%)
- Hunter valley, excluding Newcastle
 - First dose 53% (70%)
 - Fully vaccinated 24% (39%)
- Newcastle and Lake Macquarie
 - First dose 57% (72%)
 - Fully vaccinated 29% (43%)
- New England and North West
 - First dose 50% (69%)
 - Fully vaccinated 25% (38%)

Indigenous vaccination rates v non-Indigenous rates over time

Comparing the national Indigenous vaccination rates with the non-Indigenous rates for the 16+ population. The current gap between the percentage of fully vaccinated Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is 15.9. Last updated 8 September 2021

● Indigenous % at least one dose (16+)
 ● Indigenous % fully vaccinated (16+)
 ● Non-Indigenous % at least one dose (16+)
 ● Non-Indigenous % fully vaccinated (16+)



Guardian graphic | Source: Guardian Australia analysis of Department of Health data. Indigenous population numbers are now from the Australian Immunisation Register, non-Indigenous population numbers continue to be based on ABS estimated residential population, less the Indigenous number

Barriers to vaccination for Aboriginal people

- Hesitancy (a trusted health professional will combat this)
- Slow government messaging
- Younger population (only 9% Aboriginal people over 60yo)
- AZ vaccine has always been available but changing messaging has caused confusion, distrust
- Limited Pfizer availability, workforce shortage
- Past policies, intergenerational trauma, mistrust, institutionalised racism, discrimination, disempowerment
- Lack of culturally safe environments, culturally sensitive providers and promotional materials, lack of access to Aboriginal Health Workers
- Health literacy, access, transport, fear, shame

Enablers to vaccination for Aboriginal people

- Cultural awareness for all staff
- CTG co-payment measure dispensing guidelines, HPOS
- Culturally appropriate resources, posters, factsheets
- Artwork, especially local
- Liaise with your local ACCHS or PHN Aboriginal Liaison Officer to help create culturally safe spaces
 - Consider inviting an Aboriginal Health Worker onsite
 - Partner with ACCHS to run special clinics
 - Can incentivise
- Aboriginal communities and cultures differ across the State, need to understand local needs, talk to leaders, have them guide the local response



Enablers to vaccination for Aboriginal people

- Follow your closest ACCHS's social media pages and share to your own socials



- Nothing beats direct messaging from community!

