

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SURVEILLANCE

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, 24 December 1995 to 6 January 1996

There were 623 notifications received for this two week period (Tables 1, 2 and 3). This is less than one-sixth of the total received for the immediately preceding four week period. No notifications were received from Queensland in the current period. Even allowing for this, the total for this period is quite low in comparison to recent notification figures, and probably reflects a higher level of delay in transmission of reports at this time of the year than at other times. The figure of selected notifiable diseases compared with historical data which usually appears in *CDI* has not been published this issue because of this probable reporting delay.

- There were 6 notifications of **Ross River virus infection**; 5 cases were male and one was female. Cases were from several 5-year age groups older than 30 years and were reported from the Northern Territory and Western Australia.
- There was one report of **dengue** from Western Australia, in a male in the age group 30-34 years.
- There were 207 notifications of **campylobacteriosis**; 119 cases were male, 81 cases were female,

and the sex of 1 case was not reported. Cases were reported from all age groups from 0-4 years to 80-84 years, with 23% of cases being aged less than 5 years.

- There were 27 notifications of **gonococcal infection** received (compared to 231 in the previous 4 week period); 25 cases were male and 2 cases were female; 74% of the cases were aged between 15 and 29 years.
- Three cases of ***Haemophilus influenzae* type b infection** were reported during the period, all in children under 5 years of age, from Melbourne and Canberra.
- There were 27 cases of **hepatitis A** reported, including 19 in males and 6 in females; the sex of the remaining 2 cases not being reported. The cases were from all but one of the 5-year age groups up to 59 years. Most of the cases were reported from the metropolitan statistical divisions of Sydney and Melbourne.
- Three cases of **hepatitis B (incident)** were reported; all were males in the age range 20 to 34 years.
- One case of **hydatid disease** was notified, in a female from the Hunter statistical division of New South Wales.

Table 1. Notifications of diseases preventable by vaccines recommended by the NHMRC for routine childhood immunisation, received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 24 December 1995 to 6 January 1996

DISEASES	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	TOTALS FOR AUSTRALIA ¹			
									This period 1995-96	This period 1994-95	Year to date 1996 ²	Year to date 1995 ²
Diphtheria	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> b infection	1	0	0		0	0	2	0	3	4	2	2
Measles	1	3	0	NN	0	3	4	3	14	109	7	70
Mumps	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Pertussis	0	18	0		1	1	4	5	29	147	17	99
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rubella	10	3	0		2	4	32	10	61	92	21	78
Tetanus	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1. Totals comprise data from all States and Territories. Cumulative figures are subject to retrospective revision, so there may be discrepancies between the number of new notifications and the increment in the cumulative figure from the previous period.

2. Year to date totals are for 1 to 6 January 1995 and 1996 and are therefore lower than the totals for the corresponding reporting periods.
 NN Not Notifiable.

- One case of **legionellosis** was reported, in a male from the age group 75-79 years, from the metropolitan statistical division of Sydney.
- One case of **listeriosis** was reported, a male over 85 years, also from the metropolitan statistical division of Sydney.
- Only 3 notifications of **malaria** were received (compared to 34 in the previous 4 week period); 2 were males and one was female; all were in their mid-twenties.
- Fourteen cases of **measles** were reported; 9 cases were male and 5 cases were female. Their ages ranged from 0 to 31 years.
- There were 3 cases of **meningococcal infection** reported; they included a female infant less than one year of age and a male and a female in the age group 20-24 years.
- One further case of **ornithosis** was notified from Victoria.
- There were 29 notifications of **pertussis**; 17 cases were male and 12 cases were female. All age groups between 0-4 years and 65-69 years were represented. Three cases were aged less than one year.
- Five notifications of **Q fever** were received, all from country regions of New South Wales and Victoria; 4 cases were male and the remaining case was female.
- There were 61 cases of **rubella** reported; 41 cases were male, 19 cases were female, and the sex of one case was not reported. Recorded ages of cases were from all age groups between 0-4 and 45-49 years; 38% of the cases (23) were reported in males 10-24 years of age.

Table 2. Notifications of other diseases¹ received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 24 December 1995 to 6 January 1996

DISEASES	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	TOTALS FOR AUSTRALIA ²				
									This period 1995-96	This period 1994-95	Year to date 1996 ⁸	Year to date 1995 ⁸	
Arbovirus infection													
Ross River virus infection	0	0	1		0	-	0	5	6	25	6	23	
Dengue	0	0	0		0	-	0	1	1	0	0	0	
NEC ³	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Campylobacteriosis ⁴	7	-	7		54	6	71	62	207	315	68	223	
Chlamydial infection (NEC) ⁵	0	NN	3		3	6	51	10	73	175	38	92	
Donovanosis	0	NN	0		NN	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	
Gonococcal infection ⁶	0	3	8		0	0	11	5	27	87	20	46	
Hepatitis A	1	7	2		0	0	15	2	27	54	16	39	
Hepatitis B	0	0	0		0	0	3	0	3	8	1	5	
Hepatitis C incident	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	
Hepatitis C unspecified	3	0	0		0	5	25	23	56	155	13	112	
Hepatitis (NEC)	0	0	0		0	0	0	NN	0	0	0	0	
Legionellosis	0	1	0		0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	
Leptospirosis	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	
Listeriosis	0	1	0		0	0	0	0	1	5	0	3	
Malaria	0	1	0		0	0	1	1	3	22	1	15	
Meningococcal infection	0	0	0		0	0	2	1	3	12	1	5	
Ornithosis	0	NN	0		0	0	1	0	1	3	0	3	
Q fever	0	2	0		0	0	3	0	5	13	2	8	
Salmonellosis (NEC)	1	20	8		7	6	16	20	78	158	40	100	
Shigellosis ⁴	0	-	3		1	0	0	0	4	14	4	12	
Syphilis	1	0	0		0	1	0	1	3	34	1	25	
Tuberculosis	0	2	0		0	0	3	0	5	24	2	15	
Typhoid ⁷	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Yersiniosis (NEC) ⁴	0	-	0		2	0	0	1	3	12	1	8	

1. For HIV and AIDS, see Tables 2 and 3. For rarely notified diseases, see Table .

2. Totals comprise data from all States and Territories. Cumulative figures are subject to retrospective revision so there may be discrepancies between the number of new notifications and the increment in the cumulative figure from the previous period.

3. Tas: includes Ross River virus and dengue.

4. NSW: only as 'foodborne disease' or 'gastroenteritis in an institution'.

5. WA: genital only.

6. NT, Qld, SA and Vic: includes gonococcal neonatal ophthalmia.

7. NSW, Vic: includes paratyphoid.

8. Year to date totals are for 1 to 6 January 1995 and 1996 and are therefore lower than the totals for the corresponding reporting periods.

NN Not Notifiable.

NEC Not Elsewhere Classified.

- Elsewhere classified

Table 3. Notifications of rare¹ diseases received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 24 December 1995 to 6 January 1996²

DISEASES	Total this period	Reporting States or Territories	Year to date 1996 ²
Botulism	0	NSW	0
Brucellosis	0		0
Chancroid	0		0
Cholera	0		0
Hydatid infection	1		0
Leprosy	0		0
Lymphogranuloma venereum	0		0
Plague	0		0
Rabies	0		0
Yellow fever	0		0
Other viral haemorrhagic fevers	0		0

1. Fewer than 60 cases of each of these diseases were notified each year during the period 1988 to 1994.
2. Year to date total is for 1 to 6 January 1996 and therefore lower than the total for the reporting period.

Table 4. Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network reports, weeks 51 and 52, 1996

Condition	Week 51, to 24 December 1996		Week 52, to 31 December 1996	
	Reports	Rate per 1000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1000 encounters
Influenza	9	1.4	4	1.3
Rubella	2	0.3	2	0.6
Measles	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chickenpox	10	1.6	3	1.0
Pertussis	2	0.3	0	0.0
Gastroenteritis	111	17.6	70	22.6

Figure 1. ASPREN gastroenteritis reporting rate, by month, 1995

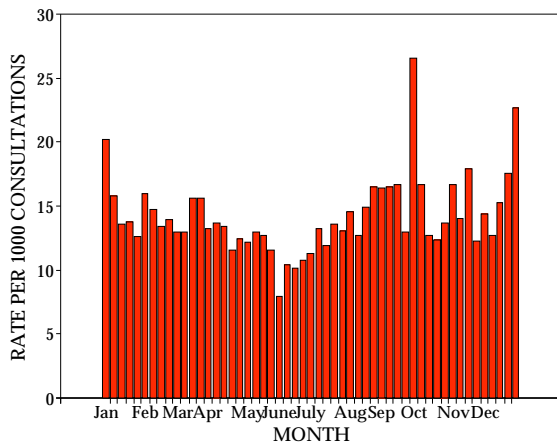
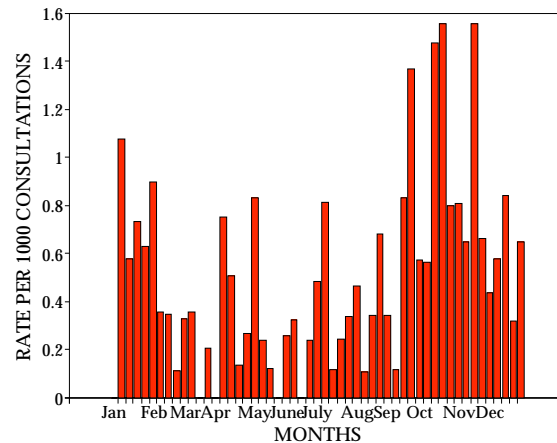


Figure 2. ASPREN rubella reporting rate, by month, 1995



- There were 78 cases of **salmonellosis** reported; 40 cases were male and 36 cases were female; the sex of the remaining 2 cases was not recorded. Thirty seven per cent of the cases were aged less than 5 years.
- Only three cases of **syphilis** were reported (compared to 85 in the previous 4 week period); 2 cases were male and 1 was female.
- There were 5 cases of **tuberculosis** reported; 2 cases were male and 3 cases were female. All were aged over 40 years.
- Three cases of **yersiniosis** were reported; one case was male, and 2 female.

Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network (ASPREN)

Data for weeks 51 and 52 (ending 24 and 31 December) are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 4) a total of 6317

Table 5. New diagnoses of HIV infection, new diagnoses of AIDS and deaths following AIDS occurring in the period 1 June to 30 June 1995 and reported by 30 September 1995, by sex and State or Territory of diagnosis

		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	TOTALS FOR AUSTRALIA			
										This period 1995	This period 1994	Year to date 1995	Year to date 1994
HIV diagnoses	Female	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	5	12	7	53	45
	Male	2	28	0	7	2	0	6	3	48	66	401	439
	Sex not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	8
	Total ¹	4	29	0	10	2	0	7	8	60	74	463	492
AIDS diagnoses	Female	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	13	17
	Male	0	12	0	6	0	0	8	1	27	65	224	387
	Total ¹	1	12	0	6	1	0	8	1	29	69	238	407
AIDS deaths	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	16	18
	Male	2	14	0	3	2	0	9	1	31	64	250	346
	Total ¹	2	14	0	3	2	0	11	1	33	66	267	366

1. Persons whose sex was reported as transsexual are included in the totals.

Table 6. Cumulative diagnoses of HIV infection, AIDS and deaths following AIDS since the introduction of HIV antibody testing to 30 June 1995, by sex and State or Territory of diagnosis

		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	AUSTRALIA
HIV diagnoses	Female	15	537	3	93	44	4	160	68	924
	Male	157	9733	79	1501	547	70	3249	719	16055
	Sex not reported	0	2048	0	0	0	0	43	0	2091
	Total ¹	172	12325	82	1599	591	74	3460	789	19092
AIDS diagnoses	Female	4	123	0	24	17	2	43	14	227
	Male	68	3371	25	562	249	32	1230	247	5784
	Total ¹	72	3504	25	588	266	34	1280	262	6031
AIDS deaths	Female	2	84	0	19	13	2	25	8	153
	Male	48	2386	18	395	163	21	953	181	4165
	Total ¹	50	2476	18	416	176	23	984	190	4333

1. Persons whose sex was reported as transsexual are included in the totals.

and 3091 consultations being reported respectively. The rate of reporting of gastroenteritis rose in the month of December (Figure 1) whilst that for rubella has fallen in recent weeks after peaking in October/November (Figure 2).

HIV and AIDS Surveillance

Methodological note

National surveillance for HIV disease is coordinated by the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR), in collaboration with State and Territory health authorities and the Commonwealth of Australia. Cases of HIV infection are notified to the National HIV Database on the first occasion of diagnosis in Australia, by either the diagnosing laboratory (ACT, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria) or by a combination of laboratory and doctor sources (Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia). Cases of AIDS are notified through the State and Territory health authorities to the National AIDS Registry. Diagnoses of both HIV infection and AIDS

are notified with the person's date of birth and name code, to minimise duplicate notifications while maintaining confidentiality.

Tabulations of diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS are based on data available three months after the end of the reporting interval indicated, to allow for reporting delay and to incorporate newly available information. More detailed information on diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS is published in the quarterly *Australian HIV Surveillance Report*, available from the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, 376 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010. Telephone: (02) 332 4648 Facsimile: (02) 332 1837.

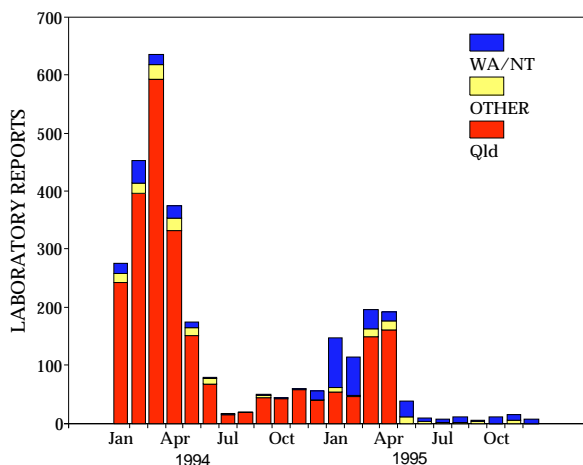
HIV and AIDS diagnoses and deaths following AIDS reported for June 1995 and cumulative to 30 June 1995, as reported to 30 September 1995, are included in this issue of *CDI* (Tables 5 and 6).

Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme

There were 2653 reports received in the *CDI* Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme this period (Tables 5, 6 and 7).

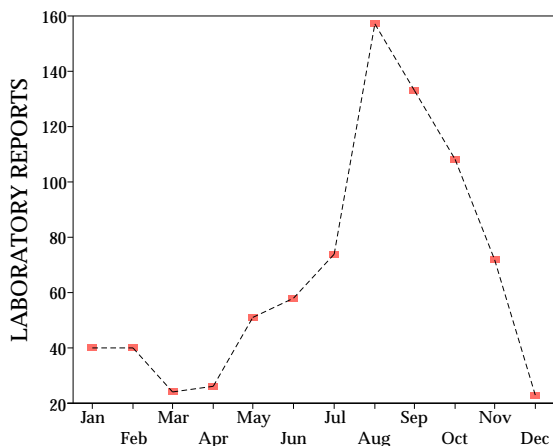
- Two reports of **measles** were received this period. The number of reports is low compared to the same period last year.
- **Rubella** was reported for 67 patients this period. Included were 28 females, 12 of whom were of childbearing age, and 38 males.
- Five reports of **mumps** were received this period from Western Australia (1), Queensland (3) and Victoria (1) diagnosed by IgM detection.
- **Hepatitis A** was reported for 30 patients this period including 21 males and 8 females (one unknown sex).

Figure 3. Ross river virus laboratory reports 1994 to 1995, by State or Territory and month of specimen collection



- Positive **hepatitis B** serology was reported for 125 patients this fortnight including 67 males and 58 females. A total of 90 reports was in the 15 to 44 years age range.
- Three hundred and twelve reports of positive **hepatitis C** serology were received this period. Included were 170 males and 138 females (4 unknown sex). Two hundred and twenty-nine reports were for the 25 to 44 years age range.
- Positive **hepatitis D** serology was reported for 3 patients this period. Diagnosis was by single high titre.
- **Ross River virus** was reported in 22 patients this period. Diagnosis was by single high titre (11) and IgM detection (11). The number of reports remains low however an increase is normally seen over the summer months (Figure 3).
- One report of **Japanese Encephalitis virus** was isolated from a 26 year old male whom had recently travelled overseas. Diagnosis was by IgM detection.
- One hundred and twenty-two reports of **adenovirus** were received this reporting period diagnosed by virus isolation (99), antigen detection (21) and single high titre (2). Untyped adenovirus reports were received for 73 patients. There were 15 reports of eye disease associated with adenovirus type 3 (12) and type 7 (3).
- **Herpes simplex virus type 1** was reported for 406 patients this reporting period. Diagnosis was by virus isolation (402) and antigen detection (4).
- Three hundred and ninety-eight reports of **herpes simplex virus type 2** were received this period diagnosed by virus isolation (395) and antigen detection (3).
- Seventy-nine reports of **cytomegalovirus** were received this period. Diagnosis was by virus isolation (27), antigen detection (7), nucleic acid detection (3) and IgM detection (42). Included were two HIV/AIDS patients and 5 transplant patients.
- **Varicella-zoster virus** was reported for 95 patients this period. Diagnosis was by virus isolation (39), antigen detection (37), nucleic acid detection (2) and IgM detection (17).
- One hundred and seventy-nine reports were received for **Epstein-Barr virus** this reporting period. Diagnosis was by virus isolation (one), four fold rise in titre (5) and IgM detection (173).
- **Parvovirus** was reported for 11 patients this reporting period. Included was an HIV positive patient who reported a recent fever, rash and aches.
- Eleven reports of **echovirus** were isolated this period. Cases were reported from New South Wales (8), Victoria (2) and the Australian Capital Territory (one). **Echovirus type 9** was isolated from a 3 males under one year of age, all diagnosed with meningitis.

Figure 4. Parainfluenza virus type 3 laboratory reports 1995, by month of specimen collection



- Sixty-three reports of **enterovirus** were received this period. Included was one report of encephalitis in a 5 month old male.
- **Rhinovirus** was reported for 41 patients this period. Cases were reported from Victoria (24), South Australia (3), Queensland (3) and New South Wales (11).
- **Influenza A** was reported for 9 patients this period. Diagnosis was by virus isolation (2), antigen detection (one) and single high titre (7). The number of reports received has continued to decline after reaching a peak in July.
- **Influenza B** was reported for 4 patients this period. Diagnosis was by virus isolation. The number of reports continued to decline this reporting period with a total of 352 reports received for 1995.
- **Parainfluenza virus type 3** was reported for 32 patients this reporting period. Diagnosis was by virus isolation (20), antigen detection (6) and single high titre (6). Reporting continues to decline after reaching a peak in August. The number of reports received for 1995 is the highest ever recorded by this scheme (Figure 4).
- Twenty-five reports of **respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** were received this reporting period. Meth-

ods of diagnosis included virus isolation (15), antigen detection (9) and single high titre (one). Twenty-two reports were received for the under 4 years age group. The number of reports continues to decline.

- **Rotavirus** was reported for 46 patients this period. Thirty-one reports were for patients below 4 years of age. Rotavirus reporting has continued to decline since August.
- **Chlamydia trachomatis** was reported for 192 patients this period. Diagnosis was by isolation (35), antigen detection (32), nucleic acid detection (124) and single high titre (one). Included were 128 females and 63 males (one unknown sex).
- **Chlamydia psittaci** was reported for 20 patients this reporting period. Thirteen of these reports were for males. Diagnosis was by single high titre (11), four fold rise in titre (6) and IgM detection (3). Reports for the period were received from Victoria (19) and New South Wales (one). The number of psittacosis reports received for 1995 is high compared to previous years, a total of 685 reports. The male:female ratio for 1995 is 1.6:1.0. Three cases were reported as part an outbreak of respiratory disease in the North Eastern Statistical Division of Victoria.
- Twenty-nine reports of **Mycoplasma pneumoniae** were received this period for 15 males and 14 females. Methods of diagnosis included antigen detection (one), single high titre (2), four fold rise in titre (4), IgM detection (18) and total antibody (4).
- Eleven cases of **Coxiella burnetii** (Q Fever) were reported this period. Diagnosis included single high titre (4), four fold rise in titre (3) and IgM detection (4). Included was a 43 year old male who had animal exposure.
- Twenty-seven cases of **Schistosoma** species were reported this period. Seventeen cases reported overseas travel. Included was a 27 year old female who had recently returned from Africa.
- **Leptospira** species was reported for 3 cases. Included was a 28 year old male meatworker who reported myalgia, arthralgia and headaches.

Table 5. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 28 December 1995 to 10 January 1996 historical data², and total reports for the year

	State or Territory ¹								Total this fortnight	Historical data ²	Total reported this year
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA			
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA											
Measles virus							1	1	2	108.0	4
Mumps virus				3			1	1	5	4.3	6
Rubella virus		6		39	3	1	4	14	67	79.3	97
HEPATITIS VIRUSES											
Hepatitis A virus		2	1	13	1		10	3	30	17.3	40
Hepatitis B virus		24	12	56		2	19	12	125	87.3	197
Hepatitis C virus		32	23	109		15	21	112	312	255.5	426
Hepatitis D virus				3					3	1.0	4
ARBOVIRUSES											
Ross River virus		2	5	8				7	22	176.2	25
Barmah Forest virus	1			8					9	21.2	12
Japanese encephalitis virus								1	1	.0	1
ADENOVIRUSES											
Adenovirus type 1					3				3	3.5	6
Adenovirus type 2					8		2		10	3.8	12
Adenovirus type 3					13		11		24	3.8	27
Adenovirus type 7					7		3		10	.8	11
Adenovirus type 8							2		2	2.8	2
Adenovirus not typed/pending	1	10		30	13		12	7	73	75.8	206
HERPES VIRUSES											
Herpes simplex virus type 1	1	30	6	142	61	1	107	58	406	217.8	625
Herpes simplex virus type 2		34	13	143	48		97	63	398	223.0	636
Herpes simplex not typed/pending	5	9							14	34.8	44
Cytomegalovirus	3	14	3	27	1	3	18	10	79	81.5	160
Varicella-zoster virus	1	12		38	13		16	15	95	50.8	129
Epstein-Barr virus		13	5	120	17	1	8	15	179	93.8	238
Herpes virus group - not typed				1				7	8	1.3	8
OTHER DNA VIRUSES											
Contagious pustular dermatitis (Orf virus)								1	1	.3	1
Parvovirus				1	1		4	5	11	5.0	15
PICORNA VIRUS FAMILY											
Coxsackievirus B2							1		1	1.3	1
Echovirus type 9	1	4					2		7	.2	11
Echovirus type 14		3							3	.3	6
Echovirus type 22		1							1	.2	2
Poliovirus type 2 (uncharacterised)					1				1	.3	4
Poliovirus type 3 (uncharacterised)		1							1	.7	2
Rhinovirus (all types)		11		3	3		24		41	50.2	104
Enterovirus not typed/pending				34			12	17	63	62.7	122
ORTHO/PARAMYXOVIRUSES											
Influenza A virus		2		1			3	4	10	26.5	19
Influenza B virus		1		2	1				4	14.7	17
Parainfluenza virus type 2					1				1	1.2	4
Parainfluenza virus type 3	2	6		6	5		8	5	32	30.2	143
Parainfluenza virus typing pending							1		1	1.5	2
Respiratory syncytial virus	2	7		5	2		6	3	25	31.0	146

Table 5. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 28 December 1995 to 10 January 1996 historical data², and total reports for the year, continued

	State or Territory ¹								Total this fortnight	Historical data ²	Total reported this year
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA			
OTHER RNA VIRUSES											
HIV-1				16			1	1	18	3.2	19
Rotavirus		5			28	3	9	1	46	54.2	162
Norwalk agent							9		9	.7	14
Small virus (like) particle							2		2	1.0	3
OTHER											
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> not typed	5	15	21	66	14		24	47	192	101.7	257
<i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i>				1			1		2	.0	2
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>		1					19		20	8.3	34
<i>Chlamydia</i> species		8							8	.7	14
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>		1		11	2		9	6	29	50.2	46
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever)		2		4			3	2	11	33.2	18
<i>Rickettsia australis</i>				1			2		3	.2	5
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A		4	14	46					64	13.8	64
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>				1					1	2.2	1
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>				2			31	3	36	33.2	40
<i>Bordetella</i> species		4	1	53					58	17.5	58
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i>							1		1	.3	1
<i>Leptospira hardjo</i>							1		1	4.2	1
<i>Leptospira</i> species								3	3	4.2	3
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>		10	6	7			1	8	32	21.2	36
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>							2	1	3	1.0	5
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>				2					2	2.2	3
<i>Schistosoma</i> species						2	17	8	27	.3	33
<i>Strongyloides stercoralis</i>		1							1	.2	1
TOTAL	22	276	110	1004	246	28	526	441	2,653	2,124.0	4,340

1. State or Territory of postcode, if reported, otherwise State or Territory of reporting laboratory.

2. The historical data are the averages of the numbers of reports in 6 previous 2 week reporting periods: the corresponding periods of the last 2 years and the periods immediately preceding and following those.