

## **National Health and Medical Research Council recommendations on influenza immunisation<sup>1</sup>**

Influenza vaccine should be given routinely on an annual basis to:

- Individuals over 65 years of age: the risk to the elderly is greatest if they also have chronic cardiac or lung disease, and is increased for residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over 50 years of age, because of the greatly increased risk of premature death from respiratory disease.

Annual vaccination should be considered for individuals who are in the following groups:

- Adults with chronic debilitating diseases (especially those with chronic cardiac, pulmonary, renal and metabolic disorders);
- Children with cyanotic congenital heart disease;
- Adults and children receiving immunosuppressive therapy;
- Staff who care for immunocompromised patients (patients with immune deficiency or malignancy, bone marrow transplant recipients and liver transplant recipients are at high risk from influenza infection, but have an attenuated immune response to influenza vaccine);
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities;
- Staff of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities (in an attempt to protect the patients).

Based on: National Health and Medical Research Council. *The Australian immunisation procedures handbook, fifth edition*. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service, 1995.