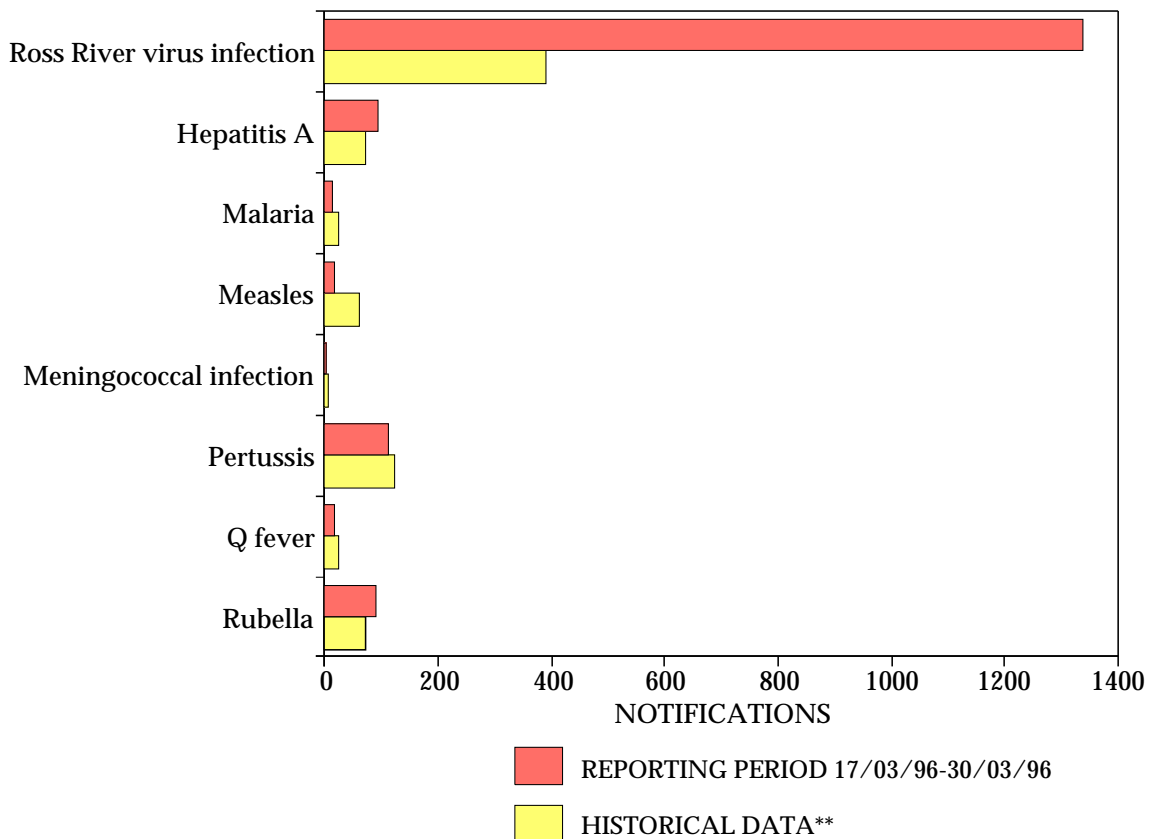

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SURVEILLANCE

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, 17 to 30 March 1996

There were 3,420 notifications received for this two week period (Tables 1, 2 and 3, and Figure 1).

- There were 1,338 notifications of **Ross River virus infection**, 20% more than the number reported for the previous fortnight. The male:female ratio was 1:1.2. As for the previous three reporting periods, all age groups were affected, although 59% of cases were aged between 30 and 54 years. The greatest number of cases was reported from Queensland (especially the Southern and Central Coastal Statistical Divisions, and Darling Downs). In New South Wales the Northern and Richmond-Tweed Statistical Divisions reported most cases. In Western Australia the greatest numbers and rates were reported from the South West Statistical Division.
- Seventy-eight cases of **Barmah Forest virus infection** were reported from Queensland and one case from the Australian Capital Territory; 61% of the cases were in the age range 30-54 years.
- Two cases of **brucellosis** were reported from Queensland and one from Victoria. Two cases were in males in the age group 30-34 years, and one case in a female in the age group 55-59 years.
- Notifications of **campylobacteriosis** remain at a high level, 447 cases being reported in the current fortnight. The male:female ratio was 1.2:1; all age groups were affected, with 26% of cases being aged less than five years.
- There were 273 notifications of **chlamydial infection** received, 52% of them being reported from Queensland. The male:female ratio was 1.2:2; 85% of the cases were aged between 15 and 29 years.
- There were 127 notifications of **gonococcal infection** received; 86 cases were male and 40 cases were female, the sex of the remaining case being not reported; 66% of the cases were aged between 15 and 29 years.
- Two cases of **Haemophilus influenzae type b infection** were reported, both females, a child aged one year from New South Wales and an infant from the Northern Territory.
- There were 94 cases of **hepatitis A** reported, 65% of them in males. The cases were from all age groups from 0-4 years to 60-64 years, with one case in an older female; half of the cases (46) were in males aged from 20 to 44 years. The majority of cases were reported from the Metropolitan Statistical Divisions of Sydney (32 cases), Melbourne (15 cases) and Brisbane (12 cases).
- Eight cases of **hepatitis B (incident)** were reported; four were males and three were females, the sex of the remaining case not being reported. Their ages were from five age groups between 15-19 years and 45-49 years.
- One case of **hydatid disease** was notified, an elderly male from the Victorian Statistical Division of Melbourne.
- Seven cases of **legionellosis** were reported. Four cases were in males and two in females, the sex of the remaining case being not reported. They were from age groups ranging from 35-39 years to 80-84 years. The cases were reported from five separate statistical divisions in four States and Territories.
- Twelve cases of **leptospirosis** were reported. Their ages ranged from 30 to 70 years. All but one were males. Three cases were reported from the Hunter Statistical Division of New South Wales, and the remainder from eight separate Statistical Divisions in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania.
- Three cases of **listeriosis** were reported; three were males and the sex of the remaining case was not reported. All were over 60 years of age. The cases were reported from the Statistical Divisions of Melbourne, Victoria and Northern, South Australia.
- Fourteen notifications of **malaria** were received; 11 were males and three were females. The ages of cases ranged from 16 years to 87 years. The cases were reported from seven separate Statistical Divisions in four States and Territories.
- Eighteen cases of **measles** were reported; six cases were male and 12 cases were female. Their ages ranged from less than one year (3 cases) to 45 years, seven cases being under five years of age. There was one apparent cluster of two cases reported from the same postcode area in Victoria during the current reporting period.
- There were three cases of **meningococcal infection** reported from separate statistical divisions in three States. There were two males in the age group 15-19 years and one female aged less than one year. There was one apparent cluster of two cases reported from the same postcode area in Queensland during the current and previous two-week reporting periods.
- There were 112 notifications of **pertussis**; 38 cases were male and 73 cases were female, the sex of the remaining case being not reported. All age groups but one from 0-4 years to 75-79 years were represented. Eight cases were aged less than one year, and a further seven cases were less than five years of age. Nine apparent clusters of two or three cases each were reported from the same postcode area during the reporting period; the apparent clusters occurred in four separate States and Territories.

Figure 1. Selected National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reports, and historical data¹

1. The historical data are the averages of the number of notifications in 9 previous 2-week reporting periods: the corresponding periods of the last 3 years and the periods immediately preceding and following those.

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 17 to 30 March 1996

DISEASES	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	TOTALS FOR AUSTRALIA ¹			
									This period 1996	This period 1995	Year to date 1996	Year to date 1995
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> b infection	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	19	26
Measles	0	5	0	3	0	0	8	2	18	59	136	592
Mumps	0	1	0	NN	0	0	1	1	3	5	35	32
Pertussis	1	35	1	28	25	0	22	0	112	133	793	1323
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rubella	6	11	0	39	5	1	27	2	91	71	861	767
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2

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.

NN Not Notifiable.

Table 2. Notifications of other diseases¹ received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 17 to 30 March 1996

DISEASES	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	TOTALS FOR AUSTRALIA ²				
									This period 1996	This period 1995	Year to date 1996	Year to date 1995	
Arbovirus infection													
Ross River virus infection	1	168	11	908	3	-	36	211	1338	99	4351	647	
Dengue	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	13	6	
Barmah Forest virus infection	1	0	0	78	0	0	0	0	79	23	254	121	
NEC ^{3,4}	0	17	1	6	0	0	18	3	45	68	128	109	
Campylobacteriosis ⁵	22	-	18	107	115	19	92	74	447	397	3072	2779	
Chlamydial infection (NEC) ⁶	2	NN	19	143	0	14	42	53	273	217	1782	1611	
Donovanosis	0	NN	0	0	NN	0	0	0	0	1	17	25	
Gonococcal infection ⁷	1	26	25	34	0	0	7	34	127	108	891	759	
Hepatitis A	3	37	3	23	0	0	22	6	94	68	698	500	
Hepatitis B	4	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	8	15	70	91	
Hepatitis C incident	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	15	
Hepatitis C unspecified	13	0	1	115	0	9	57	34	229	315	2262	2135	
Hepatitis (NEC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NN	0	0	5	8	
Legionellosis	0	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	7	18	46	67	
Leptospirosis	0	3	0	5	0	1	3	0	12	1	64	35	
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	6	16	27	
Malaria	1	5	0	0	0	0	5	3	14	29	186	145	
Meningococcal infection	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	7	62	80	
Ornithosis	0	NN	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	14	27	45	
Q fever	0	10	0	6	0	0	1	0	17	18	120	121	
Salmonellosis (NEC)	2	41	23	112	22	6	31	39	276	336	1917	2294	
Shigellosis ⁵	0	-	3	14	2	0	1	4	24	47	186	259	
Syphilis	0	27	15	27	0	2	0	6	77	54	358	473	
Tuberculosis	1	9	4	9	2	1	3	6	35	49	258	299	
Typhoid ⁸	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	30	26	
Yersiniosis (NEC) ⁵	0	-	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	16	81	122	

1. For HIV and AIDS, see Tables 5 and 6. For rarely notified diseases, see Table 3.
 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. WA, NT and Vic: includes Barmah Forest virus.
 5. NSW: only as 'foodborne disease' or 'gastroenteritis in an institution'.
 6. WA: genital only.
 7. NT, Qld, SA and Vic: includes gonococcal neonatal ophthalmia.
 8. NSW, Vic: includes paratyphoid.
- 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 17 to 30 March 1996

DISEASES	Total this period	Reporting States or Territories	Year to date 1996
Botulism	0		0
Brucellosis	3	Qld 2, Vic 1	9
Chancroid	1	Tas	1
Cholera	0		4
Hydatid infection	1	Vic	11
Leprosy	0		2
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.

- Seventeen notifications of **Q fever** were received. Sixteen cases were reported from eight separate rural Statistical Divisions in New South Wales and Queensland. One case was reported from the metropolitan Statistical Division of Melbourne. All but one of the cases were males. All but two of the age groups between 20-24 years and 60-64 years were represented.
- There were 91 cases of **rubella** reported; 53 cases were male and 34 cases were female, the sex of the remaining cases being not reported. The recorded ages of cases were from all five-year age groups up to 60-64 years; 36% of the cases (33 cases) were reported in males 15-24 years of age, and 21% (19 cases) in women aged 15 to 44 years.
- There were 276 cases of **salmonellosis** reported; 126 cases were male and 143 cases were female; the sex of the remaining seven cases was not reported; 48% of the cases were aged less than five years.
- Seventy-seven cases of **syphilis** were reported; 39 cases were male and 38 cases were female. All age groups but one from 15-19 years to 80-84 years were represented. There was one case reported in a male child in the age group 5-9 years.
- There were 35 cases of **tuberculosis** reported; 12 cases were male and 20 were female, the sex of the remaining cases being not reported. All age groups between 10-14 years and 85-89 years were represented. There was one case reported in a female child under 5 years of age.
- Two cases of **typhoid** were reported; both were female. The cases were reported from the Statistical Division of Melbourne.
- Nine cases of **yersiniosis** were reported. One case was male, and eight were female. Two cases were reported in children under five years of age, the remainder of the cases being aged between 10 and 49 years.

Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network

Data for weeks 11 and 12 ending 17 and 24 March respectively are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 4). The rate of reporting of influenza-like illness continues to rise (Figure 2).

Figure 2. ASPREN consultation rate for influenza, 1996

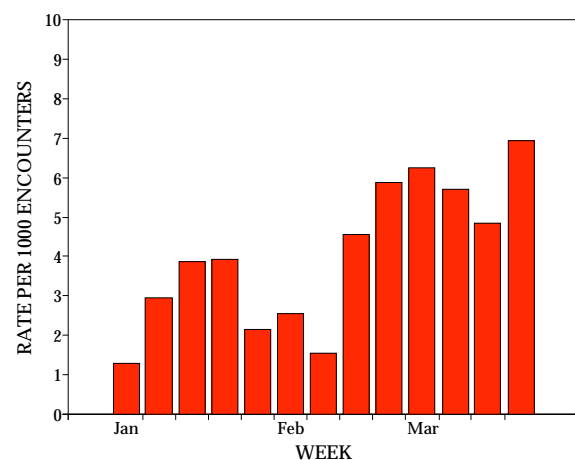


Table 4. Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network, weeks 11 and 12, 1996

Condition	Week 11, to 17 March 1996		Week 12, to 24 March 1996	
	Reports	Rate per 1000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1000 encounters
Influenza	45	4.8	67	6.9
Rubella	0	0.0	2	0.2
Measles	1	0.1	0	0.0
Chickenpox	3	0.3	16	1.7
Pertussis	6	0.7	6	0.6
Gastroenteritis	144	15.5	151	15.6

Australian Encephalitis: Sentinel Chicken Surveillance Programme

AK Broom¹, J Azuolas², JS Mackenzie³, L Melville⁴, DW Smith⁵ and PI Whelan⁶

November and December, 1995

Sentinel chicken serology was carried out for 15 of the 22 flocks in Western Australia in November and December 1995. There were no seroconversions during this period.

Eight flocks of sentinel chickens from the Northern Territory were tested in November and December. There was one new seroconversion to Kunjun virus from Howard Springs in Darwin in December.

The Sentinel Chicken Surveillance Programme started again in Victoria in November and there were no seroconversions during November and December. However, the program in New South Wales is not being carried out in 1996.

January and February 1996

Sentinel chicken serology was carried out for 20 of the 22 flocks in Western Australia in January and February. There were no seroconversions during this period.

Eight flocks of sentinel chickens from the Northern Territory were also tested during this period. There were no new seroconversions.

There were no seroconversions to flaviviruses in the sentinel chicken flocks in Victoria during January and February 1996.

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2. Veterinary Research Institute, Victoria
3. Department of Microbiology, The University of Queensland
4. Berrimah Agricultural Research Centre, Darwin, NT
5. Pathcare, Perth
6. Medical Entomology Branch, Department of Health and Community Services, Darwin, NT.

Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme

There were 771 reports received in the CDI Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme this period (Tables 5, 6 and 7).

- **Ross River virus** was reported for 117 patients this fortnight. Diagnosis was by IgM detection (84), single high titre (27), fourfold change in titre (6). One hundred and fourteen reports were from Western Australia and 3 from Victoria. Of the 1,625 cases of **Ross River virus** for 1996, 870 (54%) were aged between 25 and 44 years (Figure 3).
- One report of **Barmah Forest virus** was reported this period for a 35 year old female from southwest Western Australia. Diagnosis was by IgM detection.
- **Parainfluenza virus type 1** was reported for 9 patients this reporting period. Diagnosis was by virus isolation (4) and antigen detection (5). Reports have remain low throughout 1995 and early 1996 (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Ross River virus laboratory reports, 1996, by age group and sex

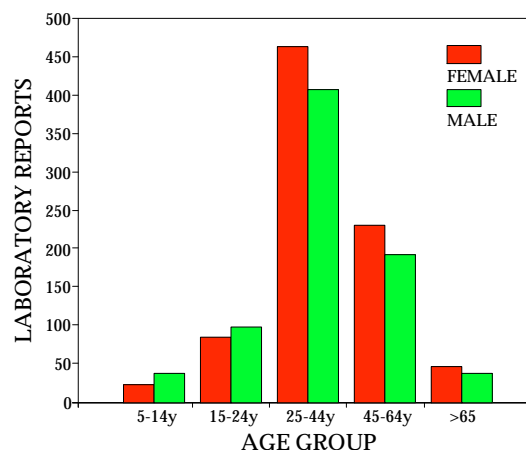


Figure 4. Parainfluenza virus type 1 laboratory reports, 1992 to 1996, by month of specimen collection

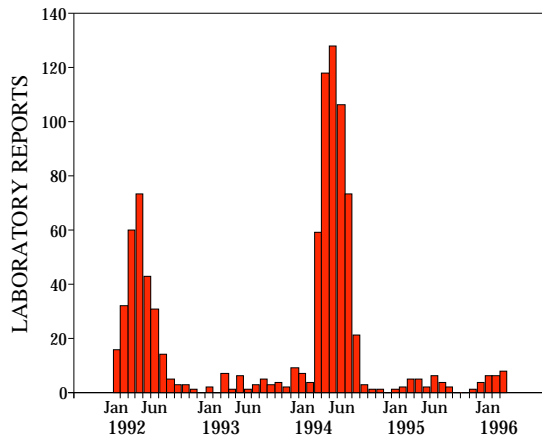
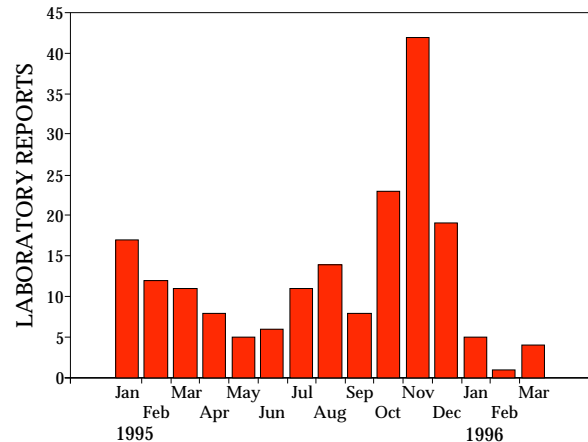


Figure 5. *Chlamydia psittaci* laboratory reports, 1995 to 1996, by month of specimen collection



- Nineteen reports of *Bordetella* were received this reporting period, 18 *Bordetella pertussis* and 1 *Bordetella* species. Diagnosis was by antigen detection (one), IgA detection (16), single high titre (one) and method not stated (one). Included were 5 females and 14 males.
- **Norwalk Agent** was reported for 4 patients this period all from Victoria. Three of the cases were

male and one sex not stated. These are the first reports of **Norwalk Agent** since December.

- Four reports of *Chlamydia psittaci* were received this fortnight with all reports coming from Victoria. Diagnosis was by single high titre (2) and fourfold change in titre (2). The number of reports has remained low since the peak in November (Figure 5).

Table 5. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 21 March to 3 April 1996, historical data², and total reports for the year

	State or Territory ¹						Total this fortnight	Historical data ²	Total reported this year
	NSW	NT	Qld	Tas	Vic	WA			
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA									
Measles virus					2		2	11.7	22
Rubella virus					3	4	7	11.2	210
HEPATITIS VIRUSES									
Hepatitis A virus		1			1	5	7	11.7	174
Hepatitis B virus					10		10	79.5	432
ARBOVIRUSES									
Ross River virus		1			3	113	117	77.0	1,653
Barmah Forest virus						1	1	8.8	90
ADENOVIRUSES									
Adenovirus type 2					1		1	0.8	17
Adenovirus type 5					1		1	0.0	1
Adenovirus type 37					2		2	0.0	3
Adenovirus type 40					2		2	0.0	2
Adenovirus not typed/pending	7				7	10	24	29.5	448

Table 5. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 21 March to 3 April 1996, historical data², and total reports for the year, continued

	State or Territory ¹						Total this fortnight	Historical data ²	Total reported this year
	NSW	NT	Qld	Tas	Vic	WA			
HERPES VIRUSES									
Herpes simplex virus type 1	11	11	1	7	65	52	147	148.3	1,893
Herpes simplex virus type 2	13	2		2	39	63	119	154.3	1,877
Herpes simplex not typed/pending						1	1	19.3	135
Cytomegalovirus	2		2		14	9	27	53.0	478
Varicella-zoster virus	3				10	4	17	34.7	401
Epstein-Barr virus	4	1			2	31	38	58.0	628
Herpes virus group - not typed						4	4	0.5	46
OTHER DNA VIRUSES									
Parvovirus					1		1	1.3	38
PICORNA VIRUS FAMILY									
Coxsackievirus A9				1			1	0.0	6
Rhinovirus (all types)	2				12		14	30.7	173
Enterovirus not typed/pending					6	17	23	46.7	282
ORTHO/PARAMYXOVIRUSES									
Influenza A virus					4	1	5	6.3	65
Parainfluenza virus type 1	1				6	2	9	14.7	26
Parainfluenza virus type 2						1	1	5.7	15
Parainfluenza virus type 3	1				3	4	8	12.5	228
Parainfluenza virus typing pending						1	1	2.0	4
Respiratory syncytial virus	16				6	6	28	30.7	285
OTHER RNA VIRUSES									
HIV-1						4	4	2.3	47
Rotavirus	2			1	1	3	7	20.0	259
Norwalk agent					4		4	0.0	18
OTHER									
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> not typed	8	16		5	5	43	77	69.3	989
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>					4		4	4.3	45
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>					7	4	11	18.2	157
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever)					1	1	2	4.8	41
<i>Rickettsia australis</i>			1	1			2	0.0	8
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A					1		1	9.7	148
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>					17	1	18	25.0	141
<i>Bordetella</i> species						1	1	2.7	129
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i>						1	1	0.3	9
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	9					3	12	17.5	101
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>					1		1	0.5	10
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>				1			1	1.5	7
<i>Schistosoma</i> species					4	3	7	1.8	111
TOTAL	79	32	4	18	245	393	771	1,026.8	11,852

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.

Table 6. Virology and serology laboratory reports by clinical information for the reporting period 21 March to 3 April 1996

	Meningitis	Respiratory	Gastrointestinal	Hepatic	Skin	Eye	Muscle/joint	Genital	Other/unknown	TOTAL
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA										
Measles virus				1	1					2
Rubella virus					2				5	7
HEPATITIS VIRUSES										
Hepatitis A virus				3					4	7
Hepatitis B virus				2					8	10
ARBOVIRUSES										
Ross River virus					1		9		107	117
Barmah Forest virus									1	1
ADENOVIRUSES										
Adenovirus type 2		1								1
Adenovirus type 5		1								1
Adenovirus type 37						2				2
Adenovirus type 40			1						1	2
Adenovirus not typed/pending		8	13						3	24
HERPES VIRUSES										
Herpes simplex virus type 1		2			107	6		14	18	147
Herpes simplex virus type 2					73			39	7	119
Herpes simplex not typed/pending		1								1
Cytomegalovirus		6							21	27
Varicella-zoster virus					13				4	17
Epstein-Barr virus	1	16		1					20	38
Herpes virus group - not typed					3			1		4
OTHER DNA VIRUSES										
Parvovirus							1			1
PICORNA VIRUS FAMILY										
Coxsackievirus A9					1					1
Rhinovirus (all types)		13							1	14
Enterovirus not typed/pending	2	12	4		1				4	23
ORTHO/PARAMYXOVIRUSES										
Influenza A virus		4							1	5
Parainfluenza virus type 1		9								9
Parainfluenza virus type 2									1	1
Parainfluenza virus type 3		5							3	8
Parainfluenza virus typing pending		1								1
Respiratory syncytial virus		27							1	28
OTHER RNA VIRUSES										
HIV-1									4	4
Rotavirus			7							7
Norwalk agent			4							4

Table 6. Virology and serology laboratory reports by clinical information for the reporting period 21 March to 3 April 1996, continued

	Meningitis	Respiratory	Gastrointestinal	Hepatic	Skin	Eye	Muscle/joint	Genital	Other/unknown	TOTAL
OTHER										
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> not typed								59	18	77
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>		2							2	4
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>		8							3	11
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever)									2	2
<i>Rickettsia australis</i>									2	2
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A									1	1
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>		18								18
<i>Bordetella</i> species		1								1
<i>Legionella longbeachae</i>									1	1
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>									12	12
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>									1	1
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>									1	1
<i>Schistosoma</i> species			1						6	7
TOTAL	3	135	30	7	202	8	10	113	263	771

Table 7. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 21 March to 3 April 1996

STATE OR TERRITORY	LABORATORY	REPORTS
New South Wales	South West Area Pathology Service, Liverpool	77
Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service, Launceston	3
	Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart	14
Victoria	Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne	5
	Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne	20
	Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne	65
	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Fairfield Hospital	161
Western Australia	PathCentre Virology, Perth	241
	Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth	20
	Western Diagnostic Pathology	165
TOTAL		771