
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SURVEILLANCE

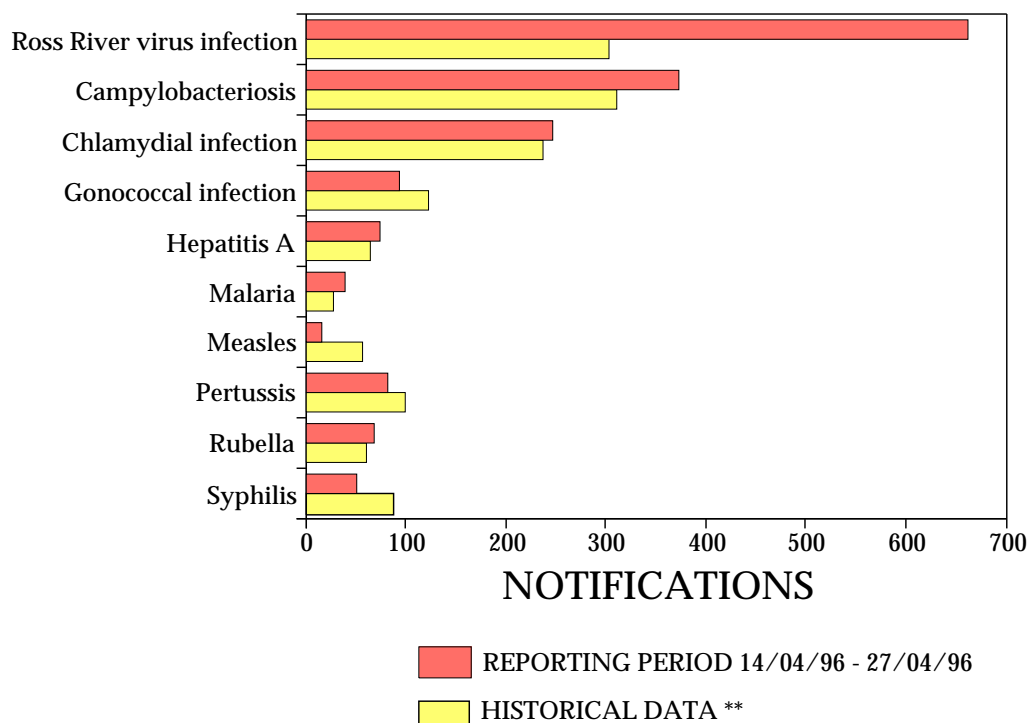
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, 14 to 27 April 1996

There were 3,086 notifications received for this two week period (Tables 1, 2 and 3, and Figure 1).

Ross River virus infection: The epidemic which began in late 1995 and became apparent in the first reporting week of 1996 (Figure 2) has become the most severe ever recorded in Australia, with nearly 6,000 cases being reported between 3 December 1995 and 27 April

1996. The epidemic has been most severe in Queensland (especially the Southern and Central Coastal Statistical Divisions, and Darling Downs). In Western Australia, the greatest numbers and rates have occurred in the South West Statistical Division. In New South Wales, the epidemic has been largely confined to the Northern and Richmond-Tweed Statistical Divisions. Latest available figures suggest that the epidemic is declining in Western Australia and New South Wales, but not yet in Queensland.

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.

Hepatitis A has continued to be reported at higher rates than in 1995. Since early December 1995, 1,020 cases have been reported, 91% of them being notified from New South Wales (456 cases), Victoria (295) and

Queensland (173). The groups predominantly affected were males between 20 and 44 years of age (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Ross River virus notifications from December 1995 to April 1996, by State

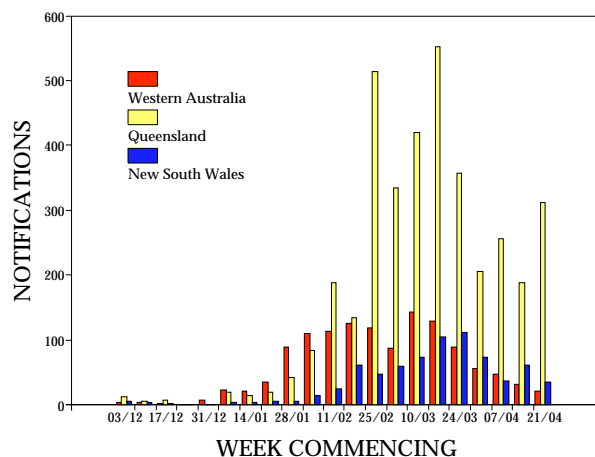


Figure 3. Hepatitis A, cases reported from 3 December 1995 to 27 April 1996, by sex and age group

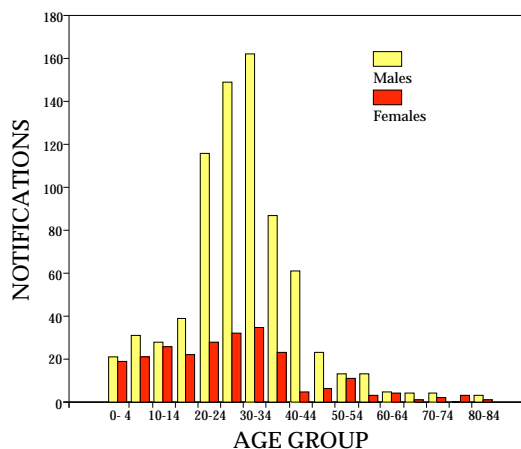


Table 1. Notifications of diseases preventable by vaccines recommended by the NHMRC for routine childhood immunisation, received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 14 to 27 April 1996

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	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	20	33
Measles	0	8	0	3	0	2	4	0	17	32	162	663
Mumps	0	0	1	NN	0	0	3	1	5	4	46	40
Pertussis	0	22	1	18	28	0	8	5	82	70	973	1525
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rubella	10	12	1	29	1	0	23	2	78	54	1045	901
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 14 to 27 April 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 (NEC) ^{3,4}	0	20	0	0	0	0	3	0	23	60	192	226
Barmah Forest virus infection	0	0	-	41	1	0	-	-	42	11	312	153
Ross River virus infection	0	95	2	499	3	-	11	52	662	207	5769	1055
Dengue	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	16	7
Campylobacteriosis ⁵	9	-	13	110	78	21	97	45	373	279	3821	3441
Chlamydial infection (NEC) ⁶	3	NN	30	96	1	11	55	51	247	233	2238	2084
Donovanosis	0	NN	1	0	NN	0	0	0	1	1	18	28
Gonococcal infection ⁷	0	18	6	19	0	0	18	34	95	68	1134	981
Hepatitis A	5	23	4	13	0	0	25	4	74	44	852	589
Hepatitis B incident	1	0	1	0	0	3	2	1	8	15	85	124
Hepatitis B unspecified	1	0	0	18	0	1	0	9	29	41	499	592
Hepatitis C incident	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	6	29

Table 2. Notifications of other diseases¹ received by State and Territory health authorities in the period 14 to 27 April 1996, continued

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
Hepatitis C unspecified	11	0	26	60	0	11	144	26	278	224	2995	2651
Hepatitis (NEC)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	NN	2	2	9	10
Legionellosis	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	7	4	62	77
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	12	0	0	2	0	14	3	85	43
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	19	34
Malaria	0	2	1	31	0	0	5	0	39	16	267	202
Meningococcal infection	1	3	2	0	0	0	3	1	10	12	82	98
Ornithosis	0	NN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	33	57
Q fever	0	7	0	3	0	0	1	1	12	10	150	146
Salmonellosis (NEC)	1	40	13	67	16	10	29	23	199	183	2349	2785
Shigellosis ⁵	0	-	1	8	0	0	2	2	13	16	220	309
Syphilis	2	23	8	11	0	1	0	6	51	62	491	616
Tuberculosis	0	10	2	2	0	1	9	3	27	32	369	381
Typhoid ⁸	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	34	29
Yersiniosis (NEC) ⁵	0	-	0	7	1	0	0	0	8	8	94	142

- For HIV and AIDS, see Tables 5 and 6. For rarely notified diseases, see Table 3.
- 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.
- Tas: includes Ross River virus and dengue.
- WA, NT and Vic: includes Barmah Forest virus.
- NSW: only as 'foodborne disease' or 'gastroenteritis in an institution'.

- WA: genital only.
 - NT, Qld, SA and Vic: includes gonococcal neonatal ophthalmia.
 - 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 14 to 27 April 1996

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

- Fewer than 60 cases of each of these diseases were notified each year during the period 1988 to 1994.

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 November 1995, as reported to 29 February 1996, are included in this issue of *CDI* (Tables 4 and 5).

Table 4. New diagnoses of HIV infection, new diagnoses of AIDS and deaths following AIDS occurring in the period 1 to 30 November 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	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	6	68	71
	Male	0	30	0	7	2	0	9	2	50	69	698	793
	Sex not reported	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	10
	Total ¹	0	34	0	7	2	0	10	2	55	77	777	875
AIDS diagnoses	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	26	39
	Male	0	25	0	2	0	0	7	1	35	59	592	797
	Total ¹	0	25	0	2	0	0	7	2	36	65	620	840
AIDS deaths	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	35	34
	Male	0	13	0	13	1	0	18	1	46	54	521	617
	Total ¹	0	13	0	14	1	0	18	1	47	56	557	656

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

Table 5. Cumulative diagnoses of HIV infection, AIDS and deaths following AIDS since the introduction of HIV antibody testing to 1995, by sex and State or Territory

		ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	AUSTRALIA
HIV diagnoses	Female	15	546	3	94	44	4	164	69	939
	Male	165	9,878	79	1,548	556	70	3,309	745	16,350
	Sex not reported	0	2,048	0	0	0	0	42	0	2,090
	Total ¹	180	12,479	82	1,647	600	74	3,523	816	19,401
AIDS diagnoses	Female	5	130	0	27	18	2	47	17	246
	Male	71	3,687	25	625	260	32	1,299	269	6,268
	Total ¹	76	3,827	25	654	278	34	1,353	288	6,535
AIDS deaths	Female	2	96	0	21	13	2	31	9	174
	Male	49	2,598	19	427	172	21	1,013	198	4,497
	Total ¹	51	2,700	19	450	185	23	1,050	208	4,686

National influenza surveillance 1996

Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network; Communicable Diseases Intelligence Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme Contributing Laboratories, New South Wales Department of Health; Victorian Department of Health; World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Influenza Reference and Research.

Three types of data will be included in *National Influenza Surveillance*, 1996. These include Sentinel General Practitioner Surveillance, Laboratory Surveillance and Absenteeism Surveillance

Sentinel General Practitioner Surveillance

Data will be included from three sources this season, ASPREN (the Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network), the New South Wales Department of Health and the Victorian Department of Health.

The ASPREN consultation rate for influenza-like illness has risen in recent weeks, as has that for the New South Wales scheme (Figure 4). The Victorian Department of Health will be commencing influenza surveillance next fortnight.

Laboratory Surveillance

Laboratory surveillance data from the *Communicable Diseases Intelligence Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme* will be included in *National Influenza Surveillance*, 1996. The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Influenza Reference and Research will also contribute information on strains isolated.

This fortnight there was one report of influenza A received. A total of 34 reports has been received for the year to date which is as expected for the time of year. A single report of sub-type H₃N₂ and no reports of H₁N₁ have been received so far this year.

Three reports of influenza type B have been received so far for the year to date.

Absenteeism Surveillance

National absenteeism data will be supplied by Australia Post and included in *National Influenza Surveillance*, 1996.

The national absenteeism rate has remained at approximately 2.5% since March (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Sentinel general practitioner influenza reports per 1,000 encounters, 1996, by week

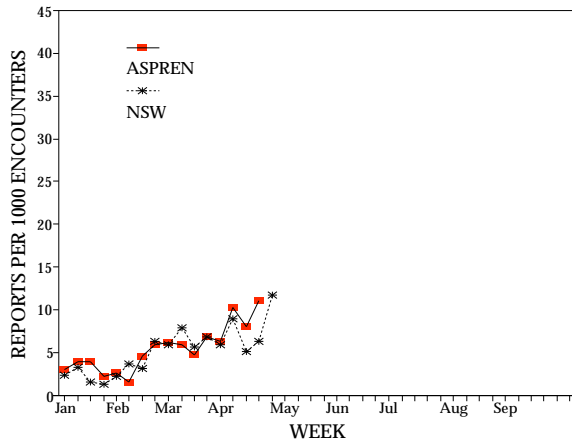
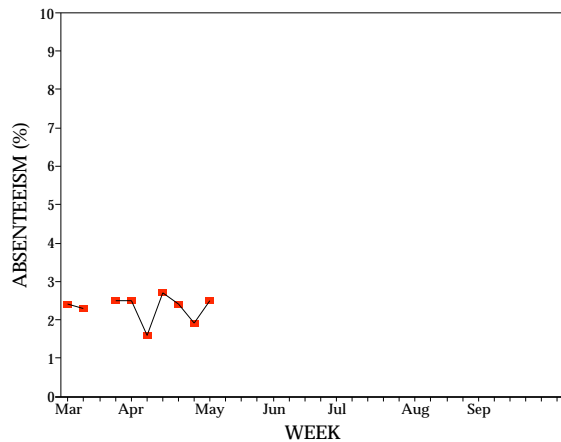


Figure 5. Australia Post absenteeism, 1996, by week



Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network

Data for weeks 15 and 16 ending 14 April and 21 April 1996 respectively are included in this issue of *CDI* (Table 6). The rate of reporting of influenza-like illness rose to 11.2 per 1,000 consultations for week 16, the highest rate recorded by the scheme this year. The rate of reporting of gastroenteritis fell in the second week of the reporting period to the lowest level recorded this year.

Table 6. Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network, weeks 15 and 16, 1996

Condition	Week 15, to 14 April 1996		Week 16, to 21 April 1996	
	Reports	Rate per 1000 encounters	Reports	Rate per 1000 encounters
Influenza	64	8.1	81	11.2
Rubella	4	0.5	1	0.1
Measles	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	23	2.9	14	1.9
Pertussis	1	0.1	1	0.1
Gastroenteritis	106	13.4	84	11.6

Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme

There were 1,182 reports received in the *CDI* Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme this period (Tables 7, 8 and 9).

Ross River virus was reported for 24 patients this fortnight. Diagnosis was by IgM detection (22), single high titre (one) and fourfold change in titre (one). Since the peak in February the number of cases has markedly decreased (figure 6).

Forty two reports of **parainfluenza virus type 1** were received this period. Diagnosis was by antigen detection (3) and virus isolation (39). Seventy four per cent of reports (31) came from Queensland, NSW (7) and Victoria (4). The number of reports received has continued to increase in recent weeks.

Respiratory syncytial virus was reported for 150 patients this period. Diagnosis was by antigen detection (49), virus isolation (100) and nucleic acid detection (one). Ninety eight per cent (147) of the patients were between the ages of one month and 4 years. Reports have continued to increase in recent months (figure 7).

Figure 6. Ross River virus laboratory reports, 1995

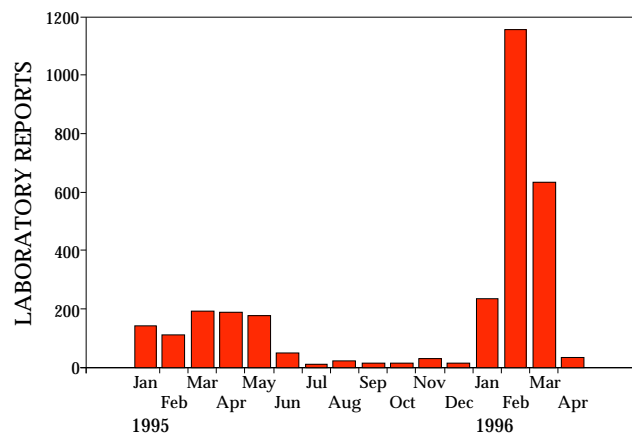


Figure 7. Respiratory syncytial virus laboratory reports, 1995 to 1996, by month of specimen collection.

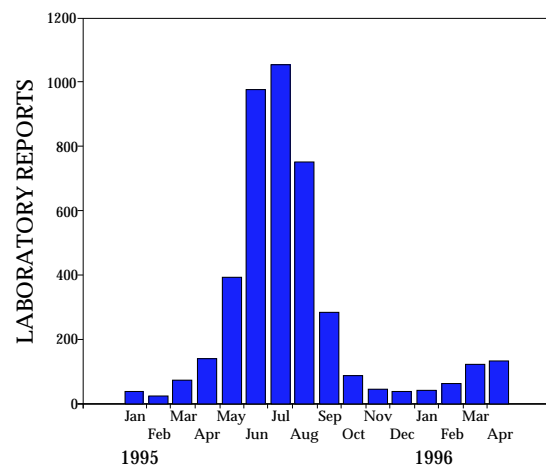


Table 7. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 18 April to 1 May 1996, historical data², and total reports for the year

	State or Territory ¹							Total this fortnight	Historical data ²	Total reported this year
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	Tas	Vic	WA			
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA										
Measles virus				1				1	37.5	25
Rubella virus	1							1	16.3	222
HEPATITIS VIRUSES										
Hepatitis A virus		4				2		6	17.9	154
Hepatitis D virus				1				1	.5	8
Hepatitis E virus							1	1	.3	1
ARBOVIRUSES										
Ross River virus		7			1		16	24	104.7	2,090
Flavivirus (unspecified)		3						3	1.0	19
ADENOVIRUSES										
Adenovirus type 40							1	1	.0	5
Adenovirus type 41						1		1	.0	3
Adenovirus not typed/pending	4	12		58		1	4	79	38.2	588
HERPES VIRUSES										
Herpes simplex virus type 1	1	36	1	141		2	29	210	158.5	2,364
Herpes simplex virus type 2		22		89		3	39	153	174.8	2,296
Herpes simplex not typed/pending	8	34				1	1	44	24.7	256
Cytomegalovirus	2	10		54			2	68	64.0	615
Varicella-zoster virus		8		9		1	9	27	41.8	489
Epstein-Barr virus		13				4	11	28	61.5	731
Herpes virus group - not typed							2	2	.5	59
OTHER DNA VIRUSES										
Parvovirus							1	1	1.7	42
PICORNA VIRUS FAMILY										
Coxsackievirus A9		1						1	.0	9
Echovirus type 9		3						3	.2	19
Echovirus type 14		1						1	.0	24
Echovirus type 22		1						1	.5	5
Poliovirus type 1 (uncharacterised)		1						1	.7	6
Rhinovirus (all types)		3		37			7	47	23.2	249
Enterovirus not typed/pending				38			8	46	42.5	361
ORTHO/PARAMYXOVIRUSES										
Influenza A virus				1				1	34.0	73
Parainfluenza virus type 1		7		31		4		42	24.8	86
Parainfluenza virus type 2				5				5	14.7	27
Parainfluenza virus type 3				23		3		26	16.0	273
Parainfluenza virus type 4				3				3	.0	3
Respiratory syncytial virus		51		85		3	11	150	62.2	523
OTHER RNA VIRUSES										
HIV-1							1	1	6.2	51
Rotavirus	6	2						8	30.0	299

Table 7. Virology and serology laboratory reports by State or Territory¹ for the reporting period 18 April to 1 May 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	Tas	Vic	WA			
OTHER										
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> not typed	7	5			3		32	47	85.5	1,233
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>							1	1	5.7	49
<i>Chlamydia</i> species		7						7	1.0	60
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	1	11				3	3	18	23.3	204
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever)		4						4	8.8	54
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A							2	2	14.8	151
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>						1	3	4	10.2	180
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>						1		1	.0	3
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>		3				1	2	6	16.8	126
<i>Schistosoma</i> species							3	3	1.5	129
TOTAL	30	249	1	576	4	31	189	1,080	1166.4	14,164

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 8. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 18 April to 1 May 1996,

	Meningitis	Other CNS	Congenital	Respiratory	Gastrointestinal	Hepatic	Skin	Eye	Muscle/joint	Genital	Other/unknown	TOTAL
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA												
Measles virus				1								1
Rubella virus							1					1
HEPATITIS VIRUSES												
Hepatitis A virus						1					5	6
Hepatitis D virus						1						1
Hepatitis E virus						1						1
ARBOVIRUSES												
Ross River virus							2		5		17	24
Flavivirus (unspecified)											3	3
ADENOVIRUSES												
Adenovirus type 40											1	1
Adenovirus type 41					1							1
Adenovirus not typed/pending				37	12		1	10			19	79
HERPES VIRUSES												
Herpes simplex virus type 1				24			105	9		40	32	210
Herpes simplex virus type 2				4			65	1		50	33	153
Herpes simplex not typed/pending				4						6	34	44

Table 8. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 18 April to 1 May 1996, continued

	Meningitis	Other CNS	Congenital	Respiratory	Gastrointestinal	Hepatic	Skin	Eye	Muscle/joint	Genital	Other/unknown	TOTAL
Cytomegalovirus			1	33			1				33	68
Varicella-zoster virus							17				10	27
Epstein-Barr virus						2	1		1		24	28
Herpes virus group - not typed							1			1		2
OTHER DNA VIRUSES												
Parvovirus											1	1
PICORNA VIRUS FAMILY												
Coxsackievirus A9					1							1
Echovirus type 9											3	3
Echovirus type 14											1	1
Echovirus type 22											1	1
Poliovirus type 1 (uncharacterised)											1	1
Rhinovirus (all types)				43			1	1			2	47
Enterovirus not typed/pending	1	2		24	8		3				8	46
ORTHO/PARAMYXOVIRUSES												
Influenza A virus				1								1
Parainfluenza virus type 1				36							6	42
Parainfluenza virus type 2				5								5
Parainfluenza virus type 3		1		22							3	26
Parainfluenza virus type 4				3								3
Respiratory syncytial virus				125	1						24	150
OTHER RNA VIRUSES												
HIV-1											1	1
Rotavirus					8							8
OTHER												
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> not typed										18	29	47
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>											1	1
<i>Chlamydia</i> species											7	7
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>				3							15	18
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> (Q fever)											4	4
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A											2	2
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>				2							2	4
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>				1								1
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>											6	6
<i>Schistosoma</i> species											3	3
TOTAL	1	3	1	368	31	5	198	21	6	115	331	1180

Table 9. Laboratory reports by contributing laboratory for the reporting period 18 April to 1 May 1996

STATE OR TERRITORY	LABORATORY	REPORTS
Australian Capital Territory	Woden Valley Hospital, Canberra	31
New South Wales	Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research, Westmead	158
	Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards	15
	South West Area Pathology Service, Liverpool	75
Queensland	State Health Laboratory, Brisbane	574
Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service, Launceston	3
Victoria	Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne	30
Western Australia	PathCentre Virology, Perth	159
	Royal Perth Hospital	35
TOTAL		1180