Meningococcal Surveillance Australia

Reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2022

Monica M Lahra, Sanghamitra Ray and Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

The reference laboratories of the National Neisseria Network, Australia report data on invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) cases confirmed by culture and or molecular techniques for the Australian Meningococcal Surveillance Programme (AMSP). Culture-positive cases, where Neisseria meningitidis is grown from a normally sterile site or from skin lesions, and molecular-based diagnoses, are defined as IMD by the Public Health Laboratory Network definitions. Data contained in quarterly reports are restricted to a description of the numbers of cases by jurisdiction and serogroup, when known. Some minor corrections to data in Table 1 may be made in subsequent reports if additional data are received. Overall, IMD in Australia has gradually increased over the first six months of 2022 subsequent to the easing of COVID-19 public health restrictions, but is still half pre-pandemic numbers, where there were 82 IMD in the corresponding period of 2019. Of note is the higher representation of meningococcal B (MenB) IMD in 2022 to date, accounting for 75% of IMD nationally compared to 50% in the same period of 2019 to 2021; MenB case numbers will be closely monitored over the year.1 A full analysis of laboratory-confirmed cases of IMD in each calendar year is contained in the AMSP annual report published in Communicable Diseases Intelligence.

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Table 1: Number of laboratory-confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 April to 30 June 2022, by serogroup and state or territory

| Jurisdiction | Year | Serogroup | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | | B | | C | | Y | | W | | NDa | | All | |
| Q2 | ytdb | Q2 | ytd | Q2 | ytd | Q2 | ytd | Q2 | ytd | Q2 | ytd | Q2 | ytd |
| **Australian Capital Territory** | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **New South Wales** | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 10 |
| **Northern Territory** | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Queensland** | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 10 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| **South Australia** | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| **Tasmania** | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| **Victoria** | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| **Western Australia** | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 10 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| **Australia** | **2022** | **0** | **0** | **20** | **33** | **0** | **0** | **4** | **5** | **4** | **4** | **0** | **2** | **28** | **44** |
|  | **2021** | **0** | **0** | **11** | **19** | **0** | **0** | **5** | **9** | **4** | **6** | **2** | **4** | **22** | **38** |

a ND: not determined.

b ytd: year to date, data from 1 January to 30 June 2022.

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