

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Free RSV vaccines to help older Australians breathe easier

AMA Queensland has welcomed the Australian Government's decision to provide free RSV vaccines for people aged over 75 years and First Nations people over 60.

"RSV is a common reason for hospitalisations of the very young and older Queenslanders, so it's fantastic both groups can now be protected at no cost," AMA Queensland President Dr Nick Yim said.

"Infants and pregnant women in Queensland have had access to free RSV vaccinations since 2024 due to AMA Queensland advocacy and extension to older Australians is wonderful news for public health.

"These groups often struggle to pay for costly vaccines, especially with essentials like electricity, food and fuel increasing, so this will help them get the protection they need.

"Doctors will also be relieved by this announcement as we head towards the cooler months when emergency department presentations for respiratory infections spike."

Respiratory Syncytial Virus causes infections of the lungs and respiratory tract, which in serious cases can cause pneumonia or bronchiolitis.

Dr Yim urged everyone eligible for free vaccinations, including RSV, influenza and COVID, to speak with their trusted GP.

"Getting vaccinated is the best way we can help ourselves, our loved ones and the most vulnerable stay healthy this winter."

RSV vaccines will be available for Australians over 75 and First Nations people over 60 under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) from 15 May.

The RSV vaccination typically costs \$300.