National Immunisation Program – Q fever vaccine

Why is this important?

- Q fever is primarily an occupational disease of workers from the meat and livestock industries. Q fever is a serious disease with between 350 to 450 cases notified each year in Australia.
- This initiative funds CSL to build a Q fever manufacturing facility and to produce a vaccine against Q fever to ensure its availability to populations at risk across Australia.

Who will benefit?

- This initiative will ensure that an ongoing supply of Q fever vaccine and screening tests are available to the Australian public, particularly those groups at most risk.
- New workers in the meat processing or livestock industry may be particularly at risk as they may not have had previous exposure to the disease from infected animals.
- Other populations at risk of infection include sheep, dairy and cattle livestock farmers, dairy workers, veterinarians, pelt and hide tanners, shearers and some people living in rural areas.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government has committed a total of $16.6 million over five years (from 2006-07 to 2010-11) to this initiative.

What have we done in the past?

- The Commonwealth Government’s National Q Fever Management Program funded states and territories to provide Q Fever vaccine to at risk groups from 2000-01. This measure will ensure the availability of an ongoing supply of the vaccine.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The Government’s contract with CSL will secure the supply of Q fever vaccine until 2016.