



Australian Government

Chief Scientist

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATION

The history of vaccination is a case study in the importance of science and science literacy, according to a new paper from the Office of the Chief Scientist.

“Australia has a proud record in both advancing the science of vaccination and spreading the benefits throughout the community,” said Chief Scientist Professor Ian Chubb.

“We have achieved one of the highest rates of vaccination coverage in the world, and freed generations of Australians from the fear of deadly diseases.

“Like many Australians, I grew up in the shadow of polio, diphtheria and measles.

“I believe we have an obligation to maintain and extend the protection we now enjoy to the generations to come.”

The World Health Organisation estimates that vaccines prevent 2-3 million deaths every year.

Professor Chubb emphasised the need for constant vigilance.

“Our scientists remain on the frontline against disease, developing new vaccines to protect us and better ways for vaccines to be administered. As a community, we need to support them – and as individuals, we need to be informed.

“I hope we will not allow the remarkable achievements of the past to blind us to our obligations in the present.”

The four-page paper is available at www.chiefscientist.gov.au.

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