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Meningococcal Surveillance Australia Reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2023

Monica M Lahra, Prashanthi Sai Krishnan and Tiffany R Hogan for the National Neisseria Network

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Meningococcal Surveillance Australia Reporting period 1 April to 30 June 2023

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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 and molecular-based diagnoses are defined as IMD by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia National Guidelines for Public Health Units.¹ Data contained in the quarterly reports are restricted to a description of the number 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.

For the second quarter of 2023, IMD notifications in Australia were almost double those of the first quarter (40 notifications versus 23), rising towards levels of IMD reported in 2019 (48 notifications in Q2 2019, 85 notifications for 2019 year-to-date),² prior to the SARS-CoV-2 restrictions that coincided with a reduction in IMD in Australia.³ It is noteworthy that IMD caused by serogroup B (MenB) continues to be the most prevalent nationally, accounting for 91.3% (21/23) and 84% (32/38) of notifications in the first and second quarters of 2023, respectively, where a serogroup could be determined.⁴ This follows the change from monovalent serogroup C to serogroup A, C, W and Y vaccination in 2018 that expanded coverage on the national Immunisation Programme for infants and then adolescents in Australia.3 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 confirmations of invasive meningococcal disease, Australia, 1 April to 30 June 2023, by serogroup and state or territory

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ND: not determined.

a ND: not determineu. b ytd: year to date, data from 1 January to 30 June 2023.

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