# Vaxtracker for National Vaccine Safety Surveillance

#### Introduction

In 2010, use of the seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine in children under five years was halted nationally after unexpectedly high numbers of children experienced febrile convulsions following vaccination. The project aimed to develop and pilot an online real time post marketing vaccine monitoring system, designed to detect adverse events possibly associated with vaccination.

## **Key activities**

A web-based program called Vaxtracker was developed, which asked parents/carers of newly vaccinated children to complete two online surveys, collecting information on adverse events following immunisation.

In 2014, Vaxtracker became part of the national AusVaxSafety network. Vaxtracker is now used by general practices within the Hunter New England, South Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney Local Health Districts, the Sydney Children's Hospitals (Westmead and Randwick) and general practices in Victoria.

#### Key achievements

Vaxtracker is an innovative web-based program providing Australia's first active vaccine post marketing safety surveillance and offers efficiency over telephoning individual vaccine recipients. Vaxtracker data uniquely enables adverse event rates to be calculated. Any safety signals detected by Vaxtracker are alerted to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.







Vaxtracker can be adapted to any vaccine and was used for the new MMRV vaccine introduced in July 2013 for 18 month old children

In 2014, data collected using the Vaxtracker program demonstrated the safety of the current influenza vaccine recommended for children aged six months to five years.

Having the Vaxtracker vaccine safety data available on the web for parents will inform parents and improve consumer confidence in vaccines.

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