



**The Hon Mark Butler MP**  
Minister for Health and Aged Care

**Immunisation Coalition  
2023 Annual Scientific Meeting  
Sunday, 5 February 2023  
1 minutes**

- Hello everybody – I am sorry I am unable to attend
- I have had the great honour of speaking at a previous Immunisation Coalition Annual Scientific Meeting – and so I know just how important this forum will be for you to network and share the latest thoughts and developments on immunisation and benefits of vaccination.

**IMPORTANCE OF IMMUNISATION**

- As you all know, vaccination is one of the most successful and cost-effective global public health measures we have – and it prevents an estimated 2 to 3 million deaths around the world every year.
- Australia has a proven track record for vaccination, with childhood immunisation coverage rate for 5 year olds at 94.4% per cent. We have some the highest immunisation rates in the world, well above the estimated World Health Organization average.

**RISKS POSED BY VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES**

- Although our high vaccination rates provide a good deal of community protection, we can never be complacent.

- The need to continue pushing for the highest coverage rates possible is more important than ever.
- I am pleased to say the success of our immunisation programs is due to the strong, bipartisan support they have received over many years, along with the support of state and territory governments.
- But it's also due to the support of a network of trusted program implementation partners and advocates – which includes the Immunisation Coalition. So thank you!

## **CONCLUSION**

- Forums such as the Annual Scientific Meeting provide a valuable opportunity for you, as experts in your fields, to share information and resources to further your common objective of preventing the spread of diseases and protecting public health.
- I wish you all a successful Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Thank you.

**ENDS**