



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
Member for Kooyong
Minister for the Environment and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

22 February 2017

**GROUND-BREAKING FLU VACCINES TO PROTECT SENIORS IN
KOOYONG**

The Turnbull Government will provide two new ground-breaking flu vaccines to over 3 million Australians aged 65 years and over - free of charge.

These new vaccines have been fast-tracked to ensure lives are saved and provide greater protection for over 65s in Kooyong.

This is the Turnbull Government's direct response to last year's horrific flu season, which had a devastating impact in Australia and around the world.

More than 90 per cent of the 1,100 flu related deaths in Australia last year were people aged over 65.

We must continue to do all we can to protect those Australians who are most at risk.

The new vaccines – Fludax® and Fluzone High Dose® – were registered in Australia to specifically provide increased protection for people aged 65 years and older.

From April 2018, both vaccines will be available through the National Immunisation Program following a recommendation from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

These new vaccines have been specifically made for the elderly, as their immune systems respond less effectively to vaccines.

Under the National Immunisation Program, those eligible for a free flu shot include people aged 65 years and over, pregnant women, most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and those who suffer from chronic conditions.

Vaccination saves lives and they are fundamental to our health system. We encourage all Australians aged over six months old to get a flu vaccination this year before the peak season starts in June.

For further information on receiving this new vaccine ask your GP or visit www.immunise.health.gov.au for more details.

(ENDS)