

# Meningococcal B in South Australia

*The B Part of It Study*

Meningococcal B bacteria, often referred to as meningococci, can cause infections which may result in people becoming unwell very quickly and may lead to severe health complications, and even death.

There are six different types of meningococcus that cause infection in humans.

As of 2016:

**80% of cases in Australia are the meningococcal B strain.  
In South Australia, 88% of cases are the meningococcal B strain.**

Meningococcal disease can affect all age groups, but is most common in children under five years of age and in young adults, aged 15-24 years.

**South Australia had the highest rate (per 100,000 population) of meningococcal disease (Men B) in Australia since 2012, with more cases in adolescents than infants.**

50% of cases in 2016 were adolescents.

As of 2016, the Men B vaccine was not available free of charge through the National Immunisation Program.

**The B Part of It Study resulted in a significant reduction in meningococcal disease in young people in South Australia.**

An estimated 15 cases of meningococcal disease in young people were prevented, and one to two deaths averted, by undertaking this study in South Australia.

For more information, visit: [bpartofit.com.au](http://bpartofit.com.au)