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The National Institute of Clinical Studies is Australia's national agency for improving health care by helping close important gaps between best available evidence and current clinical practice.

[www.nicsl.com.au](http://www.nicsl.com.au)

## NICS FIGHTS FLU IN 16 LANGUAGES

The National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) has developed the website, [www.fightflu.com.au](http://www.fightflu.com.au) to help increase flu vaccinations amongst 'at risk' groups under 65 years of age. The site contains information in 16 community languages to help people from different cultures recognise if they are at an increased risk of flu this winter.

People with illnesses such as chronic asthma, diabetes, heart disease as well as those whose immunity has been suppressed through medication, have a 40 times increased risk of death from influenza, regardless of their age.

Despite this alarming figure, currently only 42 percent of people under 65 years of age considered in the 'at risk' group are being vaccinated.

'One of the major barriers to vaccination is a lack of awareness about who really is at risk. Immunisation is not a part of every culture so we feel the translations are important in helping people consider their own risk profile and in encouraging discussions with their doctor,' said NICS CEO, Dr Heather Buchan.

In 2004, over 13,000 Australians died from influenza and its complications. Up to two thirds of people who are hospitalised every year with influenza are under 65. Clearly a lot of lives can be saved if vaccination rates can be increased.

A 'Fightflu toolkit' has been distributed to every GP in Australia and pharmacists and nurses are also being encouraged to discuss flu vaccination with consumers in the 'at risk' group and their carers.

Languages included in the translations are:

Arabic	Chinese	Greek	Hindi
Indonesian	Italian	Japanese	Khmer
Korean	Macedonian	Portuguese	Russian
Serbian	Spanish	Turkish	Vietnamese

Translations are also available in PDF format for downloading, printing or sending to family and friends.

For more information go to: [www.fightflu.com.au](http://www.fightflu.com.au)

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