

Staff Immunisation: the Underrated Shield in Caring for an Ageing Population

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Townsville
Hospital
and Health
Service

Acknowledgement of country



Queensland
Government

**NO CONFLICTS
OF INTEREST
TO DECLARE**

Townsville, North Queensland, Australia



Townsville, North Queensland, Australia



Townsville University Hospital and Health Service

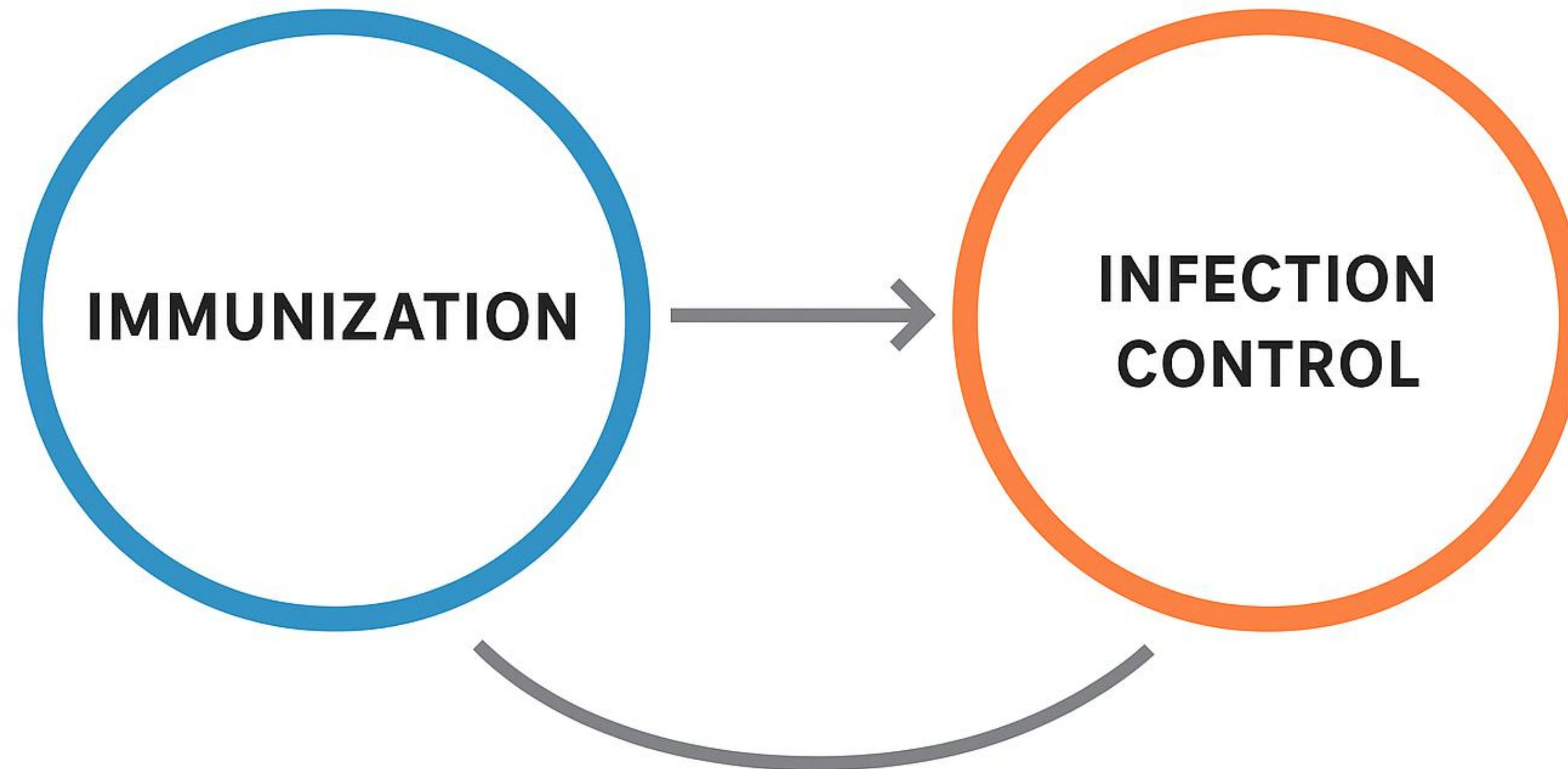
Townsville
Hospital
and Health
Service



A team of credentialed ICPs who deliver a comprehensive IPC program across the health service



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IMMUNIZATION AND INFECTION CONTROL



Program

- Recalls for vaccine preventable diseases course completions to ensure compliance with HR policy
- Expanded staff vaccination program including non NIP
- Inpatient vaccination program – long stay/maintenance inpatients

Governance

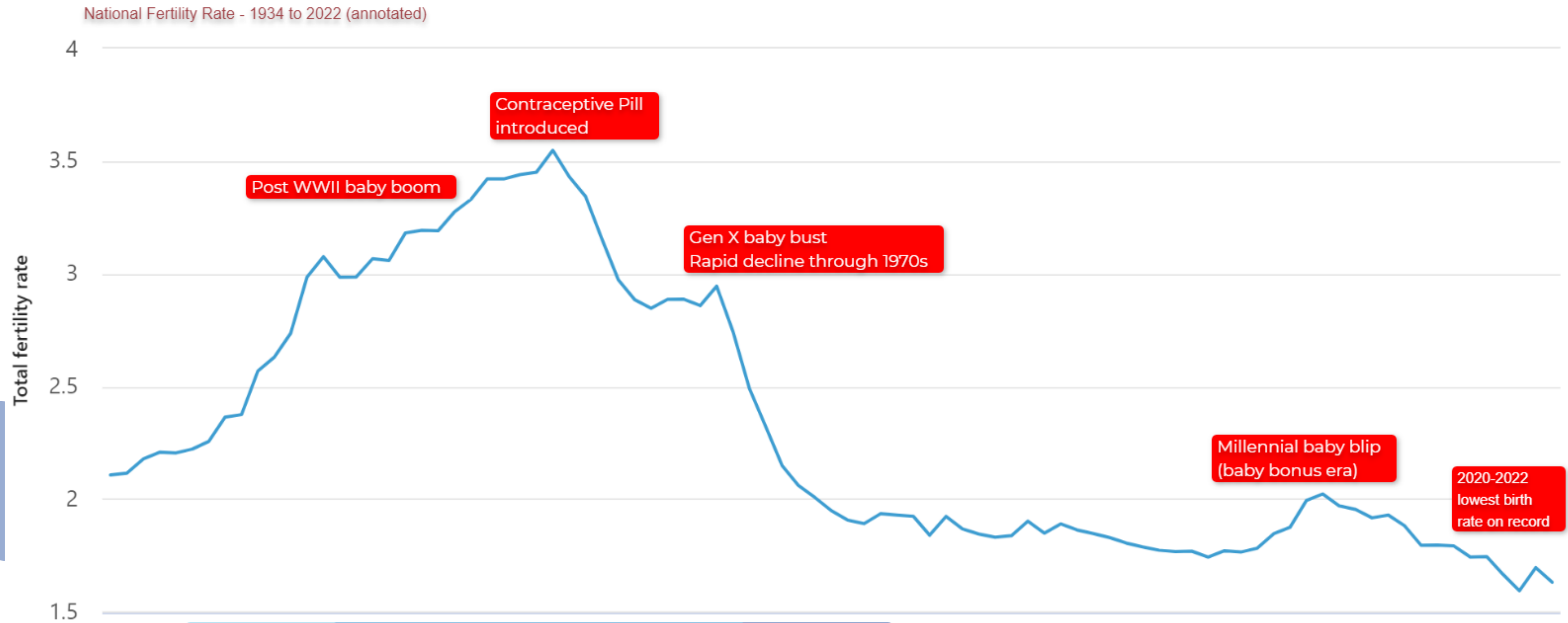
- ICPs are all immunisation program nurses (IPNs)
- Standing drug orders for non IPNs
- Business case for increased funding for private vaccines – Shingrix and RSV.

Ageing population

Increasing proportion of older Australians

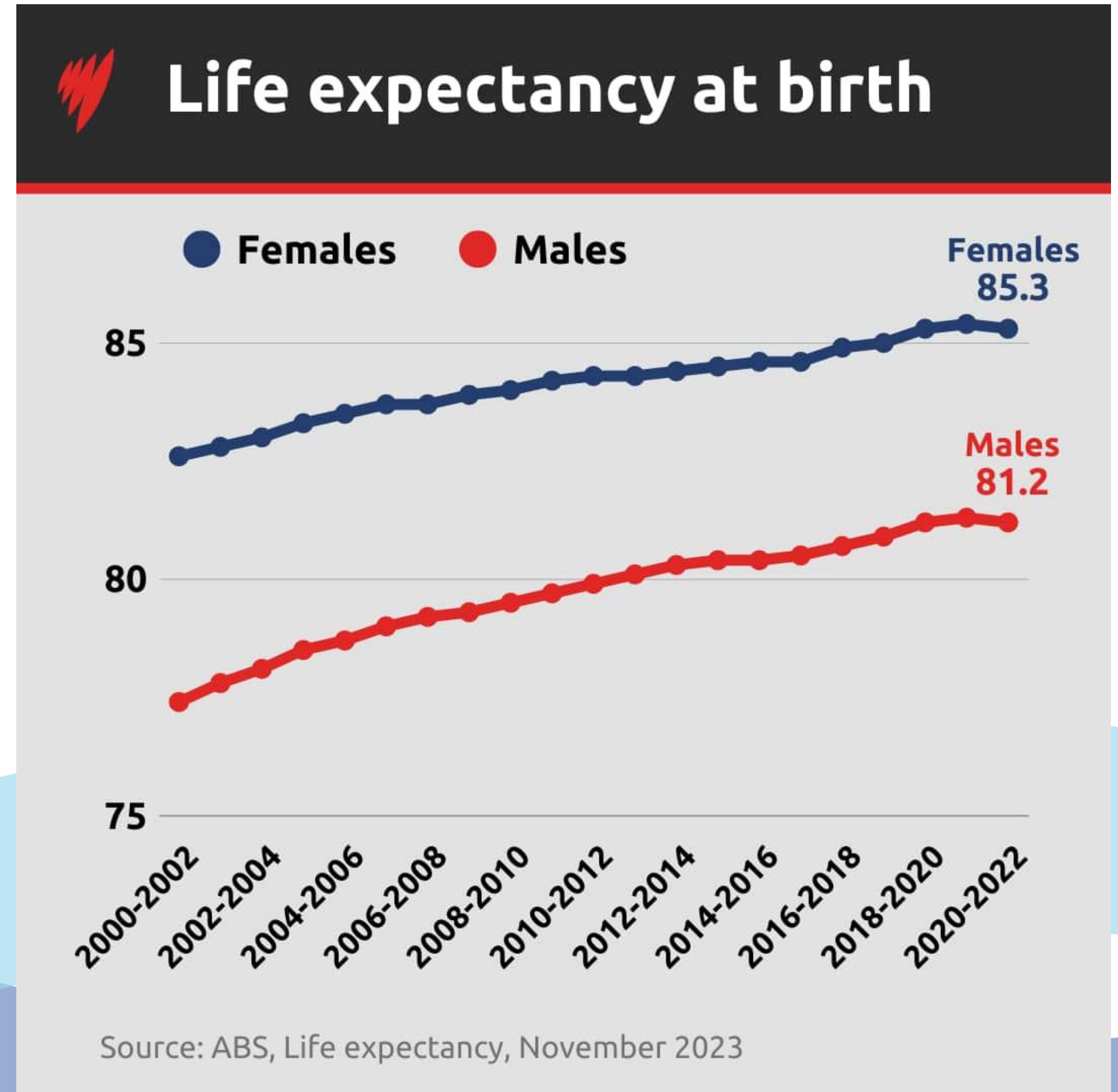


Declining fertility rates



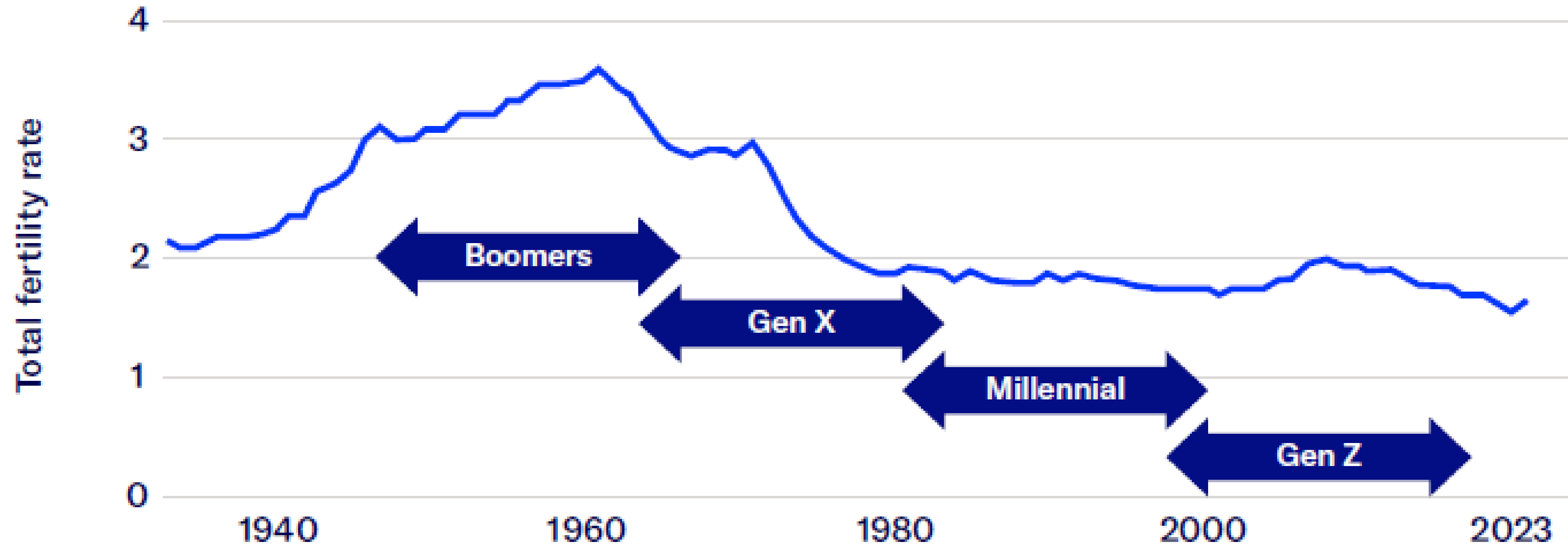
Ageing population

Increased life expectancy



Baby boomers reaching old age

Figure 1. The Generations





The Problem

Chronic disease prevalence – North Queensland

- Overall chronic conditions: 51.7% of Queensland adults



Chronic disease prevalence – North Queensland

- Total burden attributable to modifiable risk factors: 36%



Chronic disease prevalence – North Queensland

- 0–14 years: 11% have multimorbidity
- **65–74 years: 53%**
- 75–84 years: 68%
- 85+ years: 79%



The Problem

The workforce at Townsville Hospital and Health Service

Discrete population – 7,500

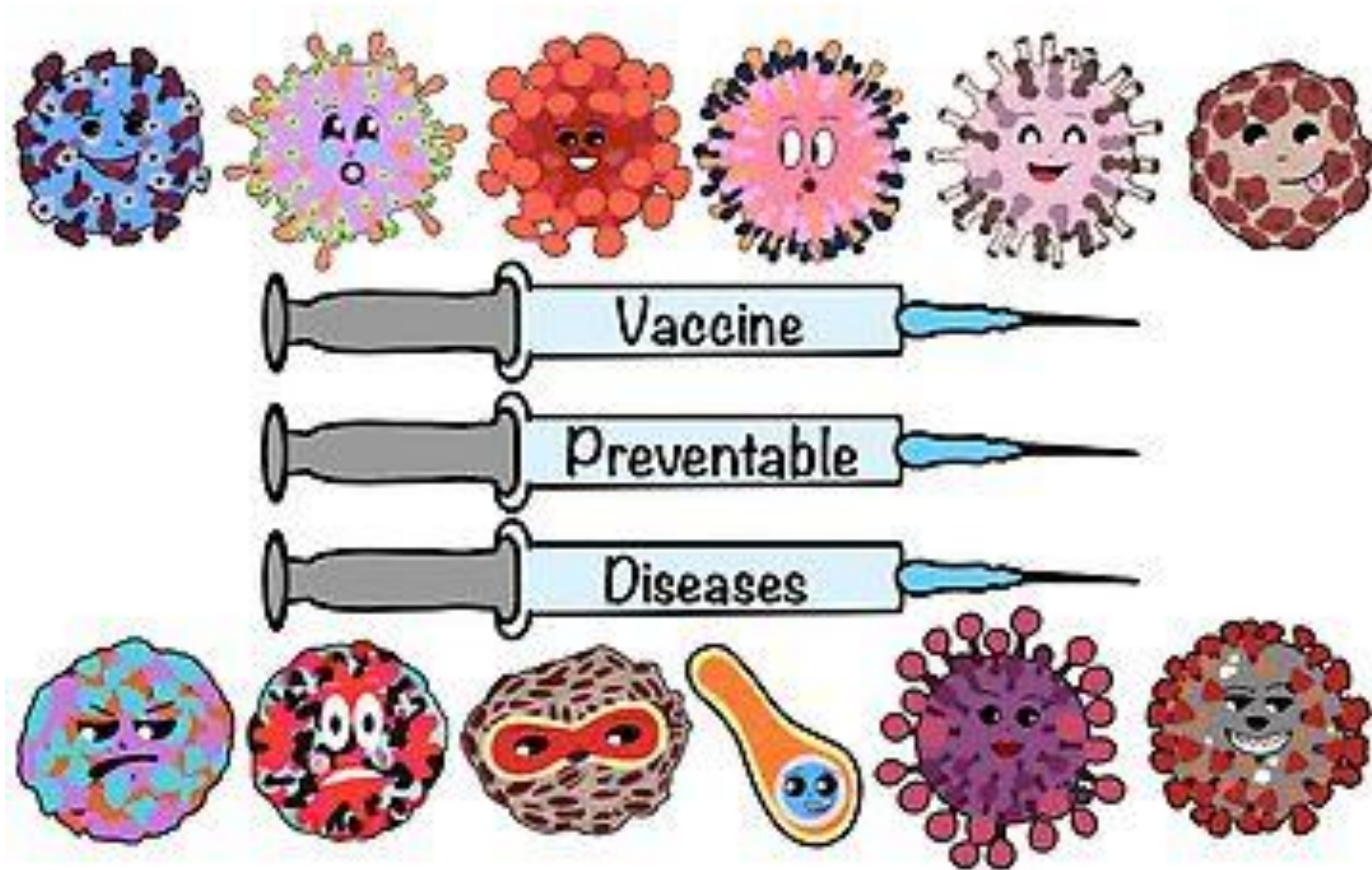


Limited work alternatives



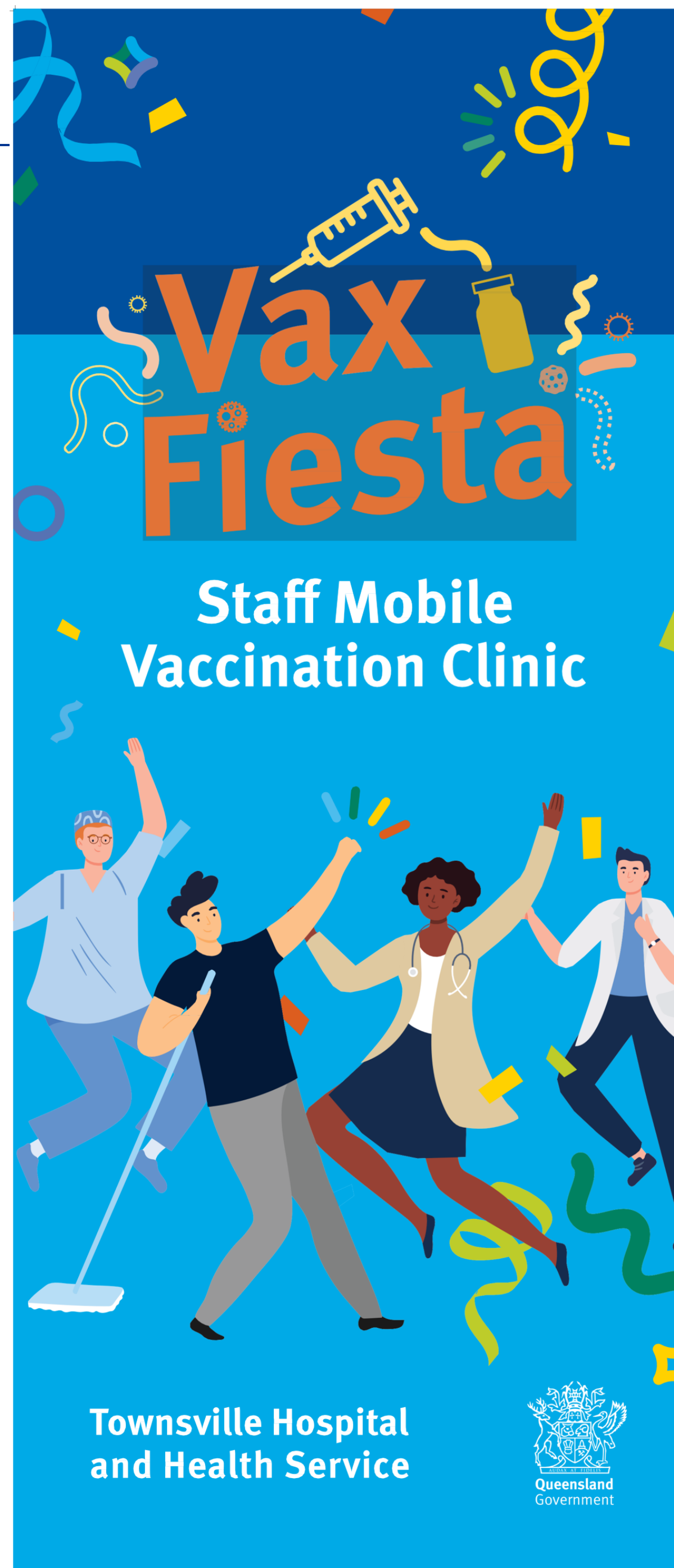
The community is our workforce

The Problem



Quality Initiative

Vax Fiesta



Primary Outcome

- Increase accessibility for staff to be vaccinated at convenient times for them.

Secondary Outcome(s)

- Increase immunity to the workforce
- Protect patients and health service consumers
- Protect the wider community

- Deployed twice weekly mobile vaccination clinics into the workplaces including offsite campuses
- Fortnightly vaccination clinics to all rural hospitals and aged care facilities
- Peer to peer influenza vaccinations
- Include undergraduates, volunteers, contractors
- Daily walk in staff health clinic

Staff Mobile Vaccination Clinic



Outcomes

January 2024 – November 2024		January 2025 – November 2025		Change
Influenza		Influenza		↑
• >65	241	• >65	346	↑
• <65	3517	• <65	3646	↑
COVID	1171	COVID	1329	↓
Shingrix	631	Shingrix	354	↑
RSV	3	RSV	174	↑

Lessons Learned

