



**LIA FINOCCHIARO  
DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER**

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*For immediate circulation*

**NT pregnant women provided free whooping cough vaccine**

The Northern Territory Opposition has welcomed the Federal Government's \$39.5 million investment to allow whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine to be provided free for every pregnant woman in the Northern Territory, which took effect on 1 July.

This is the first time the vaccine has been provided for free.

Shadow Minister for Health, Lia Finocchiaro said that vaccination's inclusion on the National Immunisation Program meant all pregnant Territory women could access the potentially life-saving vaccination.

"As newborn babies cannot be vaccinated until six weeks of age, the best way to protect a baby against the disease is vaccination of the mother during pregnancy," said Ms Finocchiaro.

**ENDS**

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