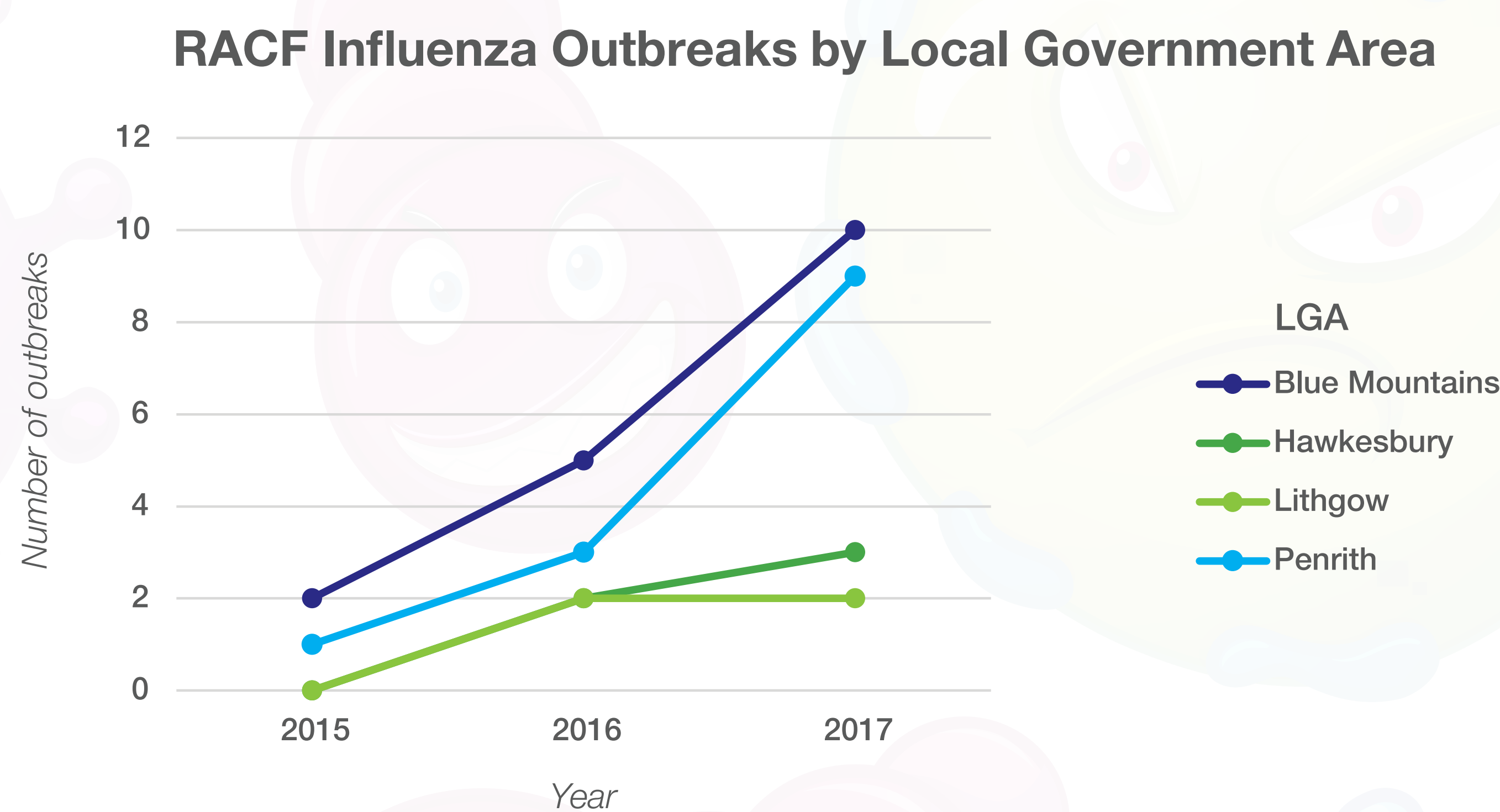


Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network

Blitzing Influenza in Residential Aged Care Facilities

In 2016/2017 over 50% of Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) within the Nepean Blue Mountains Region had influenza outbreaks



Immunisation plays a critical role to reduce the risk!

Due to a further increase in influenza presentations in 2017, we partnered with the Public Health Unit in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District and a local GP who specialises in aged care, to design and implement an **Immunisation Pilot Program** for residents and staff of local RACFs.

PHASE 1 – 10 RACF scholarships to Registered Nurses for Immunisation Accreditation training course with the Australian College of Nursing.

PHASE 2 – 3 RACFs recruited:

- Bodington (Wentworth Falls) Catholic Healthcare
- Buckland Aged Care* Services
- Uniting Springwood Village

2018 Immunisation Pilot Program

- 1 Development of a range of immunisation policies and procedures for RACFs.
- 2 Provision of an immunisation refrigerator and support to ensure 'Cold Chain' management.
- 3 GP participation by electing to delegate immunisation responsibility to the accredited Registered Nurse (RN) or administering the vaccine themselves (or a combination).
- 4 All RACF staff offered free influenza vaccination, with almost 60% participating.
(Reasons for refusal from staff, residents and their families included alternative and/or personal preferences.)

Outcomes:

A review of RACF data from 2015-2017 will be compared to 2018 vaccination/infection/outbreak data at the end of this year's flu season to evaluate the effectiveness of the Program.

Over
80% of residents were vaccinated.

196 of the 202 residents were vaccinated by the immunising RN.