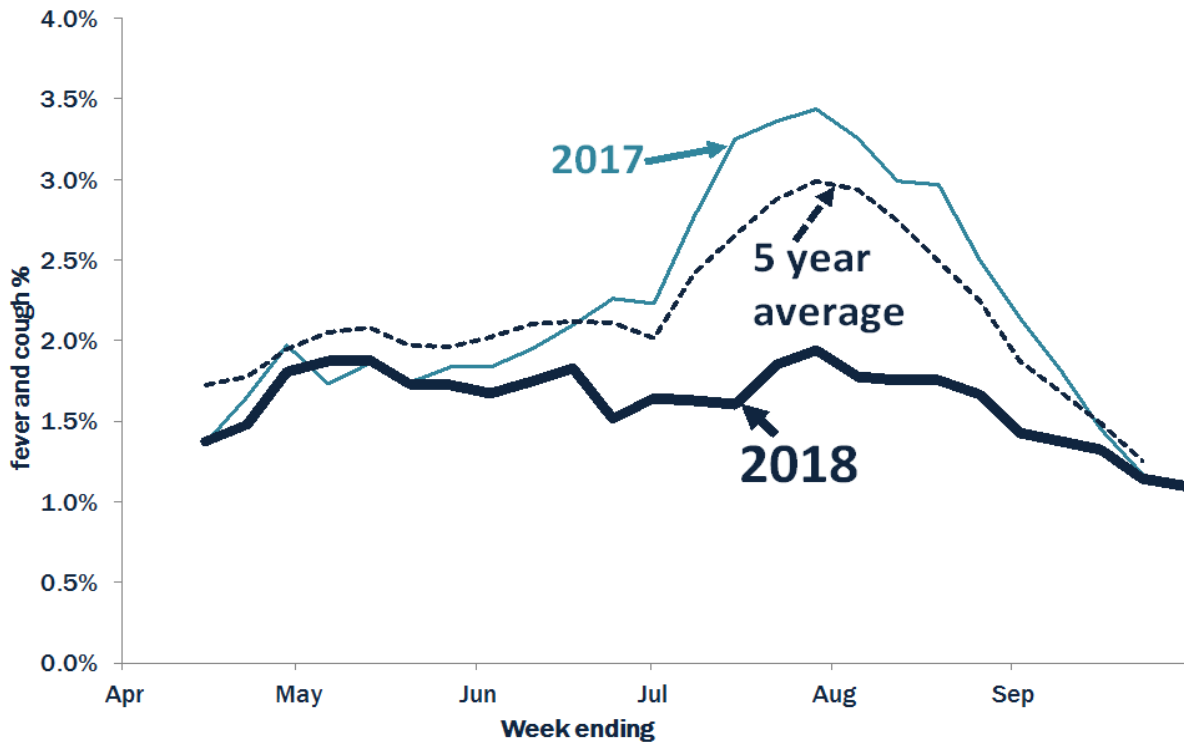


Australia Annual Participant Report 2018

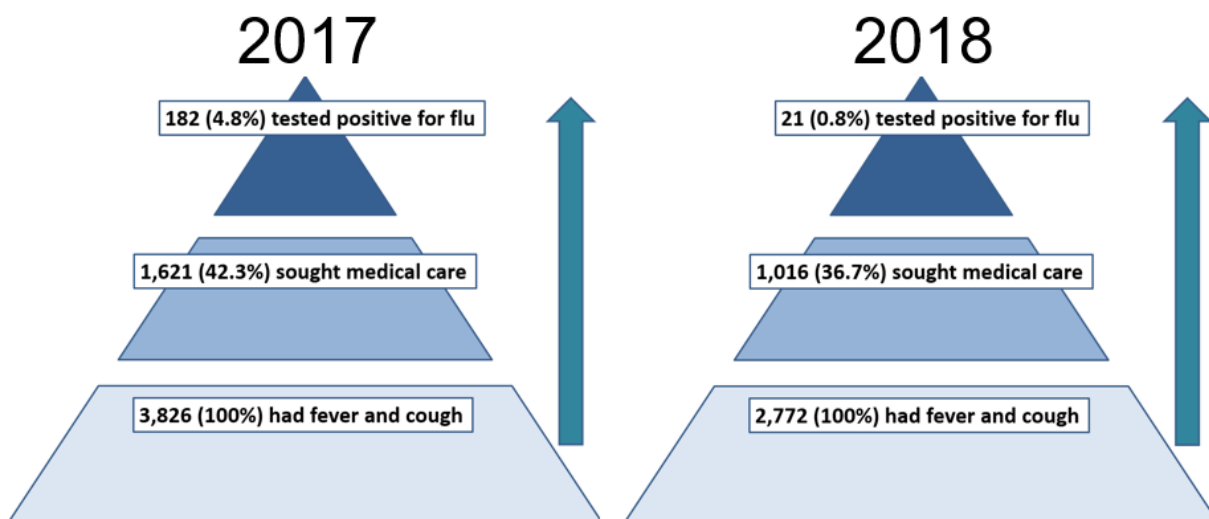
2018 fever and cough levels for Australia were the lowest on record in FluTracking data.



You showed us that the 2018 influenza season had lower levels of influenza-like illness activity than in recent years, as well as lower levels of associated absenteeism. Collectively FluTrackers had 40,850 days (112 years!) off work or normal duties due to fever and cough symptoms. However, this was much lower than the 2017 absenteeism levels.

A burden of illness pyramid is a method for estimating the relationship between influenza-like illness at the community level with national influenza laboratory reports. The figure below describes surveillance levels from cough and fever through to positive laboratory tests for influenza (self-reported) among FluTracking participants across Australia, for the four weeks of peak influenza activity beginning week ending 06/08/2017 to 27/08/2017 and 12/08/2018 to 02/09/2018.

One sixth as many FluTrackers tested positive for influenza in 2018, as compared to 2017.



Of our participants that reported fever and cough in 2017 and 2018, there was a lower proportion of participants seeking medical advice for flu-like illness in 2018, as compared to 2017, and a lower proportion of FluTrackers testing positive for influenza in 2018, as compared to 2017.

More than 3 times as many young children were vaccinated in 2018, as compared to 2017.



Vaccination coverage in 2018 was 55.7% in participants aged under five compared to a five year average of 16.2%. Vaccination coverage in 2018 was also higher in older participants, and markedly so in the 5 to 17 year age group (32.2% for 2018 compared to a five year average of 16.2%).

Australia Flutracking Statistics, 2018

Basic demographic information

Gender	Number completed at least one survey in 2018	Percent
Female	26,749	58.8
Male	17,986	39.5
Other	24	0.05
Not answered	773	1.7
Total	45,532	100.0

Table 1. Number of participants who completed at least one survey in 2018 by gender.

Age group	Number completed at least one survey in 2018	Percent
0-15 years	6,048	13.3
16-34 years	7,090	15.6
35-49 years	10,330	22.7
50-64 years	14,173	31.1
65 years and over	7,889	17.3
Missing	2	0.004
Total	45,532	100.0

Table 2. Number of participants who completed at least one survey in 2018 by age group.

State/territory	Number completed at least one survey in 2018	Percent
NSW	15,646	34.4
Vic	7,928	17.4
Qld	5,093	11.2
SA	4,609	10.1
WA	5,283	11.6
Tas	3,602	7.9
NT	1,236	2.7
ACT	2,090	4.6
Missing	45	0.1
Total	45,532	100.0

Table 3. Number of participants who completed at least one survey in 2018, by state/territory.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Number completed at least one survey in 2018	Percent
Yes	713	1.6
No	42,377	93.1
Prefer not to say	204	0.5
Not answered	2,238	4.9
Total	45,532	100.0

Table 4. Number of participants who completed at least one survey in 2018 by Indigenous Status.

Highest level of educational attainment	Number completed at least one survey in 2018	Percent
Advanced diploma/ diploma/certificate/year 12 or below	14,989	37.6
Enrolled/completed bachelor degree	10,201	25.6
Graduate diploma/graduate certificate	4,611	11.6
Postgraduate degree	8,708	21.9
Not answered	1,341	3.4
Total	39,850	100.0

Table 5. Number of participants who completed at least one survey in 2018 by education level among participants aged 15 years and over.