



PROCESS FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION TO FAMILIES ABOUT IMMUNISATION

RATIONALE

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting children and others in the community by reducing the spread of disease. It also helps to protect those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons from being exposed to preventable diseases.

SCOPE

This process applies to children enrolled in preschool and occasional care and any children who are part of crèche organised by the centre.

PROCESS

Parents will be informed:

- About the importance of immunisation in the early years as children's immune systems are still developing.
- They need to show their child has received the scheduled childhood immunisations during the enrolment process.
- If a child's immunisations are not up to date (current) and there is an occurrence of a vaccine preventable disease at the centre the child will be asked to stay away from the service for a period of time known as the 'exclusion period'.
- If the centre does not have evidence of a child's immunisation status and there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, the child will need to stay away from the service for the exclusion period.

Evidence of the scheduled immunisations is through showing the record in the Blue Book (which must be stamped by the service who administered the immunisation) or through showing the ACIR History statement. Parents are informed they can access this statement through:

- www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online
- visiting a Medicare service centre
- phoning 1800853809 or
- emailing acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au.

A child's immunisation status is *current* when the date of the 'next due immunisations' is in the future or blank in the ACIR history statement or by checking on the side of the Blue Book 'Immunisation Record'.

Additional Information

Staff will support parents to access immunisation records if needed.

Where possible staff will use translators to talk with families who do not have English as a second language if needed.