



Kinburra Preschool

Immunisation Policy

When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Immunisable diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, especially young children. Staff members who work in an early childhood education and care service setting are also at increased risk of certain infectious illnesses. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases. Our Service implements the Australian Government Department of Health, 'No Jab No Play' policy.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record



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172(2)(g)	a notice stating that there has been an occurrence of an infectious disease at the premises
EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW	
174(2)(a)	Notification to the Regulatory Authority- (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service

RELATED POLICIES

Control of Infectious Disease Policy Enrolment Policy Family Communication Policy Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma Policy Orientation of New Families Policy	Record Keeping and Retention Policy Pregnancy in Early Childhood Policy Sick Children Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to manage and prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and diseases. Our Service has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families and educators are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the services operation. This includes notifying children, families and educators when an excludable illness or disease is present in the service; maintaining a record of children’s and educators’ immunisation status; complying to relevant health department exclusion guidelines; and Increasing educators’ awareness of cross infection through physical contact with others.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION



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Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent some infections. Immunisation works by giving a person a vaccine—often a dead or modified version of the germ—against a particular disease. This makes the person’s immune system respond in a similar way to how it would respond if they actually had the disease, but with less severe symptoms. If the person comes in contact with that germ in the future, their immune system can rapidly respond and prevent the person becoming ill.

Immunisation also protects other people who are not immunised, such as children who are too young to be immunised, or people whose immune systems did not respond to the vaccine. This is because the more people who are immunised against a disease, the lower the chance that a person will ever come into contact with someone who has the disease. The chance of an infection spreading in a community therefore decreases if a large proportion of people are immunised, because the immune people will not become infected and can protect the vulnerable people; this is known as ‘herd immunity’.

As of January 2016, new immunisation requirements came into force affecting childcare benefits and family assistance payments (the Commonwealth) and the enrolment of children in child care (in NSW). The Commonwealth has made changes under the ‘No Jab, No Pay’ measure to increase childhood vaccination rates causing families to no longer be eligible for child care benefits and family assistance payments with exceptions for children recorded with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases and those on a recognised catch-up schedule.

From **1 January 2018** children who are unvaccinated due to their parent’s conscientious objection will no longer be able to be enrolled in childcare in NSW. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule will still be able to be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

MANAGEMENT / NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:



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- Ensure information about immunisation, infectious diseases and exclusion periods is available to families at time of enrolment/orientation and is included in Family Handbook
- Display wall charts about immunisation on notice board outside each classroom
- Review children's immunisation each month, updating the child's records kept at the service, and sending reminder letters and emails for families
- Not enrol a child into the Service unless approved documentation has been provided that confirms the child is fully immunised for their age or has a medical reason not be immunised (Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as evidence)
- Develop a staff immunisation record that documents each staff member's previous infection or immunisation (including dates)
- Require all new and current staff to complete the staff immunisation record
- Regularly update staff immunisation records as staff become vaccinated
- Provide staff and families with information about vaccine-preventable diseases
- Take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated
- Advise parents and families about the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#)
- Document advice given to educators and other staff, and any refusal to comply with vaccination requests
- Notify the Public Health Unit of any outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases (1300 066 055)
- Notify families when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs through various channels of communication:
 - verbally
 - through a letter from the educator or Approved Provider
 - posting a note or sign at the entry of the residence
 - via electronic message- text message or email
- Exclude any child who is not immunised from the Service if and when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection. In the



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instance of the child being immunised but the immunisation record has not been sighted by the Service, the child is to be considered as not being immunised

- Advise any staff members who fall pregnant to visit their GP immediately and have a test for Cytomegalovirus (CMV) to check their immunity. Any pregnant staff member who is at a heightened risk will not change nappies and will double glove when coming into contact with any body fluids, including saliva.

FAMILIES WILL:

- Provide the Service with a copy of one or more of the following documents:
 - An Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is ‘up to date’ with their scheduled vaccinations; or
 - An AIR Immunisation History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule; or
 - An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP
- Provide the service with an updated copy of their child’s current immunisation record or when the next scheduled immunisation has been completed
- A current AIR Immunisation History Statement can be accessed at any time by the parent/guardian through logging in to their Medicare online account: [myGov website](#).
- Support their child’s exclusion from the Service if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the Service or if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at the Service

INFORMATION TO BE DISPLAYED IN SERVICE

INFORMATION	WEBSITE/INFORMATION	PHONE NUMBER
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The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service	https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program	1800 020 103
Notification of an occurrence of an infectious disease/vaccine preventable disease	Notify local Public Health Unit Provide information to families about the infectious disease- Children unimmunised against vaccine preventable diseases must be excluded from care	1300 066 055
Australian Government Department of Health	In the event of a community spread virus- (COVID-19) publications from Government agencies will be displayed https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources	1800 020 080

Australian Government Department of Health - Immunisation saves lives

Currently there are different immunisation requirements for early childhood education and care services across states and territories. Information on immunisation requirements are listed below:

New South Wales (NSW)
<p>The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE can be accessed and downloaded from: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-schedule-portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Health Phone number: 02 9391 9000 • Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/default.aspx • NSW Health Immunisation Schedule https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schedule-changes.aspx • Immunise Australia National Hotline: 1800 671 811 • Australian Government, Department of Human Services: https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account



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RESOURCES

AIR General Enquiries line 1800 653 809

Australian Government Department of Health [Get the facts on childhood immunisation-help protect your community](#)

Australian Government Services Australia *Australian Immunisation Register*

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

[NSW Government Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit](#)

Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation. (2020). <http://talkingaboutimmunisation.org.au/>

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australia Childhood Immunisation Register:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register>

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, (2020) *Child Care Subsidy immunisation requirements* <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/immunisation>

Australian Government – Department of Human Services: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account>

Australian Government Department Of Health National Immunise Program: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).

Federal Register of Legislation *Privacy Act 1988*.

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (amended 2020).

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*.

NSW Public Health Act- NSW Government October 2017:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx#15

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).



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REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	MARCH 2021	NEXT REVIEW DATE	MARCH 2022
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to reflect 'no jab no play' in NSW • Links to NSW immunisation schedules checked and edited as required • Further resources added 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS		NEXT REVIEW DATE
MARCH 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additions to introduction statement • Additional information added to content • Resources section added • Jurisdiction specifications checked for currency 		MARCH 2021
MARCH 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, purpose, & implementation revised • New immunisation requirements changed to past tense. • Additional information added to points. • Irrelevant information deleted. • Sources checked for currency. 		MARCH 2020