

## **Information for parents - No Jab No Play**

### **Proposed change to laws regarding immunisation and enrolling in early childhood services**

The Andrews Labor Government made an election commitment to introduce a law that restricts enrolment in childcare and kindergarten to children who are fully immunised or have a medical reason that they can't be immunised. The law is yet to pass through Parliament, so implementation details are not finalised.

However, parents wishing to enrol their children in an early childhood service, may wish to know:

- The law is designed to increase immunisation rates amongst young children in the community, to provide maximum protection from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- The proposed laws are likely to come in to effect on 1 January 2016.

From this time, a child's enrolment at an early childhood service won't be confirmed unless their vaccinations are up to date or they have a medical exemption.

The documentation likely to be required as evidence of up-to-date vaccination will be an Australian Childhood Immunisation Register Immunisation History Statement provided by Medicare.

You will need to provide the statement to the service as part of the enrolment process.

The statement will need to show that the child's immunisations are up to date for their age on the date that they will begin attending the service.

If you are having problems accessing vaccination services or getting the required documentation, there will be an opportunity during the enrolment process to discuss that with your early childhood service provider.

Immunisation History Statements can be requested at any time contacting Medicare:

- phone 1800 653 809 or email [acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au](mailto:acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au)
- web: [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online)
- visit your local Medicare Office.

If a child has a medical reason that they cannot be vaccinated, an Immunisation Exemption Medical Contraindication form will need to be obtained from Medicare (available for download from [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online)), signed by a GP, and provided to the service.

If your child is not up to date with their vaccinations see your doctor or local council to discuss a catch-up schedule of vaccinations.

Local councils run immunisation sessions where vaccines are provided free to children. Alternatively, GPs or immunisation nurses can provide the vaccines.

If you have questions or concerns regarding immunisation or vaccines consult your doctor or an immunisation nurse.

To view the immunisation schedule (what vaccines are due at what age) go to [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) and search 'immunisation', or speak to your doctor.