

## IMMUNISATION POLICY

When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, and especially young children. Staff members who work in school aged care services are also at increased risk of contracting certain infectious illnesses due to the close proximity of working with children. Immunisation is therefore an important health measure and an effective way of protecting children and adults from harmful diseases by reducing the spread of disease. Activity Centres Inc (ACI) implements the Australian Government Department of Health, 'No Jab No Play' policy for our Early Childhood Education and Care Service (ECE), excluding OOSH Services.

### 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 LAW AND NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
S.174(2)(a)	Notification to the Regulatory Authority- (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service
12	Meaning of serious incident
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
173	Prescribed information to be displayed

175(2)(c)	Prescribed information to be notified to the Regulatory Authority- (2) any circumstance arising at the service that poses a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a child or children attending the service
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RELATED CHILD SAFE STANDARDS	
1	Child Safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
3	Families and Communities are informed and involved
5	People working with children are suitable and supported
7	Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
10	Policies and Procedures document how the organisation is Child Safe

## RELATED POLICIES

Infectious Disease Policy Enrolment Policy Communication Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy	Record Keeping and Retention Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to manage and prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and diseases. Activity Centres has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families, and educators are protected from infectious diseases whilst at the Service. Along with maintaining a clean and hygienic environment, this also includes notifying 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 with relevant health department exclusion guidelines, and increasing educators' awareness of cross-infection.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors of the Service.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent many childhood diseases. Immunisation works by giving the person a vaccine (weakened or killed disease-causing bacteria or virus), 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, or possibly no symptoms. The vaccine therefore leads to the creation of antibodies that provide future protection if the person comes into

contact with the disease.

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'.

Enrolment in an OOSH Service requires parents to provide an *Immunisation History Statement* as recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) to prove that their child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations. This documentation also is required to be updated as per the childhood immunisation schedule.

When enrolling a child in an OOSH Service, parents will be asked to provide an Immunisation History Statement. Should a child not be fully immunised according to the National Immunisation Program Schedule, they will not be prevented from enrolling.

Children without proof of recommended immunisation for their age will be excluded from attending the service during an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease. For a child to be eligible for Child Care Subsidy and other family payments, immunisation must be in accordance with the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule.

Children enrolled in an Early Education and Care Service must meet the immunisation requirements to be eligible for Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A and Child Care Subsidy (CCS). As of January 2018, unvaccinated children due to their parent's conscientious objection are no longer able to receive CCS benefits. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on an approved catch-up schedule may still be able to receive CCS benefits.

## THE APPROVED PROVIDER / NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- ensure that obligations under the *Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations* are met
- ensure educators, staff, students, visitors and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy and associated procedure
- ensure all new employees are provided with a copy of this policy as part of their induction process
- ensure information about immunisation, infectious diseases and exclusion periods is available to families at time of enrolment/orientation and information is available at the Service
- request families to provide an AIR Immunisation History Statement or an AIR Immunisation History Form (for a child on an approved catch-up-schedule) prior to enrolment

- advise parents and families about the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#)
- review children's immunisation regularly, updating the child's records kept at the Service, and send reminder letters and emails to families as required
- For ECE Services ensure that evidence is provided for each child prior to enrolment 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)
- provide staff and families with information about vaccine-preventable diseases
- take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated
- For ECE Services display wall charts about childhood immunisation within the Service
- 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
- notify the regulatory authority of any incidence of a notifiable infectious illness or disease through the [NQA-ITS](#)
- 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 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 female employees of childbearing age to discuss [Cytomegalovirus during pregnancy](#) (CMV) with their doctor if they are planning a pregnancy with their doctor and inform management so that an individual risk assessment can be assessed and managed. There is NO vaccination to prevent against infection with CMV. Occupational risks of CMV in childcare should be managed and control measures implemented.

## FAMILIES WILL:

- adhere to the Service's policies regarding *Dealing with Infectious Diseases, Immunisation, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Sickness Policies* and exclusion requirements
- provide the Service with a copy of one or more of the following documents upon enrolment
  - 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 every 6 months, 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: [Services Australia](#)
- support their child's exclusion from the Service if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the OSHC Service or if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at the Service or Primary School.

## INFORMATION TO BE DISPLAYED IN SERVICE

INFORMATION	WEBSITE/INFORMATION	PHONE NUMBER
The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service	<a href="https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program">https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program</a>	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 <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources">https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources</a>	1800 020 080

### New South Wales (NSW)

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>

- NSW Health Phone number: 02 9391 9000
- Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/phus.aspx>
- NSW Health Immunisation Schedule  
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/immunisation-providers.aspx>
- Australian Government [Australian Immunisation Register](#)
- Australian Government [Immunisation history statement](#)

## RESOURCES

AIR General Enquiries line 1800 653 809

Australian Government Services Australia Australian Immunisation Register

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



[NSW Government Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit](#)

[Time Out Keeping your child and other kids healthy!](#) (Queensland Government)

Time Out Brochure [Why do I need to keep my child at home?](#)

## SOURCES

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2025). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

Australian Government. Department of Health (2019). *National Immunisation Strategy for Australia 2019-2024*  
[https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-immunisation-strategy-for-australia-2019-2024\\_0.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-immunisation-strategy-for-australia-2019-2024_0.pdf)

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

Australian Government. Services Australia. [Australian Immunisation Register](#)

Australian Government. Services Australia. (2023). [Immunisation requirements](#)

Australian Government. Services Australia: [How to get immunisation statements](#)

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 Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).

Federal Register of Legislation *Privacy Act 1988*.

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS). (2024) . [No Jab No Play, No Jab No Pay](#):

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2024). [Staying Healthy: preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services](#) (6th Ed.). NHMRC. Canberra.

Pregnancy Birth and Baby. [Cytomegalovirus \(CMV\) during pregnancy](#).

[Western Australian Legislation Education and Care Services National Law \(WA\) Act 2012](#)

[Western Australian Legislation Education and Care Services National Regulations \(WA\) Act 2012](#)

## REVIEW

<b>POLICY REVIEWED BY</b>	Jessie McCulloch, Natasha Foenander & Rachael Bajo	Role: Head Office	Date: 30/11/2025
<b>ENDORSED BY 2 PARENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (initial/date)</b>		<b>UPDATES/MODIFICATIONS</b>	- Moved to Childcare desktop policy
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE:</b> November 2026			