

12. Immunisation Policy

National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety	
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Education and Care Services National Regulations	
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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, educators, management and visitors of the Service

IMPLEMENTATION

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 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’.

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.

As of January 2016, new immunisation requirements came into force affecting Child Care Subsidy and Family assistance payments (the Commonwealth) and the enrolment of children in child care). 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 Subsidy and Family Assistance

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payments with exceptions for children recorded with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases and those on a recognised catch-up schedule.

Under this legislation, children are required to be fully vaccinated for their age. Children that are not immunised will not be eligible to attend Story House Early Learning services and no child is able to attend a Story House Early Learning service until their immunisation history is provided to the service via the Immunisation history statement provided by the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.

New South Wales (NSW)

- The NSW Immunisation Schedule and immunisation exemption certificates for medical contraindication and conscientious objection can be accessed from <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au>
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/default.aspx>

Queensland (QLD)

- The Queensland Health Immunisation Program provides information for service providers about ordering vaccine for the National Immunisation Program and other state vaccine programs. <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/schedule>

Victoria (VIC)

- Department of Health, Victoria Immunisation Program <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation>
- For more information about No Jab No Pay changes go to - [https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/news/archive/Pages/ecupdate strengthened No Jab No Play regulations.aspx?ID=](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/news/archive/Pages/ecupdate_strengthened_No_Jab_No_Play_regulations.aspx?ID=)

SOURCE

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority (2014)
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015
- ECA Code of Ethic
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2018
- Staying Healthy in Child Care. 5th Edition
- Australia Childhood Immunisation Register <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>
- Immunise Australia Program <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>

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