



UPDATE: No Jab No Pay – Immunisation Catch-Up Arrangements

This update provides information on the catch-up immunisation arrangements being put in place under the Australian Government *No Jab, No Pay* measure. More detail about how immunisation providers implement the catch-up arrangements will be provided separately well ahead of the programme commencement date.

What are the new immunisation requirements?

From 1 January 2016 (subject to the passage of legislation):

- Parents who do not fully immunise their children (up to 19 years of age) will cease to be eligible for Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement (family assistance payments).
- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases will continue to be exempt from the requirements.
- Conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds will no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements.
- To support these changes, the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) is being expanded. From 1 January 2016 you will be able to submit the details of vaccinations given to persons aged less than 20 years to be recorded on the ACIR.
- The process for ordering catch-up vaccine will be the same process used by immunisation providers for other Commonwealth or state immunisation programmes.

What are the immunisation catch-up arrangements?

Families will be informed by the Department of Human Services that their child/children do not meet the immunisation requirements for family assistance payments, and will be encouraged to speak with their immunisation provider about updating their vaccination records or commencing an appropriate vaccination catch-up schedule.

Catch-up arrangements fall into two categories:

1. Free catch up for children under 10 years of age

From 1 January 2016, all states and territories will be distributing free National Immunisation Program vaccines for all children under the age of 10 that require catch-up. This arrangement will be ongoing.

2. Free catch up for young persons aged 10 to 19 years of families who currently receive family assistance payments (time-limited: 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017)

From 1 January 2016, this time-limited catch up programme provides free vaccines to families who currently receive family assistance payments, who do not have a valid medical exemption, and now wish to immunise their children in order to continue to receive these payments.

What are the next steps?

The Department of Health will be writing to GPs and other immunisation providers closer to the commencement date of the programme. The letter will provide detailed information on the catch-up immunisation schedule, how to check a child's immunisation history, how to order vaccines and updating immunisation records in ACIR.

Information will also be regularly updated on the Immunise Australia website at www.immunise.health.gov.au



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All information in this publication is correct as at September 2015