

Secondary students need to be immunised too

Council's immunisation team tapped into the competitive nature of local secondary school students with great success! All schools achieved an over 90% return rate in the Annual Immunisation Consent Cards competition, resulting in nearly 1000 secondary students being immunised and up to date.

Mary MacKillop Regional Catholic College and Mirboo North Secondary College took out the major prize, coming equal first with a 100% return rate. Leongatha Secondary College came in a close second with 99%.

This year was particularly busy, according to Immunisation Program Team Leader, Tim DeVere, with the normal Year 7 Human Papillomavirus and Chickenpox vaccines, as well as a catch-up program for Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough vaccine for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students.

"Schools had a bigger than normal job of collecting consent cards with over 1300 packs being distributed throughout the Shire," Mr DeVere explained.

"This amazing effort by all schools and parents resulted in over 2200 immunisations given to secondary school students by Council in 2015. Most students were immunised at the school visits in March, May and September."

According to Council records, there are still a number of students who have not received their free doses. Any child who missed an immunisation should have it as soon as possible either through Council or their local doctor.

Refer to Council's website at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au for times and venues around the Shire for 2016

"From 2016, the Secondary School Immunisation Program will focus on only Year 7 students as all older students have received their scheduled adolescent immunisations. Parents will need to keep a look out for information packs from Council in February next year," Mr DeVere said.

Caption: Immunisation Program Coordinator, Tim DeVere, presents competition winners Mary MacKillop Regional Catholic College (represented by Melissa Preston) and Mirboo North Secondary College (represented by Stephen Klemke) with their camcorders.

PR1752 16/12/15