



## Health competition means healthy students

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to congratulate all South Gippsland secondary schools for their participation in Council's immunisation consent card competition for year seven students.

Each year Council runs the competition between schools in the Shire with a prize awarded to the school with the highest return rate of consent cards for year seven students. A consent card must be completed by parents for their child to be immunised.

An impressive effort was displayed by Korumburra Secondary, South Gippsland Secondary, Mary MacKillop Catholic College and Leongatha Secondary College for returning 100 percent of their immunisation consent cards. Mirboo North Secondary was close behind with a 98 percent return rate.

Council offers year seven students of South Gippsland schools the option to have the scheduled immunisations as per the National Immunisation Schedule. These immunisations protect them against Chicken Pox, Human Papillomavirus, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Immunisation Program Acting Team Leader, Georgina Kibble, said the competition is a great initiative to ensure consent cards are completed and returned on time.

"Consent cards are distributed at the beginning of the school year and it is with the hard work of the students, teachers, school staff and parents that the cards are returned to the school ready for the immunisation program to start in March.

"This year was a huge success seeing return rates at their all-time highest with four out of the five larger schools returning 100 percent of their consent cards," said Ms Kibble.

This October, as part of Immunisation Awareness Month, Council's Immunisation Team will also be visiting local primary schools to speak with grade six students about the importance of immunisations and provide tips on how to stay calm when it's time for them to have their injections in year seven.

Parents with children entering year seven in 2017 are reminded to keep an eye out for their child's consent cards in February next year. Anyone wanting more information on Council's immunisation service can visit Council's website or contact the Immunisation team on 5662 9200.

*Photo caption: Acting Team Leader, Georgina Kibble, congratulates South Gippsland Secondary College Principal, Matt McPhee, for the school's 100 percent consent card return rate.*

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