

No Jab, No Play, No Pay

From January next year, both the State and Federal Governments will be introducing new legislation that will affect families of children who are not fully immunised.

Family Tax Benefit Part A, childcare rebates and benefits, and childcare and kindergarten enrolments will depend on your child's immunisation status.

The 'No Jab, No Play' policy means vaccine objectors will not be able to access these government payments and their unvaccinated children could be excluded from childcare centres.

The new policy aims to tighten the rules and reinforce the importance of immunisation and protecting public health, especially for children.

Council's immunisation team is available to guide parents through the process of catching up missed or overdue immunisations to ensure that all children are fully immunised.

Catch-ups can be done by your local doctor or at Council's immunisation sessions. However, it is imperative parents contact Council to discuss what vaccinations are required to ensure their child's vaccinations are available on the day.

Council's Immunisation Program Team Leader, Time DeVere, said Council had already sent 160 letters to families that were not up to date with immunisation records according to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

"We want to ensure that their family payments and access to childcare are not hindered as a result of these changes," Mr De Vere explained, "and that those who are fully vaccinated have all of their immunisations recorded correctly with ACIR."

For further information on the new legislation, refer to the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au. For immunisation catch-ups and session time information, contact Council's Immunisation team on 5662 9361 or go to Council's website for the timetable.

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