

IMMUNISATION – NO JAB NO PLAY POLICY

Quality Area 2

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Infectious Diseases Policy.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is:

- To ensure that all children attending Sorrento Early Learning have been fully immunised
- To reinforce the message that immunisation saves lives and keeps children safe from deadly diseases
- To ensure that the Victorian Government's 'No Jab, No Play' introduced on 1 January, 2016, is implemented by Sorrento Community Centre.

OUR VISION FOR SORRENTO EARLY LEARNING

Our vision is to aspire for excellence in the provision of early childhood services through the creation of a safe, extended family environment and the development of a community of learners where educators, parents and other adults are committed to the children's education and wellbeing.

BACKGROUND

The Victorian Government passed immunisation legislation named 'No Jab, No Play' on 1 January, 2016. The law applies to all early childhood education and care services in Victoria. The purpose of 'No Jab, No Play' is to increase immunisation rates in the community, particularly amongst young children, thereby reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases through increased immunisation rates in the community.

The Commonwealth Government announced that from 1 January 2016, families will no longer be eligible for family assistance payments if their children (up to the age of 19) are not fully immunised or if they do not have an approved medical exemption.

This is a public health priority, given the serious risk posed by vaccine-preventable diseases and the proven safety and efficacy of vaccines.

The legislation requires all children enrolling in early childhood education and care services to be up to date with their vaccinations (Services licensed by the Department of Education and Training, as defined under the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010)

POLICY STATEMENT

The benefits of immunisation are overwhelming, preventing death and disability, and protecting not only the individual but others in the community who cannot be vaccinated.

Under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, before enrolling a child, Sorrento Community Centre must first obtain evidence that the child is:

- Fully immunised, up to date with vaccinations for their age, OR
- On a vaccination catch-up schedule, OR
- Unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons.

'Conscientious objection' is not an exemption under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation.

The evidence to be provided is a statement showing the vaccines a child has received. The most common type of immunisation status certificate is an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

PROCEDURE

Parents/carers can obtain a copy of their child's Immunisation History Statement through

- Medicare online accounts, or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app
- Local Medicare service centre
- Requesting a statement be posted to them in the mail: phone 1800 653 809 or email acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Alternatively, parents/carers can obtain an Immunisation Status Certificate from an immunisation provider, such as a GP or Mornington Peninsula Shire Immunisation Service.

A copy of the immunisation schedule from the child's immunisation booklet is insufficient for the purposes of enrolment at Sorrento Community Centre.

To be considered acceptable as an Immunisation Status Certificate for the purposes of enrolment at Sorrento Community Centre, the documents need to contain all of the following:

- **Child's details:** Full name, Date of birth, Address
- **Vaccine history:** List of vaccine/s the child has received and when the vaccine was given (can be a separate attachment, such as a previous ACIR Immunisation History Statement or ACIR Immunisation History Form recording overseas vaccinations)
- **Immunisation status:**
 - Date of the child's next due vaccine, OR
 - A statement saying the child has completed all their childhood vaccinations
 - If relevant, list of any vaccine/s that child cannot receive for a medical contra-indication (GP only)
- **Immunisation provider's details:** Provider's full name, Organisation name, Signed and dated by immunisation provider, Medicare provider number OR Australian Childhood Immunisation Register number

Some children may be exempt from the requirement to be fully vaccinated on medical grounds. If a child has a valid medical reason they cannot be vaccinated, a GP needs to complete and sign a Medicare Immunisation Exemption Medical Contraindication Form, and send it to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

Sorrento Community Centre has a role in reminding parents/carers when a child's next immunisation is due.

Resources available

- <http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/publichealth/immunisation/faccination-childrenadolescents/no-jab-no-play/frequently-asked-questions>
- Families and Parent Line – 13 61 50
- www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/immunisation
- Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA): www.acecqa.gov.au
- *Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, ACECQA.

Related Policies

- *Infectious Diseases Policy*

Policy Control Data

Approved by Sorrento Community Centre

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Next Review Date: