



Child Immunisation Policy

It is generally accepted that Immunisation is the safest and most effective way of providing protection against early childhood diseases. After immunisation, children are far less likely to catch the diseases if there are cases within the community. The benefit of protection against these diseases far outweighs the very small risks associated with immunisation.

If enough people in the community are immunised, the infections can no longer be spread from person to person and the disease dies out altogether. This is how Smallpox was eliminated from the world, and Polio has disappeared from many countries.

To help increase Australia's immunisation rates, a number of Government benefits are only available to families whose children meet the immunisation requirements. That is if they are up-to-date with their immunisation schedule. The benefit relevant to the centre is known as Child Care Subsidy – CCS.

Objective

- To have a Centre in which all children are fully immunised against all harmful early childhood diseases.
- To provide protection to the children attending the centre against diseases within the community.
- To help families obtain additional assistance with the cost of childcare through the Government initiative, known as Child Care Subsidy

Other related policies and procedures

Occupational Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Child Care Policy

Application of this policy

This policy applies to all children and their families while attending Albert Waterways Children's Centre. Should the need arise, the policy will be translated into appropriate languages.

Procedures:

- Upon enrolment, all families will be required to provide a copy of their child's immunisation details to the centre's management.
- Any child who is not up to date with their immunisation will be considered not immunised. Non-immunised children will be excluded from the centre if an incidence of any communicable vaccine preventable disease occurs for the period as recommended by Queensland Government Health.

- Families who do not immunise their child, through conscientious objection or for medical reasons, are still able to attend the centre. However, if an incidence occurs where child/ren contract a communicable disease all children deemed not immunised will be excluded from the centre for the period recommended by Queensland Government Health. Parents are liable for childcare fees during periods of exclusion.
- Families who do not have their child immunised, or have out-of-date immunisation records, will not be entitled to Child Care Subsidy.
- Families are made aware of the risks of non immunisation on enrolment. Parents are given the most relevant and up to date information available should non-immunisation be identified.

Management must:

- Maintain a current record of vaccination status of all children. All information will be kept confidential.
- Provide current information on vaccine-preventable diseases to employees and parents.
- Plan and provide, periodic educational sessions on infectious diseases and immunisation for all employees.

Parent responsibilities:

- Maintain current immunisation status for their child.
- Provide proof of current immunisation status, including updating records as child’s status changes.
- Actively seek immunisations for all diseases currently on the vaccination schedule if not already immunised or unsure of status.
- Actively seek immunisations for all other recommended diseases, eg. Hep A & C, HIB and annual Flu (influenza) Vaccination.

Sources

- Staying Healthy in Child Care 6th Edition
- The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule can be accessed and downloaded from: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-schedule-portfolio>
- Queensland immunisation schedule: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/schedule>
- Local QLD Public Health information can be found at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/>
- Immunise Australia National Hotline: 1800 671 811
- Australian Government, Department of Human Services: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account>

Policy Review Record

| Date | Management Committee Name | Nominated Supervisors Name | Review Cycle | Next Review Date |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Oct 2024 | Elizabeth Maddock | Tamara Fallon | Every 2 years | Oct 2026 |