

Vaccination Is Not Compulsory

Childcare centres, service providers, and schools, are misleading parents over the issue of vaccinating their children. Also importantly, the government has been slow to rectify this misinformation.

Both vaccinating and non-vaccinating parents are 'equally' entitled to child care assistance, and fee relief. Vaccination exemptions; either medical, religious, conscientious or through natural immunity, are included in Maternity and Child Care Payment Acts 1997, and 1998.

School is compulsory, vaccination is NOT. In fact, it is normal and beneficial, for children to have these early childhood diseases. *"Suppressing measles fever and rash by vaccination leads to cancer and degenerative diseases of bone and cartilage"* Lancet September, 1985. It was also reported that a bout of Measles during childhood, may help to prevent asthma. Consequently, these early childhood diseases are there 'to prime and mature' the children's immune systems.

You are not bound to have your child vaccinated, for them to be eligible to attend school. A vaccination certificate may be demanded, but is not essential. You can present the blue book, and they may photocopy the relevant pages at the back.

If you choose not to vaccinate your child, then your doctor or Health Care nurse will fill in a simple form, at your request, which is called the 'Declaration of Exemption from Vaccination'. This form will advise Centrelink and Medicare about your decision not to vaccinate your child. Also that your doctor or nurse has discussed this issue with you the parent, or guardian. The form is available at http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/files/ma_conscientious_objection_form.pdf.

Alternately, you can lodge a Statutory Declaration form (available at newsagencies). On the form declare who you are, child's name and details, your decision NOT to vaccinate and Medicare number. Lodge or fax the Statutory Declaration form (signed by a Justice of Peace) to the Medicare Office Fax (03) 6281-0555 or post Medicare Australia, GPO Box 295, Hobart TAX 7001, or your nearest Medicare Office. This means that if your doctor or clinic nurse refuses to sign the form, or regardless you have another option, so that you can still receive all Centrelink Childcare and family entitlements.

Outbreaks of measles or whooping cough are of particular concern to the Health Department. There is one particular 'safeguard' that has been emplaced deliberately to try to enforce vaccination. Which is, if there is a confirmed report of either disease at a school or childcare facility, then there maybe a two week (or more) exclusion period imposed, from school, for any unvaccinated child.

But Note. The Health Department ONLY, and not the school, can enforce this rule. In some cases the initial diagnoses has been wrong, with children being removed from school unnecessarily. Pathology testing is required to enforce this exclusion.

The government blue book lists very little information, and excludes details about the individual vaccines. This important information can be sourced from www.visainfo.org.au or you can find this information in the MIMS book (accessible at doctors and pharmacies).

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