

4.19 Childhood Immunisation Policy

Policy Statement

The service acknowledges their obligation under the Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011, in ensuring that children are free from risk of harm. This extends to limiting exposure to health and safety risks that may arise from the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. Upon enrolment, the service requires parents/guardians to provide their child's immunisation history statement, in order to determine if enrolment and subsequent attendance will be accepted in accordance with the Public Health Act 2005.

Procedures

Information will be provided to families, through the service Family Handbook, about the potential impacts on their child's enrolment or attendance if their child's immunisation status is deemed not up to date (i.e. vulnerable children).

Risk Management procedures relating to monitoring and managing the spread of vaccine preventable diseases at the service include:

- Identifying vaccine preventable diseases
- Appropriate signage for families regarding infectious disease outbreak
- Exclusion of non-immunised staff & children for period in accordance with NHMRC (National Health & Medical Research Council)

Vulnerable Children

For child/ren who do not have a current immunisation history statement on file, their immunisation status will be considered 'not up to date', until such time as the correct immunisation documentation is provided.

If the parent/guardian does not provide the child's immunisation history statement within the reasonable timeframe allowed, the child's enrolment may be:

- Declined or cancelled

Medical Contraindication/& Exemption

Enrolment and/or attendance for a child cannot be refused on the basis of their immunisation status if they have a medical contraindication to some or all scheduled vaccines. Whilst not technically vaccinated, these children are still classified as having an 'up-to-date' immunisation status and this should be indicated on their immunisation history statement.

Conscientious Objection

Children of families who have recorded a conscientious objection to vaccination through the 'Australian Childhood Immunisation Register' will have their immunisation status registered as 'not up-to-date'. Acceptance or refusal of enrolment will be as per the procedures of this policy relating to vulnerable children.

References

- Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011
- Public Health Act 2005 (QLD)
- A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999
- Duty of Care
- NQS Area: 1.1.5; 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.3.2; 4.2.1; 6.1.1, 6.1.3; 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.3.5.
- Policies: 4.2 – Infectious Diseases, 4.4 – Preventative Health and Wellbeing, 4.14 – Infectious Diseases Response Strategy, 9.2 – Enrolment, 9.3 – Communication with Families, 10.8 – Information Handling (Privacy and Confidentiality), 10.9 – Risk Management and Compliance.

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