



Immunisation Alliance WA

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PRESS RELEASE

-----For Immediate Release-----

Parents urged to check kids are immunised for back to school

Parents are being urged to make sure their children are fully immunised against harmful diseases as they prepare for the start of the school year.

The Immunisation Alliance of Western Australia today reminded parents of the importance of children being protected against vaccine preventable diseases.

Immunisation Alliance of WA Chairperson Tracy Armson-Cull said it was particularly important for children to be immunised prior to starting school where they would be interacting with a larger group of people.

"When children reach school age they interact with a much larger group of people, potentially increasing their risk of coming into contact with harmful diseases," Ms Armson-Cull said.

"Vaccinations can prevent many serious illnesses so it is essential to make sure children are fully vaccinated once they start school."

The most recent data from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Registry indicates that for five-year-old children in WA, one in seven has not received all the immunisations they need.

"Most commonly a child's four-year-old vaccinations are forgotten or delayed but the four-year-old booster vaccinations are very important," Ms Armson-Cull said.

"The four-year-old vaccinations complete the childhood immunisation schedule and ensure children are fully protected against serious diseases like whooping cough, measles and tetanus."

Ms Armson-Cull said that for parents, keeping track of their child's immunisations over the years could seem daunting but the information is actually easy to obtain.

"Parents can request their child's immunisation history statement over the phone by calling Medicare or by visiting their local Medicare office," she said. "Medicare Australia provides more than one million immunisation history statements to Australian families every year.

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“Parents who are unsure about their child’s immunisation history can also discuss this with their general practitioner.”

Parents can call Medicare on 1800 653 809 or register for Medicare Australia’s online services to access their child’s immunisation history statement online: www1.hic.gov.au/general/acircirghome

Ms Armson-Cull said that immunisation was an important part of keeping kids healthy.

“When a child gets ill it not only impacts on their health, it is also very disruptive to their learning and development,” she said.

“We want to make sure all children stay healthy and happy, and can enjoy a safe and productive time at school.”

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Editor’s Notes

For further information contact Tracy Armson-Cull of the AIWA on 0409 635 067.

Background

The Immunisation Alliance of WA is made up of a number of voluntary representatives of community associations and bodies, with its purpose being to assist in protecting the community from vaccine preventable disease by facilitating the spread of reliable information on vaccines and their benefits.