



# WAHROONGA PRE-SCHOOL

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## NO JAB NO PLAY POLICY

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Mandatory – Quality Area 2

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### 1. VALUES

Wahroonga Pre-School believes

- that the benefits of immunisation are overwhelming, preventing death and disability, particularly amongst young children, and protecting not only the individual but others in the community who cannot be vaccinated.
- that the Public health risks of failing to vaccinate are so great, which is why the Government is committed to implementing the 'No Jab, No Play' law to boost immunisation rates in the community.
- the 'No Jab, No Play' law aims to improve vaccination rates and reduce the prevalence and spread of disease.

#### 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the children attending the programs and activities of Wahroonga Pre-School.

#### 3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

##### Background

Vaccination is one of the most effective interventions to prevent disease worldwide. Modern vaccines provide high levels of protection against an increasing number of diseases which, in some cases, can be fatal. Worldwide, it is estimated that immunisation programs prevent approximately 2.5 million deaths each year.

In November 2018, Victorian kids are now better protected against vaccine-preventable diseases, with Victoria hitting the ambitious herd immunity target of 95 per cent – its best immunisation coverage in history. The Australian Immunisation Register show that 95.7 per cent of five-year-olds in Victoria are now fully immunised.

Immunisation not only protects those people who have been vaccinated, it also protects those in our community who may be unable to receive vaccines themselves, by reducing the prevalence and spread of disease.

The No Jab No Play legislation, introduced in 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 requires all children to be fully vaccinated to be enrolled in childcare or kindergarten in Victoria.

##### Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *The Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th Edition (updated June 2015), 2015, Department of Health, Australian Government.*
- *Immunisation schedule Victoria – June 2015, 2013, Department of Health & Human Services, Victorian Government.*
- *National Immunisation Program Schedule (from 20 April, 2015), 2013, Department of Health, Australian Government.*
- *Vaccine side effects, 2013, Department of Health & Human Services, Victorian Government*
- *Pre-immunisation checklist – what to tell your doctor or nurse before immunisation, 2015, Department of Health & Human Services, Victorian Government.*

#### **4. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES**

- Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) can provide an Immunisation History Statement. Ph 1800 653 809. [air@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:air@humanservices.gov.au).
- The Better Health Channel website: [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) has a health service locator that can assist Victorians to find their nearest Immunisation provider
- Commonwealth Department of Human Services website provides an Immunisation Medical Exempt Form <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/spw/health-professionals/forms>
- VaxOnTime - Download the app, available for Apple, Android and Windows smart phones. With the app, you can receive reminder notifications leading up to when your child is due for their vaccinations, search for a local immunisation provider, call and make an appointment for vaccinations or find out when immunisation sessions are being run by your local council, and add an appointment to your device's calendar.
- Victoria State Government Health and Human Services – all related information.

#### **PROCEDURES**

##### **The Approved Provider is responsible for:**

- ensuring that, to confirm enrolment, evidence is obtained from the parent/carers that their child is :
  - ✓ Fully immunised for their age; OR
  - ✓ On a vaccination catch-up program; OR
  - ✓ Has a medical condition preventing them from being fully vaccinated; before enrolling a child.
- an immunisation status certificate is a statement showing the vaccines a child has received. The only acceptable evidence of immunisation is an Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement, which will be kept on file with the child's enrolment record.
- Immunisation History Statements can be obtained from:
  - ✓ Parents/carers myGov account
  - ✓ Express Plus Medicare mobile app
  - ✓ call the AIR on phone 1800 653 809
  - ✓ visit a Medicare or Centrelink office
- ensuring that, after enrolment, immunisation evidence are requested from parents/carers twice per year, with an interval of no greater than seven months

**If a child's vaccinations are not up-to-date** the parents/carers should consult their doctor or immunisation nurse about bringing the child's vaccinations up to date.

**If a child has missed the last due vaccine** their doctor or immunisation nurse needs to give the overdue vaccine and inform the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). The parent/carer then needs to request an updated Immunisation History Statement.

**If a child has missed all or several vaccines** their doctor or immunisation nurse needs to develop an approved vaccination catch-up schedule. The child has to start the catch-up schedule and be on track with their vaccinations according to that schedule. They do not need to have completed the schedule before enrolment could be confirmed.

**Vulnerable and disadvantaged children** will be eligible to enrol in a service under a grace period, without having provided proof of up to date immunisation. These children include:

- Children evacuated from their place of residence due to an emergency such as a flood or bushfire;
- Children in emergency care within the meaning of section 3(1) of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005
- Children in the care of an adult who are not the child's parent due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or incapacity
- Children identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Children from a multiple birth of triplets or more
- Any other circumstance specified in the guidelines made by the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services

**The grace period** is for 16 weeks commencing from the date of that child's first attendance at the service. In this time, the approved provider must take reasonable steps to obtain the required immunisation documentation. The parents/carers should endeavour to have their child vaccinated if required, and /or obtain the necessary documentation and provide it to the service.

**Children who were vaccinated overseas** must have their vaccine records assessed and be offered vaccination as required. Record overseas vaccines to AIR by submitting the AIR Immunisation History form. The AIR updates the child's records and the parents can request from AIR an Immunisation History Statement that indicates the due date for future vaccinations if required. This statement can be provided to the service as proof of immunisation status for the purposes of enrolment.

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

**'Homeopathic immunisation'** is not a recognised form of immunisation. For more information view the Homeopathy and Vaccination fact sheet produced by the National Centre for Immunisation Research.

If parents/carers have questions or concerns about immunisation or particular vaccines, they should seek answers from a qualified source, such as a GP or immunisation nurse. The Better Health Channel also provides quality-assured information online.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil

## AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Wairoonga Pre-School on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

**REVIEW DATE: AUGUST 2019**

**NEXT REVIEW DATE: AUGUST 2022**