

Ballina River Street Children’s Centre

Immunisation Policy

When groups of children are together, illness and disease can spread rapidly. Diseases such as measles and whooping cough can have serious health consequences for children, especially young children. Staff members who work in a childcare setting are also at increased risk of certain infectious illnesses.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety		
2.1	Health	Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to manage and prevent the spread of infectious illnesses and diseases. Our Service(BRSCC) has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families and educators are provided with a high level of protection during the hours of the services operation. This includes notifying children, families and educators when an excludable illness or disease is present in the service(BRSCC); maintaining a record of children’s and educators’ immunisation status; complying to relevant health department exclusion guidelines; and Increasing educators’ awareness of cross infection through physical contact with others.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, teachers, educators, staff, management and visitors of the Service(BRSCC).

IMPLEMENTATION

Immunisation is a reliable way to prevent some infections. Immunisation works by giving a person a vaccine—often a dead or modified version of the germ—against a particular disease. This makes the person’s immune system respond in a similar way to how it would respond if they actually had the disease, but with less severe symptoms. If the person comes in contact with that germ in the future, their immune system can rapidly respond and prevent the person becoming ill.

Immunisation also protects other people who are not immunised, such as children who are too young to be immunised, or people whose immune systems did not respond to the vaccine. This is because the more people who are immunised against a disease, the lower the chance that a person will ever come into contact with someone who has the disease. The chance of an infection spreading in a community therefore decreases if a large proportion of people are immunised, because the immune people will not become infected and can protect the vulnerable people; this is known as ‘herd immunity’

As of January 2016, new immunisation requirements came into force affecting childcare benefits and family assistance payments (the Commonwealth) and the enrolment of children in child care (in NSW). The Commonwealth has made changes under the ‘No Jab, No Pay’ measure to increase childhood vaccination rates causing families to no longer be eligible for child care benefits and family assistance payments with exceptions for children recorded with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases and those on a recognised catch-up schedule.


From 1 January 2018 children who are unvaccinated due to their parent’s conscientious objection will no longer be able to be enrolled in childcare in NSW. Children who cannot be fully vaccinated due to a medical condition or who are on a recognised catch-up schedule will still be able to be enrolled upon presentation of the appropriate form signed by a medical practitioner.

Management/Nominated Supervisor will

- The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE
- Review children’s immunisation regularly, updating the child’s records kept at the service, and sending remainder letters and emails for families
- Not enrol a child into the Service unless approved documentation has been provided that confirms the child is fully immunised for their age or has a medical reason not be immunised.
- Regularly update staff immunisation records as staff become vaccinated
- Provide staff with information about vaccine-preventable diseases
- Take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated.
- Notify families when an outbreak of an immunise-able disease occurs
- Exclude any child who is not immunised from the Service if and when an outbreak of an immunise-able infectious disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection. In the instance of the child being immunised and the Immunisation record not provided to the Service – the child would be viewed as not being immunised.
- Advise any staff members who fall pregnant to visit their GP immediately and have a test for Cytomegalovirus (CMV) to check their immunity. Any pregnant staff member who is at a heightened risk will not change nappies and will double glove when coming into contact with any body fluids, especially saliva.

Families will

- Provide the Service with a copy of one or more of the following documents:
 - An AIR Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations; or
 - An AIR Immunisation History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule; or
 - An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP
- Provide the service with an updated copy of their child's current immunisation record, when changes occur.

 The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) used to be the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. It now records vaccines for people of all ages in Australia.

Jurisdiction specifications for NSW

New South Wales (NSW)

- The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule **TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE SERVICE** can be accessed and downloaded from:
<http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule>
- NSW Health Phone number 1800 671 811
- **Local NSW Public Health Unit Contact Details** - <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/default.aspx>
- Immunise Australia National Hotline
1800 671 811

Note homeopathic immunisation is not recognised

Source

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015.
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- NSW Public Health Act- NSW Government October 2017
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx#15
- Staying Healthy in Child Care. 5th Edition
- Australia Childhood Immunisation Register
<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register>
Revised National Quality Standard
- Immunise Australia Program
www.immunise.health.gov.au
- Child Care Centre Desktop Policies – www.childcarecentredesktop.com.au

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
December, 2017	Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standards	
December 2017	Changes to policy format & updated to comply with new vaccination regulations in NSW. Effective January 1, 2018	March 2018