



## Factsheet for Families

### Immunisation and child care

Immunisation is generally thought to be the best way of reducing the likelihood of children being infected by serious diseases such as whooping cough, hepatitis and polio. It is not compulsory for you to immunise your child for them to attend child care, but your service should provide you with current information about immunisation. They should also keep a record of your child's immunisation status, and have a procedure for managing the outbreak of a disease listed on the current childhood immunisation schedule. If you have chosen not to immunise your child you should not be made to feel that you are being judged negatively for your decision by the educators at your service.

#### How can your service help you with your child's immunisation?

The educators at your child care service should give you information about the currently recommended immunisation schedule for children provided by Immunise Australia. They may provide you with this information in one or more ways, such as:

- In an information pack when you first enrol your child in care
- Via the service's newsletter or in letters sent home
- Through the parent library
- In the service's handbook for families
- On a noticeboard.

If you are having trouble finding information about immunisation it is helpful to speak with the educators in your service. You can also visit the Immunise Australia Program website: [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au)

#### What if you choose not to immunise your child?

It is your decision whether or not to have your child immunised. Each family will need to weigh up the possible risks associated with immunisation against the potential risk of their child coming into contact with a serious infectious disease.

It is important to remember that children are more likely to come into contact with infectious diseases when they are in child care due to the close contact they have with many other children and adults. This will be an important consideration for you when deciding whether or not to immunise your child.

If you have chosen not to have your child immunised, you will need to plan for what you will do in the event that you need to keep your child home from care due to the outbreak of an immunisable disease. This will be particularly important if you are using child care to meet work or study commitments.

#### What information do you need to give your service?

To help protect your child's health and safety, as well as that of other children and adults, your service will need to keep a record of your child's immunisation. They may do this by taking a photocopy of your child's immunisation record or by regularly updating a checklist of your child's immunisation.

If you have chosen not to immunise your child, your service will need to be aware of this in case there is an outbreak of an immunisable disease. If this happens your service will be legally required to exclude any children who are not fully immunised, even if they appear to be well.

To find out about our service's immunisation policy and procedures please speak to:

or telephone: