

Immunisation and enrolling in early childhood education and care services

### Information for immunisation providers

## About required documentation

### **No Jab, No Play**

In an effort to improve childhood immunisation rates, the Victorian Government introduced the ‘No Jab, No Play’ legislation on 1 January 2016. Under this legislation, before enrolling a child, early childhood services must obtain evidence that the child is up to date with immunisations for their age.

An [Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/what-immunisation-history-statement?context=22436) <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/what-immunisation-history-statement?context=22436> is the only acceptable form of documentation for the purposes of enrolling a child in an early childhood education and care service.

After enrolment, parents/carers need to continue to supply up to date Immunisation History Statements to their child’s early childhood education and care service whenever their child receives an immunisation while attending the service.

To have an enrolment confirmed for a child in long day care, kindergarten, family day care or occasional care (early childhood education and care services), parents/carers must provide the service with:

* a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR); AND
* the statement must show that the child is up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, OR
* that there is a valid [immunisation medical exemption](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/im011) <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/im011> as listed in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases) and [Services Australia](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/immunisation-medical-exemptions-for-health-professionals?context=23401) <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases>.

The Immunisation History Statement from the AIR lists the vaccines the child has received and, if applicable, vaccines due in the future and/or immunisation medical exemptions to specific vaccines.

An Immunisation History Statement from the AIR is the only type of immunisation record accepted by early childhood education and care services. The statement must be provided by the AIR within the two months prior to the child starting at the service to confirm enrolment.

## The role of immunisation providers

#### Immunisation providers are required to:

**Immunise according to the National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule**

This may include developing a vaccine catch-up plan for children who are not up to date and administer overdue vaccines. Use the Australian Immunisation Handbook [Catch-up Calculator](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/catch-up-calculator/calculator) <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/catch-up-calculator/calculator> to plan vaccine catch-up for pre-school aged children. Additional information about planning catch-up schedules can be found at the Victorian Department of Health’s [Catch-up vaccination](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/catch-up-vaccination) webpage <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/catch-up-vaccination>.

More information about childhood immunisation can be found at [[Vaccination of infants and children](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/vaccination-for-infants-and-children)](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/vaccination-for-infants-and-children) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/vaccination-for-infants-and-children>.

**National Immunisation Program eligibility**

All vaccines listed on the [NIP](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule) Schedule <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule> are free.

Eligibility for free vaccines under the NIP is linked to [eligibility for Medicare benefits](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/enrolling-medicare?context=60092) <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/enrolling-medicare?context=60092>.

**Provide prompt and accurate information to the AIR**

Immunisation providers should take care to ensure that information they provide to the AIR is reported correctly and promptly. This may include reviewing and transcribing overseas immunisation records to the AIR in a timely manner.

Delays or inaccuracies in the information provided to the AIR by immunisation providers could result in parents/carers having problems when enrolling a child in an early childhood education and care service.

**Provide a copy of the AIR statement if necessary**

Providers can print Immunisation History Statements from the AIR and provide this directly to the attending family member/s or carer if required.

Providers can access the AIR [using PRODA or HPOS](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/enablers/accessing-air-using-hpos) <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/enablers/accessing-air-using-hpos> – the Australian Government’s online portal for health professionals.

This can assist parents/carers, particularly those who don’t hold a Medicare card, to access early childhood education and care services sooner, by avoiding the delay for the family of waiting for the Immunisation History Statement to arrive by post.

**Support parents/carers with serious concerns about vaccine safety**

All immunisation providers play an important role in ensuring parents/carers are provided with accurate and reputable information about vaccine safety.

Support parents/carers with serious concerns about vaccine safety by referring them to reputable information, including SAEFVIC (Surveillance of Adverse Events Following Vaccination in the Community) who can help immunisation providers and parents/carers with concerns about vaccine safety – [www.saefvic.org.au](http://www.saefvic.org.au) or phone 1300 882 924, option one. Telehealth is also available with this service.

Other useful resources include:

[The science of immunisation](https://www.science.org.au/education/immunisation-climate-change-genetic-modification/science-immunisation) <https://www.science.org.au/learning/general-audience/science-booklets/science-immunisation>

[Better Health Channel Immunisation](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/healthyliving/immunisation) <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/healthyliving/immunisation>

[Frequently asked questions about childhood vaccinations, Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation](https://skai.org.au/childhood) <https://skai.org.au/childhood>

## Immunisation medical exemption

In order to claim immunisation medical exemption from one or more immunisations for the purpose of enrolling into early childhood education and care services, parents/carers will have to provide a current Immunisation History Statement from the AIR which states that the child has an immunisation medical exemption due to a medical contraindication or natural immunity to one or more vaccines.

The GP involved in the individual patient's care must complete an AIR [immunisation medical exemption form](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/forms/im011) <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/im011> based on a case-by-case assessment of a child's medical history.

## Overseas immunisation records

Children who were vaccinated overseas must have their vaccine records assessed and be offered catch-up vaccination as required.

Report overseas vaccines to the AIR promptly and accurately via [HPOS](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/enablers/accessing-air-using-hpos) <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/enablers/accessing-air-using-hpos> or by submitting the [AIR Immunisation History form](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/forms/im013) <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/forms/im013>.

**Non-Medicare card holders:**

For non-Medicare card holders, providers using HPOS can print up to date Immunisation History Statements from the AIR and provide them directly to the attending family member/s if required.

## About the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation

**What is the objective of the ‘No Jab, No Play’ legislation?**

The purpose of the No Jab, No Play legislation is to increase immunisation rates for young children in the community. The legislation is designed to:

* provide a prompt regarding immunisation for parents/carers enrolling their child in early childhood education and care services
* allow for children of families experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage to be able to access the lifelong benefits of early childhood education and care, while being supported to obtain vaccinations and/or required evidence of vaccination.

**What immunisations are required for children at early childhood education and care services?**

Under the ‘No Jab, No Play’ legislation, children are required to be up to date with immunisations for their age to enrol in early childhood education and care services.

The [NIP schedule](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule) <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule> outlines the vaccines available and when they should be received.

The No Jab No Play legislation applies to all children, including those who are not eligible for Medicare.

**Who does the ‘No Jab, No Play’ legislation impact?**

The legislation applies to all early childhood education and care services[[1]](#endnote-2) in Victoria providing:

* long day care
* kindergarten (including 3 and 4 year old kindergarten)
* occasional care
* family day care.

The legislation does not apply to:

* enrolment in primary or secondary school (however, please note an Immunisation History Statement from the AIR does need to be provided for enrolling in primary school, however there is currently no requirement for the statement to show the child is up to date with all immunisations)
* children attending an outside school hours care service (after school care, before school care, vacation care)
* enrolments of school children in long day care, family day care or occasional care
* casual occasional care services that offer care of no more than two hours per day and no more than six hours per week (for example, crèches at gyms and shopping centres)
* services primarily providing instruction on particular activities (for example, sport, dance or music)
* services primarily provided or shared by family members of the children (and a family member is readily available and retains responsibility for the child).

## More information

**Requesting an Immunisation History Statement**

Printed copies of an Immunisation History Statement are available via the individuals [myGov account](https://my.gov.au/LoginServices/main/login?execution=e1s1) https://my.gov.au/LoginServices/main/login?execution=e1s1> or the Express Plus Medicare app. If there is any difficulty obtaining a copy via the myGov account or the app, individuals can also:

* + call the AIR on 1800 653 809 (allow up to two weeks for delivery by post)
	+ visit a Medicare or Centrelink office
	+ ask their immunisation provider to print an Immunisation History Statement

A Translating and Interpreting Service is available by calling 131 450, Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:45pm.

**Access this factsheet online**

[Resources for immunisation providers](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/resources-for-immunisation-providers) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/resources-for-immunisation-providers>

**View the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation**

View the No Jab, No Play legislation online at [Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Act 2015](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/public-health-and-wellbeing-amendment-no-jab-no-play-act-2015) <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/public-health-and-wellbeing-amendment-no-jab-no-play-act-2015>.

To receive this publication in an accessible format, phone 1300 882 008, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email immunisation@health.vic.gov.au

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Available at Resources for ‘[No Jab, No Play’](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/resources-for-no-jab-no-play) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/resources-for-no-jab-no-play>

1. approved under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and licensed under the *Children’s Services Act 1996* [↑](#endnote-ref-2)