



No Jab No Pay

From 1 January 2016, there will be changes to the immunisation requirements for Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR).

What are the changes?

- CCB and CCR payments have been conditional on children up to the age of 7 meeting current immunisation requirements. From 1 January 2016, this requirement will be extended to apply to all children up to 20 years of age.
- Children will no longer be exempt from meeting the requirements for CCB and CCR payments if their parents have registered an objection to vaccination on the basis of personal or philosophical beliefs.
- A child must be fully immunised, on a catch-up immunisation schedule or have a valid exemption at the time a parent *makes their very first claim* for CCB.
- Previously, if parents met the other eligibility criteria, their CCB claim would be approved and they would have a 63 day 'grace period' for their child to meet the immunisation requirements. From 1 January 2016 the claim will *not* be approved if the immunisation requirements are not met.

What stays the same?

- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity which are certified in writing by a General Practitioner will still be exempt from the immunisation requirements.
- Parents still have the right to choose not to vaccinate their child.
- Child care service providers can still set their own policies around whether or not they provide care to unimmunised children (in accordance with their state or territory requirements).
- If child care service providers or state/territory laws allow it, parents who are not eligible for child care payments can still use child care and pay the full fee.
- If a family is already eligible for CCB and the child misses a scheduled vaccination, the family receives a letter from Centrelink advising the vaccination is overdue. The family still has 63 days to catch up their vaccinations and become up-to-date again.

What should I tell my families?

Families will be informed by Centrelink that their child/children do not meet the immunisation requirements for family assistance payments, and will be encouraged to speak with their immunisation provider about updating their vaccination records or commencing an appropriate immunisation catch-up schedule.

Funding for catch-up arrangements falls into two categories:

1. Free catch up for children under 10 years of age
2. Free catch up for young persons aged 10 to 19 years of families who currently receive family assistance payments (time-limited: 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017)

For more details, go to www.immunise.health.gov.au

Where can Child Care Services find more information?

Child Care Services can contact the Child Care Management System (CCMS) Helpdesk on **1300 667 276**.

CCMS Helpdesk operators are available to take your calls from 9am to 5:30pm AEST/AEDT Monday to Friday. Please note the CCMS Helpdesk is only available to provide assistance to services.

Where can families find more information?

If parents require more information they should not call the CCMS Helpdesk - this Helpdesk is for child care services and the operators will not have information which is specifically relevant to parents.

Instead, parents should contact the Department of Human Services' families line on **136 150**.

They can also find useful information from the following Australian Government departments:

[Department of Health](#) for information about:

- The [immunisation catch-up arrangements](#)
- The most recent National Immunisation Program for free vaccines available to children up to 10 years

[Department of Human Services](#) for information about:

- The importance of immunisation
- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR)
- How a family can check their child immunisation schedule

[The Department of Social Services](#) for information about:

- Family Tax Benefit and eligibility
- Immunisation changes