



Strengthening immunisation requirements

Fact sheet

12 April 2015

What was announced?

The Government is strengthening the immunisation requirements already in place for Child Care Benefit (CCB), Child Care Rebate (CCR) and the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A end of year supplement.

From 1 January 2016, no vaccination objections will be accepted in order to receive the FTB Part A end of year supplement and child care subsidies (subject to the passage of legislation).

'Conscientious objection' will be removed as an exemption category and children who are not immunised and do not have a valid exemption (except for babies under 12 months for the FTB Part A supplement) will not be able to receive these payments.

What will change?

Payment	Current Arrangements	Proposed Arrangements
Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vaccine objectors are considered to meet immunisation requirements.Immunisation requirements apply to all children up to age of 7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vaccine objectors are not considered to meet immunisation requirements.Immunisation requirements apply to children of all ages except those under 12 months (based on early childhood immunisation status).
Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vaccine objectors are considered to meet immunisation requirements.Immunisation requirements apply to 1, 2 and 5 year olds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vaccine objectors are not considered to meet immunisation requirements.Immunisation requirements apply to children of all ages except those under 12 months (based on early childhood immunisation status).

Stronger immunisation requirements to help improve immunisation rates for Australian children

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting children against harmful diseases that can cause serious health problems and sometimes death.

The health of children is paramount and the aim is to increase immunisation rates in the community. The choice not to vaccinate on the grounds of conscientious objection is neither supported by public health policy or medical research.

This is a public health issue and the government has determined that whilst parents have the right to decide to not vaccinate their children, if they are doing so as a vaccination objector, their decision will mean they are no longer eligible for assistance in the form of Child Care Benefit (CCB), Child Care Rebate (CCR) or the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A end of year supplement.

Key facts

- Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate and the Family Tax Benefit end of year supplement are currently conditional on meeting the immunisation requirement for children of all ages (except children under 12 months for FTB Part A).
- From 1 January 2016, people who do not meet immunisation requirements will no longer be exempt for these payments.
- The immunisation requirement doesn't apply for fortnightly FTB Part A payments, only the supplement paid at the end of the income year.
- Families will still be able to receive an exemption for approved medical reasons.

For more information on child care assistance and family payments, visit www.humanservices.gov.au/families

If you speak a language other than English, please call the Centrelink **multilingual phone service** and speak to someone in your language about child care and family payments. Call **131 202** and follow the prompts. Centrelink support is available 8:00am – 5:00pm (local time), Monday to Friday.

For more information about childhood immunisation in Australia, go to www.immunise.health.gov.au