

The **Adelaide PHN** has liaised and **positively supported immunisation providers** and the community to **overcome the unintended impacts** and consequences presented with the **No Jab No Pay policy**.

Author: Angela Newbound  
Immunisation Project Coordinator

## THE CHALLENGES

With the introduction of the No Jab No Pay policy occurring simultaneously with the expansion of the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) a number of unintended consequences have been experienced by both immunisation providers and the wider community.

**Providers face a complex system and an increased workload resulting in adverse staffing and financial repercussions.**

Limited lead-up time to the introduction of the policy meant key organisations such as the Primary Health Networks and State Health Departments had restricted opportunity

to provide the education and training necessary to prepare providers to better manage complex immunisation catch-ups and the uploading of extensive immunisation histories.

**Parents of children less than 20 years of age are now struggling to**

- **understand** how the system works
- **retrieve** overseas vaccine histories
- have vaccine records **translated**, and
- **locate** immunisation records for older children.

The lack of education, fear of financial deprivation and insufficient understanding of the system have resulted in a confused, exasperated and, at times, antagonistic community.

Inaccurate immunisation records, due to errors made when submitting ACIR data and systemic imperfections generated by the ACIR expansion, have resulted in many fully vaccinated children recorded as 'not fully immunised'.



## APHN'S ACTIONS

To help both providers and community members better negotiate the No Jab No Pay structure, Adelaide PHN has conducted a range of educational and supportive activities.

These include;

- Working closely with the Department of Health to **support Newly Arrived Refugee Immunisation (NARI) Program** providers to **upload immunisation records for children aged 7-12 years**
- Designing a best practice Flow Chart to **help providers manage individual cases**



- Running **information messages on the multicultural community radio station** in numerous languages



- **Ensuring Multicultural Officers** from the Department of Education **are better informed**

- **Delivering face to face education** and as a **Webinar for rural providers**



- **Conducting a survey of GPs** to understand the situation they face

- Attending Multicultural Forums with Department of Human Services to dispense information

- **Talking with various community-based women's groups**



- Assisting providers to obtain secure access to ACIR

- Being a resource to **assist individual providers and community members**

- **Keeping providers informed of issues and available tools** through the Immunisation Provider Network (IPN) and newsletter articles



## WHAT CAN PROVIDERS DO?

**Ensure vaccine records on ACIR are accurate.** Ask parent if child has been vaccinated by another provider.

If necessary, upload any documented immunisation history the parent or past provider can produce.

**If child is not fully immunised: Children under 10**

Follow catch-up guidelines for childhood program: [immunisationcalculator.sahealth.sa.gov.au/ImmuCalculator.aspx](http://immunisationcalculator.sahealth.sa.gov.au/ImmuCalculator.aspx)



**Children over 10**

1) Check school immunisation program history (parents can access this through the provider attending child's school).

2) Count dTpa given in school program as valid dose to complete a childhood schedule.

3) Follow the catch-up guidelines set out in the "No Jab No Pay Immunisation Requirements" Fact Sheet on the Immunise Australia website.



**NEVER RE-START A SCHEDULE WHERE DOCUMENTATION CONFIRMS ONE HAS ALREADY COMMENCED.**



**ADVISE ALL PARENTS TO ENSURE THE CHILD'S MEDICARE CARD IS REGISTERED WITH CENTRELINK.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Angela Newbound on (08) 8219 5900 or 0421 168 367, or visit the Adelaide PHN website for more material: [adelaidephn.com.au/](http://adelaidephn.com.au/)

