

# IMMUNISATION POLICY



## POLICY OBJECTIVE AND RATIONALE:

The objective of this policy is to:

- Educate and promote the benefits of immunisation to RECC families and staff, while also respecting parents' decision to not immunise their child/ren
- To inform parents of their obligation to provide up to date immunisation records to RECC
- Ensure that ACT Health guidelines regarding immunisation are followed by RECC families and staff
- Ensure that the immunisation status is noted in the enrolment record of each child at the Centre, in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 under the Education and Care Services National Law (ACT) Act 2011 [Regulation 162(f)].

## STRATEGIES:

- Only children whose immunisation status complies with ACT Health requirements will be enrolled to attend the Centre unless there is a valid reason for non-immunisation.
  - Valid reasons for non-immunisation require submission of either a 'medical contraindication' form or a 'conscientious objection' form to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.
- The Centre will maintain a record of the immunisation status for each enrolled child as required by Regulation 162(f) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 under the Education and Care Services National Law (ACT) Act 2011, and will make available to parents information on the requirements for immunisation and exclusion, for example through posters, pamphlets and email.
- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide the Centre with current information about the immunisation status of their child/ren.
- In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease (e.g. chicken pox, whooping cough, measles) at the Centre, children who have not been immunised against the disease, or whose immunisation status regarding the disease is not up to date, **will be** excluded from the Centre for the duration of the outbreak or until evidence of immunisation is provided (i.e. ACT 'blue book' or Australian Childhood Immunisation Register).

## Immunisation Policy

- Staff will be provided with current information on recommended immunisations for child care workers as outlined in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*. The Centre will encourage staff to be vaccinated by paying for the vaccine as per the Centre's Enterprise Agreement. However, staff members will need to pay for the doctor's visit.
- The Centre will maintain a record of the immunisation status of each staff member. Staff are required to inform the Director of immunisation updates as they occur in order to keep these records current.

### **RELATED POLICIES:**

Hygiene Policy

Illness Policy

Work Health and Safety Policy

### **SOURCES:**

ACT Health – ACT Immunisation Requirements for entry into school, preschool and childcare 2010: Parents Guide ([www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au))

Australian Childhood Immunisation Register ([www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au))

Education and Care Services National Law (ACT) Act 2011

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Health and Medical Research Council – The Australian Immunisation Handbook, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition ([www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)).