

POLICY – IMMUNISATION

1.	National Quality Standards	1
2.	Purpose	1
3.	Scope.....	1
4.	Policy Statement.....	1
5.	Implementation	2
6.	Feedback	3
7.	Approval and Review Details	3
	Appendix 1 Education and Care Services National Regulations.....	4
	Appendix 2 Information to be displayed at the Service.....	4
	Appendix 3 - Source	5

1. National Quality Standards

Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety		
Area	Concept	Descriptor
2.1	Health	Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

Appendix 1 includes the Education and Care Services National Regulations

2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide information about the role of immunisation in preventing the spread of infectious illness and disease. Baringa Early Learning Centre (Baringa) has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families, staff, and educators are protected as much as possible from infectious diseases whilst at the Service. Along with maintaining a clean and hygienic environment and implementing the *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy*, this includes maintaining a record of children’s and educators’ immunisation status.

3. Scope

3.1 This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors of Baringa.

4. Policy Statement

4.1 Evidence suggests that children who attend Early Learning Centres are at increased risk of catching and transmitting infectious diseases. Medical immunisation is recommended and preferred for all children who

are cared for at Baringa, however, it is not a requirement of participation in care. This scheme caters for a mix of children, including children who are medically immunised and children who are not immunised. Staff and educators at Baringa are encouraged to maintain all recommended vaccinations for adults, as well as vaccinations which are recommended because of increased risk of exposure in the workplace.

5. Implementation

5.1 Management/Nominated Supervisor will:

- (a) Ensure information about immunisation, infectious diseases and exclusion periods is available to families at time of enrolment/orientation.
- (b) Advise parents and families about the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#).
- (c) Ensure that evidence is provided and placed on file for each child prior to enrolment that confirms:
 - (i) the child is fully immunised for their age; or
 - (ii) has a medical reason not be immunised (Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as evidence); or
 - (iii) the family has chosen not to immunise their child (see clause 5.1h).
- (d) Provide staff and families with information about vaccine-preventable diseases.
- (e) Display wall charts about childhood immunisation schedules
- (f) Review children's immunisation regularly, updating the child's records kept at Baringa, and send reminder letters and emails to families as required.
- (g) Require all new and current staff to complete the staff immunisation record to document previous infectious disease or immunisations (including dates). This will be maintained and updated as staff become vaccinated.
- (h) Under advice from the ACT Department of Health, exclude any child who is not immunised when an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs to protect that child and to prevent further spread of infection. In the instance of the child being immunised but the immunisation record has not been sighted by Baringa, the child will be considered as not being immunised.
- (i) Advise any staff members who fall pregnant to visit their GP immediately and have a test for Cytomegalovirus (CMV) to check their immunity. Any pregnant staff member who is at a heightened risk can request to not change nappies and will be encouraged to double glove when there is risk of coming into contact with any body fluids, including saliva.

5.2 Families will:

- a) provide Baringa with a copy of one or more of the following documents:
 - i. An Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement which shows that the child is 'up to date' with their scheduled vaccinations; or
 - ii. An AIR Immunisation History Form on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule; or
 - iii. An AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form which has been certified by a GP.
- b) Provide Baringa with an updated copy of their child's current immunisation record every 6 months, or when the next scheduled immunisation has been completed. A current AIR Immunisation History Statement can be accessed at any time by the parent/guardian through logging in to their Medicare online account: [myGov website](#).
- c) Support their child's exclusion from Baringa if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the Service or if they come into contact with a person with a vaccine preventable disease, even if there is no outbreak at Baringa.

6. Feedback

6.1 Families and staff may provide feedback about this document by emailing admin@baringa.org.au.

7. Approval and Review Details

Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority	Baringa Board
Administrator	Executive Officer
Next Review Date	31 October 2024

History	Details
Original Approval Authority and Date	November 2016
Amendment Authority and Date	31 October 2021

Appendix 1 Education and Care Services National Regulations

Education and Care Services National Regulations	
77	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
88	Meaning of a serious incident- any emergency for which emergency services attended
90	Emergency and evacuation procedures
162	Telephone or other communication equipment
99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
172(2)g)	First aid qualifications
Education and Care Services National Law	
174(2)(a)	Notification to the Regulatory Authority – (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service

Appendix 2 Information to be displayed at the Service

INFORMATION	WEBSITE/INFORMATION	PHONE NUMBER
The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Service	https://beta.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program	1800 020 103
Notification of an occurrence of an infectious disease/vaccine preventable disease	Notify local Public Health Unit Provide information to families about the infectious disease- Children unimmunised against vaccine preventable diseases must be excluded from care	1300 066 055
Australian Government Department of Health	In the event of a community spread virus- (COVID-19) publications from Government agencies will be displayed https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-campaign-resources	1800 020 080
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)		
<p>The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule can be accessed and downloaded from: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-schedule-portfolio</p> <p>Immunisation Program Australian Capital Territory Schedule can be accessed and downloaded from: http://www.health.act.gov.au/our-services/immunisation/babies-and-children</p> <p>Immunisation is available by appointments at Early Childhood Immunisation Clinics across the ACT Your General Practitioner or the nurses in the CYWH Program can provide you and your family with all the information and support you require about the current immunisation schedule. Clients can access this service by phoning Community Health Intake on (02) 5124 9977 between 8am and 5pm weekdays.</p> <p>Immunise Australia National Hotline: 1800 671 811</p> <p>Australian Government, Department of Human Services: https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account</p>		

Appendix 3 - Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australia Childhood Immunisation Register:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register>

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, (2020) *Child Care Subsidy immunisation requirements* <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/immunisation>

Australian Government – Department of Human Services: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/online-help/medicare/getting-your-immunisation-history-statement-using-your-medicare-online-account>

Australian Government Department Of Health National Immunise Program: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).

Federal Register of Legislation *Privacy Act 1988*.

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (amended 2020).

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*.

NSW Public Health Act- NSW Government October 2017:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx#15

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation. (2020). <http://talkingaboutimmunisation.org.au/>