



Australian Childhood Immunisation Register

What is the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register?

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (the Immunisation Register) is a national register that records details of vaccinations given to children under the age of seven who live in Australia.

Why is immunisation so important?

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting your child against harmful diseases that can cause serious complications and sometimes death. Immunisation will help your child stay healthy.

If your child hasn't been immunised or has missed a vaccination, it's easy to catch up—just ask your doctor or immunisation provider. Vaccinations can be given by your doctor, immunisation clinic and some hospitals.

How do I enrol my child on the Immunisation Register?

Children who are under seven years of age and enrolled in Medicare are automatically listed on the Immunisation Register. If your child isn't enrolled in Medicare, they will be added to the Immunisation Register once we receive their immunisation details from your doctor or immunisation provider.

How is the Immunisation Register updated?

Your doctor or immunisation provider sends information about your child's vaccinations to the Immunisation Register.

How will the Immunisation Register help me?

An immunisation history statement will be sent to you when your child turns 18 months and five years of age. You can also request one at any other time. The statement will tell you what immunisations are recorded on the Immunisation Register for your child, and any immunisations that are due.

You can use your child's immunisation history statement to meet immunisation requirements for school enrolment in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. Look out for a sentence at the bottom of your statement that says your child has received all vaccinations required by five years of age.

Your child's immunisation history statement will also help with eligibility for the Child Care Benefit and Maternity Immunisation Allowance. Make sure the statement shows an up-to-date immunisation status for the Family Assistance Office.

You can get a copy of your child's immunisation history statement any time:

- at **www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online**
- at your local Medicare office
- by calling **1800 653 809****.

Can my doctor or immunisation provider get a record of my child's immunisation history?

Yes—your doctor or immunisation provider can contact the Immunisation Register to check your child's immunisation history. This is useful if they haven't seen your child before because it will help them decide what vaccinations are due and when.

The Immunisation Register also helps health professionals track immunisation levels in Australia and monitor disease outbreaks.

Family Assistance Office payments and exemptions

Your child must be up-to-date with their immunisations, or have an exemption, for you to be eligible to receive the Child Care Benefit and the Maternity Immunisation Allowance from the Family Assistance Office. You can ask the Family Assistance Office to check your child's immunisation status on the Immunisation Register, or give them a copy of your child's immunisation history statement.

Can I get an exemption from immunisation for my child?

You can get an exemption from immunisation for your child if:

- your child cannot be immunised due to a medical condition—ask your doctor or immunisation provider to complete a Medical contraindication form
- your child has a natural immunity to a disease, or a vaccine is unavailable—ask your doctor or immunisation provider to give you a letter explaining the reasons
- you have a personal, philosophical, religious or medical belief that immunisation should not occur—ask your doctor or immunisation provider to complete a Conscientious objection form.

Forms are available from any Medicare office or your doctor. The *Medical contraindication* and *Conscientious objection* forms are also available to print at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Summary checklist

- ☑ Enrol your child/newborn baby in Medicare as soon as possible—this ensures they are on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.
- ☑ Get a copy of your child’s immunisation history statement from any Medicare office or at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

For more information

Online www.medicareaustralia.gov.au
www.immunise.health.gov.au

Email acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Call the Immunisation Register—**1800 653 809****
Department of Health and Ageing’s immunisation information line—**1800 671 811****

TTY **1800 552 152**** (hearing or speech impaired)

TIS **131 450*** (Translating and Interpreting Service)

* Call charges apply.

** Call charges apply from mobile and pay phones only.