

## ASHGROVE MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN

# ENROLMENT IMMUNISATION POLICY

### Policy Statement

This policy provides guidelines for the immunisation requirements for children enrolling at Ashgrove Memorial Kindergarten (**Ashgrove Memorial**).

### Sources

Public Health Act 2005 (Qld)

- 'Vaccination legislation for ECEC services', published by Queensland Health 20/3/2017 via [www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/immunisation/legislation](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/immunisation/legislation)
- 'Queensland Vaccination Legislation – A Handbook For Early Childhood Education and Care Services' published by Queensland Health via [www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/immunisation/legislation](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/immunisation/legislation)

### Background

Before 2017, an increasing number of families expressed concerns to teaching staff regarding immunisation rates among children attending Ashgrove Memorial (in particular, parents are keen to know whether any child in their group is not vaccinated). The centre had very high rates of immunisation, with usually only a very small number of children whose parents indicated a conscientious objection in relation to their child's immunisation.

Following changes to the Public Health Act 2005, approved ECEC services can refuse enrolment or attendance of children who are not up to date with their scheduled vaccinations.

The 2017 committee had regard to the advice of the ECEC Office (Dept of Education) and The Gowrie (Qld) Inc, our central governing body, both of whom have confirmed that the immunisation requirement in relation to enrolment or attendance is solely a business decision for Ashgrove Memorial to determine.

The staff and many families at Ashgrove Memorial supported immunisation and have indicated support for the decision to require children attending the centre to be immunised. Requiring the children to be immunised also triggers a requirement for the staff, students

and volunteers at Ashgrove Memorial to be fully immunised (as stipulated in Gowrie's Staff Immunisation Policy).

Having regard to those factors, the 2017 management committee decided to accept enrolment but refuse attendance of children until proof of up-to-date immunisation status is provided, with effect from 2018.

Every year the committee discuss and review this policy.

## Implementation

Consistent with changes to the Public Health Act 2005 (Qld), Ashgrove Memorial Kindergarten will accept enrolment but refuse attendance of children who are not 'up to date' with their scheduled vaccinations or don't have a recognised catch up schedule or a medical exemption that is shown on their Immunisation History Statement.

Prior to attendance at Ashgrove Memorial Kindergarten, parents/carers are required to provide proof of their child's immunisation status on their immunisation history statement.

## Medical contraindication and catch-up schedule

As prescribed in the Act, attendance will not be refused on the basis of a child having a medical contraindication to some or all scheduled vaccines, and/or being on a recognised vaccination catch-up schedule.

While technically not fully vaccinated, these children are classified as having an 'up to date' immunisation status or a medical exemption, and this should be indicated on their immunisation history statement.

## Immunisation history statement

This is an official record issued by the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). You can get your child's immunisation history statement by:

- Accessing your online my.gov.au account
- Using the Medicare Express Plus App
- Calling AIR on 1800 653 809

**NB: The Personal Health Record (the 'red book') from Queensland Health is not acceptable proof of immunisation.**

## Requirements in relation to staff, students and volunteers

Staff, students and volunteers will also be required to be fully immunised, in accordance with the recommendations of the NHMRC (as provided in Gowrie's Staff Immunisation Policy).

**NB: Ashgrove Memorial does not insist on Hepatitis A vaccination for staff, students or volunteers.**

## Flu Vaccination and Covid

It is recommended that children and parents are vaccinated for influenza each year.

- <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/condition/infections-and-parasites/viral-infections/influenza-the-flu>
- <https://alt-qed.qed.qld.gov.au/covid19/early-childhood-service-operations/information-for-early-childhood-service-providers>

Similarly, the NHMRC website and the 'Staying Healthy' guidelines for ECEC educators state in section 4.2.1 *Recommended vaccinations for educators and other staff: All staff should also consider having yearly influenza vaccinations. Influenza is very infectious and can spread through the air by coughing and sneezing, as well as by hands, cups and other objects that have been in contact with an infected persons mouth or nose.*

[21521 NHMRC - Staying Healthy accessible FF \(1\).pdf](#)

---

**Approved: by Management Committee, November 2023**

**Review Date: November 2024**