



PURPOSE

This policy will outline the details of West Wimmera Shire Kindergarten's *No Jab, No Play Policy*.

POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

West Wimmera Shire's Kindergartens are committed to:

- Providing maximum protection for children from vaccine-preventable diseases; and
- Ensuring all families are aware of what is required in order to adhere to this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, certified supervisor, educators, staff and parents/guardians who wish to enrol their child at West Wimmera Shire Kindergartens.

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Act 2015*, before enrolling a child at this service, West Wimmera Shire Kindergartens will have to first obtain evidence that the child is:

- Fully immunised for their age; OR
- On a vaccination catch-up program; OR
- Unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons.

Conscientious objection is not an exemption under the No Jab, No Play legislation.

Information on the immunisation schedule for vaccines, including what vaccines are required and when they should be received, is available from the National Immunisation Schedule. This information is available from your doctor, immunisation nurse or online.

Vaccination is one of the most effective interventions to prevent disease worldwide. Modern vaccines provide high levels of protection against an increasing number of diseases, which, in some cases, can be fatal. Worldwide, it is estimated that immunisation programs prevent approximately 2.5 million deaths each year.

The current immunisation rate in Victoria for children under 5 years of age is around 92 per cent; however immunisation coverage of 95 per cent is necessary to halt the spread of particularly virulent diseases such as measles.

Immunisation not only protects those people who have been vaccinated, it also protects those in our community who may be unable to receive vaccines themselves, by reducing the prevalence and spread of disease.

The scientific evidence supporting vaccination is overwhelming, and the benefits far outweigh the very small risks.

All vaccines currently available in Australia must pass stringent safety testing before being approved for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australia's regulatory authority for therapeutic goods. Safety testing is required by law and is usually done over many years during the vaccine's development. Once vaccines are in use, their safety is continually monitored by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and other organisations.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *A New Tax (Family Assistance) Act 1999*;



- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010;*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011;*
- *Health Records Act 2001 (Vic);*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety*
 - Standard 2.1: Each child's health is promoted;
 - Element 2.1.1: Each child's health needs are supported;
 - Element 2.1.4: Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines;
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected;
 - Element 2.3.3: Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented;
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic);*
- *Privacy Act 1988;*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic);*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Act 2015; and*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 (Vic).*

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/> Commonwealth Legislation – ComLaw: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au>

DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy.

Age appropriately immunised: in relation to a child means that the child is immunised in accordance with the relevant standard vaccination schedule or the relevant catch up vaccination schedule determined under section 4 of the A New Tax (Family Assistance) Act 1999 of the Commonwealth.

Definitions of terms regularly used in policies for the early childhood education and care sector – e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, and Regulatory Authority etc. are provided in the *General Definitions* section of this manual and can be referred to as required.

SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- *No Jab, No Play Frequently Asked Questions*, 20 October 2015, <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/no-jab-no-play> accessed 30 November 2015.
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Act 2015.*
- *Immunisation enrolment toolkit.*

SERVICE POLICIES

- *Complaints and Grievances Policy;*
- *Enrolment and Orientation Policy;*
- *Inclusion and Equity Policy;*
- *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy; and*
- *Enrolment and Orientation Policy.*



PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all families are aware of the service's *No Jab, No Play Policy*;
- Responding to parent/guardian enquiries in relation to this policy; and
- Ensuring families have access to the necessary information to assist them in adhering to this policy

The Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor and other educators are responsible for:

- Responding to parent/guardian enquiries in relation to this policy;
- Ensuring compliance with maintaining immunisation records and updates in enrolment forms;
- Complying with the service's Privacy and Confidentiality Policy in relation to the collection and management of a child's immunisation information;
- Reading and understanding the policy; and
- Ensuring volunteers and students are aware of the policy.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Reading and complying with this No Jab, No Play Policy;
- Ensuring that all required immunisation information is provided to the service;
- During the 16 week grace period (if applicable), parents should endeavour to have their child vaccinated if required, and/or obtain the necessary immunisation documentation and provide it to the service; and
- Updating information by notifying the service of any changes as they occur.

Volunteers and Students are responsible for:

- Being aware of this policy and referring any questions to the Nominated Supervisor

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved

The Approved Provider will:

- Regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- Monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy;
- Keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice; and
- Notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Inform families of updated policy changes and encourage feedback;
- Provide feedback regarding the policy;
- Assist families with questions in relation to feedback; and
- Refer families to Approved Provider for further information.

The Certified Supervisor and other educators will:

- Refer families to Nominated Supervisor for further information; and
- Provide feedback regarding the policy.





NO JAB, NO PLAY POLICY

KINDERGARTENS
WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

AUTHORISATION

The Approved Provider of the West Wimmera Shire Kindergartens adopted this document on 22/04/2018.

REVISION	DATE APPROVED	AUTHOR	SIGNATURE	DATE OF NEXT REVISION
1	1/08/18	C. Hurley		1/08/20
2	28/04/22	N.Hollis		28/04/24