



Immunisation Payments for Parents

GPs sometimes ask about the immunisation payments available to parents because parents sometimes present for catch-up immunisations having received a letter from Centrelink stating that their child is not up-to-date with immunisations and they will miss out on immunisation payments if the vaccinations are not received.

a) Maternity Immunisation Allowance

The Maternity Immunisation Allowance encourages parents to immunise their children. It is paid by the family assistance office of Centrelink. Details can be found at: <http://www.familyassist.gov.au>

The allowance is a once-only payment of \$222.30 and is paid to parents of children who:

- are fully immunised according to the schedule at age 18 months OR
- are receiving an approved catch-up schedule

If the child is not up-to-date with immunisations at age 18 months parents have until the child turns 24 months to ensure the child is up-to-date with the immunisations or is receiving the catch-up.

The Family Assistance Office generally uses the data on the ACIR to verify the child's immunisation status so it is important that ACIR records are kept up-to-date by the GPs. Parents may also present a hard-copy of the ACIR Immunisation History form to the Family Assistance Office to verify the child's immunisation status.

b) Childcare Benefit

For parents to be eligible to receive childcare benefit the child must:

- be up-to-date with immunisations OR
- be on an approved catch-up schedule OR
- have an approved exemption

Childcare benefits are means tested. Details can be found at: <http://www.familyassist.gov.au>