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Failure to Remember Jabs could be Costly for Wheatbelt Parents

Changes to child care payments will mean failure to vaccinate four-year olds could have financial, as well as health, repercussions for Wheatbelt parents for the first time.

Maternal Immunisation Allowance and Child Care Payments are now tied to the four-year old immunisations, which are often overlooked by parents.

This vaccination is the final step in the childhood immunisation program and protects children against developing diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, mumps, rubella and polio, all painful and often deadly diseases.

"Parents should visit their GP to check the status of their child's immunisation schedule and ensure they are up-to-date with all vaccinations," said CEO, Paul West from the Wheatbelt GP Network.

"The financial incentive is for parents to have their children immunised, but the reality is immunisation has many benefits for the whole community. Australian immunisation rates are among the highest in the world, so few of these diseases are seen in this country, but we still need to be vigilant," said Mr West of the Wheatbelt GP Network.

He said the jabs are particularly important at this time of year as many small children are entering school or preschool for the first time, coming into contact with more people and raising their risk of contact with these diseases.

He reminded parents that these diseases are common in a number of countries that are popular tourist destinations for Australians.

Mr West said "GPs and practice nurses are best placed to help parents determine which immunisations are needed at each age."

"The beginning of the school year serves as a timely reminder to check that these vaccinations are up-to-date,".

More information on immunisation at <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>

On child care payment changes at

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/acir/family-assist.jsp>

For more information please phone Melanie on 9621 1530