



Level 10, 15 Green Square Close  
Fortitude Valley Q 4006

**MEDIA RELEASE  
12 March 2015**

**Parents welcome Queensland Government move to get tough on childhood vaccinations**

Queensland parents welcome the State Government's move to get tough on parents who choose not to vaccinate their children.

Thousands of families have been calling on governments at State and Federal levels to help boost childhood immunisation rates and today's announcement that childcare centres across Queensland would have the authority to refuse entry to children who are not fully vaccinated will be a relief for many parents.

Executive Director of The Parenthood, Jo Briskey said it was concerning that only 92 per cent of Queensland five-year-olds are fully vaccinated when the level required for safe herd immunity is 95 per cent.

"Right now there are one in five children across Australia who are not fully vaccinated because their parents have chosen against it, listing themselves as "consciousness objectors" Ms Briskey said.

"The figures are particularly concerning for Queensland where four out of the five Medicare Local catchments across Australia with the greatest number of children registered with a conscientious objection in 2012–13 were from Queensland - Greater Metro South Brisbane – 755; Metro North Brisbane – 708; Sunshine Coast – 660 and the Gold Coast (Qld) – 652.

"We already know that childcare centres are a hotbed for illnesses – colds, stomach bugs, children can come home with something different every week,

"But to run the risk of adding potentially life threatening diseases into the mix, old-world diseases that are fully preventable by vaccinations, this just isn't acceptable and we expect action to be taken to help protect our children."

"Whilst it is important to help ensure no child is denied the right to access high quality early education and care we need to equally ensure all children are safe when in childcare.

"Promoting full immunisation as a requirement for childcare enrollment will go a long way to help educate parents on the safety and importance of immunisation and therefore help boost immunisation rates."

"We look forward to hearing what Health Minister Cameron Dick has to say further in this space and we would encourage him to look to New South Wales and the benefit their strict requirements on immunisation for enrollment in childcare and school are having in improving childhood immunisation rates"

**END.**

**Contact: 0423 262 449**

# The Parenthood

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The Parenthood is Australia's lead advocacy body for parents.

Parents interested in joining The Parenthood's immunisation campaign are encouraged to visit <http://www.theparenthood.org.au/campaign/boostimmunisationrates/>

Over 3,500 parents have joined so far asking the Federal Health Minister, Sussan Ley to take the following actions as a matter of urgency to help boost immunisation rates:

- A national campaign to educate parents on the safety and efficacy of immunisation – especially targeting those locations where herd immunity rates are below safe levels.
- Follow the lead of NSW in introducing national vaccine requirements for parents enrolling their children in school or childcare.