

Dumping whooping cough booster for teenagers a decision that may place babies in danger

Parents are extremely concerned to learn today that the federal government plans to dump the whooping cough booster shot for kids in their first year of high school.

The Parenthood successfully campaigned to get the government to bring in their “No Jab, No Pay” legislation, so is very disappointed the Turnbull Government now appears to be winding back their commitment to improving vaccination rates.

Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood, said parents of children of all ages, but in particular parents of young infants who are highly susceptible to vaccine preventable diseases like whooping cough, are very anxious about the move to dump the booster shot for teenagers.

“Dumping whooping cough booster for teenagers is simply a decision that puts tiny babies in danger,” Ms Briskey said.

“Babies who are too young to be vaccinated against whooping cough, depend on all of us to help keep the spread of the disease at bay by staying up-to-date with the vaccination.

“The Turnbull Government’s decision to dump the booster shot leaves thousands of parents worried at the increased risk of outbreak due to reduced herd immunity, placing newborn babies in serious danger.”

The Parenthood is also concerned at the revelation the Turnbull Government will scrap the \$26 million school vaccination register before it even gets started.

“In 2015 parents applauded the then Abbott Government’s strong action on vaccination as they brought in their ‘no jab, no pay’ legislation that included a raft of measures to help boost vaccination rates, not only for small children but older kids as well,” Ms Briskey said.

“Now it appears Mr Turnbull has weakened the government’s stance on vaccination, by firstly not having the register ready to go next year when they said it would be and now dropping it altogether.

“Back in May 2015, Health Minister Sussen Ley told us how important the register was in the fight to control infectious disease outbreaks and in helping to identify areas of the community where herd immunity was low.

“But now Minister Ley is telling us it’s not that important after all and they’re just going to dump it

“I am very concerned that a decision simply to save money results in another parent losing their baby to whooping cough, when measures like the whooping cough booster for teenagers and the \$26 million schools register could have helped prevent it”

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