



Central West Gippsland  
Division of General Practice

# Media Release

27 January 2012

## 2012 school year brings benefits for immunisation

The 2012 school year marks the first year in which children need to be *fully immunised* for parents to receive the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement which is worth \$726 per child. This new incentive comes into effect on July 1 2012.

While the countdown is on for four year-olds eager to start preschool, Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice Chair Dr Julie Thompson is reminding parents that immunisations need to be added to the 'to do list' at the beginning of the school year.

"Parents should check with their GP or immunisation provider to ensure their child is fully immunised according to the four year old schedule and also check that the information has been sent to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register or ACIR," Dr Thompson said.

"The Family Assistance Office will get this information from ACIR so they can pay the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement.

"The changes to Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement were announced last year and will replace the Maternity Immunisation Allowance which comes to an end July 1, 2012. These changes mean that children need to be fully immunised according to their age for payments to be made at ages one, two and five years of age.

"Even though the adjusted incentive linked to the Family Tax Benefit Part A doesn't take effect until July 2012, the relevant paperwork confirming a child's immunisation status must be lodged by the end of this financial year.

"This adjusted incentive has been designed to strengthen the nation's rate of immunisation which requires a broad level of coverage in order to be effective.

"The four year-old vaccination, is the final stage in the childhood immunisation program and it protects children against developing:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- whooping cough
- measles
- mumps
- rubella
- polio.

"This vaccination can be taken any time between the ages of 3 ½ years through to four years and one month," Dr Thompson said.

"As children are thrust into a school community setting, the opportunity for rare communicable diseases to take hold can increase substantially. However, with adequate vaccination completed at the beginning of the school year, the risks are reduced significantly," Dr Thompson said.

**Media contact: Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice  
PO Box 253 Moe 03 5126 2899 [reception@cwgdgp.com.au](mailto:reception@cwgdgp.com.au)**



Your address here | PO Box 4308 Manuka ACT 2603

T 02 6228 0800 | F 02 6228 0899 | [www.agpn.com.au](http://www.agpn.com.au) | ABN 95 082 812 146

**Delivering local health solutions through general practice**

AGPN acknowledges the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing