

Senator MOORE: ... One of the questions I have, generally, regards the database in terms of the numbers of families that you have modelled to be affected by this and, also, whether you have done the work by income.

The customer impacts of the measure were costed as part of the Budget process. Publically available historical immunisation data was used in the development of the costing assumptions which were based on children rather than families. Effects on particular family types or incomes were not modelled and could not be modelled using the data available to the Department. A breakdown by age of child is included in response to a subsequent question taken on notice.

Ms Halbert: ... So we cannot actually tell you the conscientious objector group by income range. We could, however, give you a breakdown of all of those who have not met by age of child— one, two and five—because that is the current arrangement. We could get the incomes for all families that have not met the immunisation requirement. We would have to do a data run—and, so, I was not able to have that for you today.

Reconciled 2012/13 FTB Part A customers who have had an immunisation supplement amount withheld by income range as at 30/06/2015

ATI	Customers
under \$10,000	2,600
\$10,000 to \$19,999.99	3,600
\$20,000 to \$29,999.99	2,000
\$30,000 to \$39,999.99	1,600
\$40,000 to \$49,999.99	1,500
\$50,000 to \$59,999.99	1,200
\$60,000 to \$69,999.99	1,100
\$70,000 to \$79,999.99	1,000
\$80,000 to \$89,999.99	900
\$90,000 to \$99,999.99	700
\$100,000 to \$109,999.99	500
\$110,000 to \$119,999.99	200
\$120,000 to \$129,999.99	100
\$130,000 and over	200
Total	17,200

Notes/Caveats

- Vaccination objections are not identifiable in the current Family Assistance data.
- Child data does not include income information so customer data has been used using immunisation supplement amount withheld as a proxy for having a child not meet the current immunisation requirement.
- The above figures reflect families who have at least some of their immunisation supplement amount withheld when they had a child aged 1, 2 or 5 with respect to the 2012/13 income year.
- These figures do not include vaccination objectors, as they are currently recorded as “has met”.
- Figures have been rounded. The total figure is the total of the preceding rounded figures.

Senator MOORE: The evidence we have received raised concerns as to why such a detailed and, I would imagine, costly process is being focused on 10,000 objectors. Has the department done any modelling on how many of those 10,000 families they think may change their position as a result of this legislation?

The majority of families who immunise their children as a result of this policy are expected to be families of children who do not meet the requirement for a reason other than vaccination objection. The rate of objection is only expected to decline slightly as shown in the table below:

Estimated percentage of children with a vaccination objection recorded against their record who will fail the immunisation requirement by year as a percentage of the total FTB Part A child population

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%

Senator MOORE: In terms of your department, it would be the FTB part A. Can we get the data for how many—to refine those figures, to show the impact for each age and whether it goes up or not?

The populations of children expected not to meet the new immunisation requirement have been based on publically available Australian Childhood Immunisation Register data for historical immunisation rates for each age cohort in the year the child turns five (percentages for two year old children have been used for years where five year old percentages were not available). These historical percentages have been applied to the Family Tax Benefit Part A population to determine the number of children expected to fail the requirement. They also subtract the expected percentage of medical exemptions.

FTB Part A children expected to fail the immunisation requirement by year of age

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Age 1*	3,100	2,800	2,500	2,100
Age 2*	3,200	2,900	2,500	2,200
Age 3	7,100	6,300	5,500	4,600
Age 4	7,200	6,400	5,500	4,600
Age 5*	3,200	2,900	2,500	2,200
Age 6	8,200	6,400	5,500	4,600
Age 7	8,100	6,500	5,500	4,600
Age 8	8,500	6,100	5,700	4,500
Age 9	9,400	6,500	5,500	4,900
Age 10	10,000	6,900	5,600	4,600
Age 11	14,600	7,700	6,400	5,100
Age 12	16,300	10,900	7,100	5,700
Age 13	14,800	12,300	10,100	6,300
Age 14	18,500	11,200	11,500	9,200
Age 15	23,200	13,600	10,200	10,200
Age 16	20,500	15,300	11,300	8,200
Age 17	20,200	12,400	11,600	8,300
Age 18	8,000	5,900	4,600	4,200
Age 19	400	300	300	200
Total	204,500	143,300	119,400	96,300

Notes/Caveats

- Figures have been rounded. The total figure is the total of the preceding rounded figures.
- At age 1, 2 & 5 the numbers who are affected reflect vaccination objections only as there is an existing immunisation requirement at those ages.
- Figures take into account assumptions about behavioural changes in response to the new policy.
- These figures do not include children from families who receive FTB Part A as a lump sum.

Senator MOORE: *Who is actually working on the detail of that, Ms Halbert—about how the education component will work?*

Ms Halbert: *Social Services is the lead agency, but our communications area is, of course, working closely with Health and DHS on that.*

The No Jab No Pay communication activities are a joint responsibility of the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, The Department of Education and the Department of Social Services. Activities are coordinated through an interdepartmental working group.

Budget

- A budget of \$277,377 (ex GST) has been allocated to the Department of Social Services component of the communication activities.

Department of Social Services communication activities

- Child care centres will be sent an e-kit via the Child Care Management System. It will include a printable PDF poster the centres can display, immunisation specific text that they can send out to all their families in newsletters and questions and answers.
- MPs/Senators will be sent a similar e-kit that will also include a shell release.
- The Department of Social Services will coordinate a social media campaign that targets families with children under 20. The Facebook campaign will direct families to the Department of Human Services website www.humanservices.gov.au/immunisation, which is the key source of all information relating to immunisation and No Jab No Pay measure.
- The social media campaign will complement the activities of the Department of Health, Department of Human Services and the Department of Education (noting that all families that do not meet the immunisation requirements and receive child care payments will get a letter from Centrelink before their payments are affected letting them know what to do and when).
- Additional communication activities for early 2016 may be deployed as required to ensure the community and stakeholders understand their obligations under the changes.