



Australian Government

Department of Education and Training

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe

**Question on Notice from the Inquiry into Social Services Legislation Amendment (No
Jab, No Pay) Bill 2015**

I am writing in response to the second question you have submitted on behalf of Senator Claire Moore of the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs' inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (No Jab, No Pay) Bill 2015. Senator Moore raised her question during the public hearing on *No Jab, No Pay* in Brisbane on Monday, 2 November 2015.

I can confirm Senator Moore's understanding that, for Child Care Benefit purposes, if a child misses a scheduled vaccination, current family assistance law allows a 63 day 'grace period' within which action can be taken to bring the child up to date once again. This provides families with an opportunity to catch up with the vaccination schedule without immediately losing their child care payments.

This arrangement continues under the Social Services Legislation Amendment (No Jab, No Pay) Bill 2015 currently before Parliament. However, under current family assistance law, an individual also has 63 days to immunise their child if they do not meet the requirements at the time they first apply for child care payments. That is, the application is approved if the other requirements are met and payments are made for the first 63 days while the parent takes action to immunise the child. If the child does not meet the requirements after 63 days, payments then cease.

I can advise that this provision will not continue under the Social Services Legislation Amendment (No Jab, No Pay) Bill 2015 currently before Parliament. This is because it is the Government's expectation that immunisation should be a payment eligibility requirement

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that must be met *prior* to the Department of Human Services approving an individual's application for child care fee assistance. This is the only change in relation to the 63 day grace period.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Wilson
Deputy Secretary

Date 01/11/15