



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

Deputy Secretary
Jackie Wilson

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 question you have submitted on 5 November 2015 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 (the Bill). Senator Moore raised her question during the public hearing on *No Jab, No Pay* in Brisbane on Monday, 2 November 2015.

The Department of Education and Training (the Department) will distribute information about the changes contained in the Bill directly to child care providers when the Bill passes the Senate. When this occurs the information will include details of the changes and how to find out further information on the changes. It is the responsibility of child care services approved under family assistance law to comply with their legal obligations.

As per the current practice, child care services invoice families for using care and it is the family's responsibility to meet these payments. In the majority of situations, the Child Care Benefit is used to offset fees and in the absence of this subsidy it is still the family's responsibility to pay the child care service for the care that is provided, which will be at the full fee.

Through its public communication of the changes, parents should be aware prior to applying for Child Care Benefit that they will not be approved for the payment unless they meet the immunisation requirements.

However, should they be unaware of this requirement and be deemed ineligible when they first approach the Department of Human Services (DHS), the individual will also be made

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aware that if they visit their General Practitioner and commence a catchup schedule for the child, the requirement to be immunised will be considered to be met. This means that a child does not need to be fully immunised in order to comply with the new requirements for the purpose of Child Care Benefit.

Consequently there is not expected to be a lengthy delay in approval of an individual's eligibility for Child Care Benefit and a child care service's ability to claim that payment on behalf of the family when the child commences child care. In the interim, the child care service can charge the family the full fee.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Wilson

6 November 2015