



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Time limited program for pneumococcal vaccination

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to you about a new pneumococcal vaccine, Prevenar 13[®] which became available on the National Immunisation Program from 1 July 2011 for infants aged 2, 4 and 6 months of age. This new vaccine provides protection against 13 strains of pneumococcal disease and replaces the existing pneumococcal vaccine Prevenar[®] that provides protection against only 7 strains of pneumococcal disease.

The information available on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register indicates that your child has received the previous pneumococcal vaccine (Prevenar[®]).

The Australian Government is providing a time limited program under the National Immunisation Program to enable children who have been previously vaccinated with Prevenar[®] to receive a free supplementary dose of Prevenar 13[®].

This supplementary dose provides protection against an additional six serotypes, including the particular strain of pneumococcal bacteria (called 19A) that is responsible for the majority of invasive pneumococcal disease in children under three years of age and can cause pneumonia and meningitis.

The free supplementary dose of Prevenar 13[®] will be available for children aged between 12 months and 35 months for a 12 month period from 1 October 2011 until 30 September 2012.

Your child will only be eligible for the free supplementary dose of Prevenar 13[®] if he or she is aged between 12 and 35 months of age on the day the vaccine is given. Although there are no costs associated with the vaccine, a consultation fee may be charged by your GP.

If you have any questions, please contact your immunisation provider, call the Immunise Australia Program Infoline on **1800 671 811**, or visit the website at www.immunise.health.gov.au

I suggest that you take this letter with you to your immunisation provider to indicate your eligibility for the supplementary dose.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Baggoley'.

Professor Chris Baggoley
Chief Medical Officer
12 September 2011