

Position Statement on Immunisation

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) believes that the health and wellbeing of school communities must be protected by controlling outbreaks of preventable infectious diseases. ACSSO recognises that children need immunisations against many diseases, as it is these immunisations that protects them, while their immune systems are still developing, and prevents them from getting serious diseases.

It is ACSSO's position that school communities need to be protected from preventable infectious diseases by all sectors of the community and government services working in cooperation to control outbreaks of preventable infectious diseases.

ACSSO believes that government immunisation policies and procedures, for controlling outbreaks of infectious diseases should apply equally to all sectors of the school community, including:

- *students;*
- *teachers;*
- *support staff*
- *administrative personnel;*
- *volunteer workers;*
- *families*
- *other paid workers (cleaners, construction, repairers).*

And that notification of current vaccination status, be a prerequisite for all school communities.

ACSSO acknowledges that Parents/caregivers are responsible for all decisions – ethical and moral – regarding the vaccination (or not) of children under their care and protection. Therefore parents/caregivers should be provided with information, in plain English as well as in community languages, on government policy and the rationale behind the policies that affect vaccination, outbreak control and school attendance.

It is ACSSO's position that authorised school staff, should have the power to exclude any unvaccinated persons in the above categories a-g of the above, during an outbreak of a preventable disease. We also advocate student's school education activities must be continued through other approved methods which must not impose an additional financial burden on parents/caregivers.

*Sharron Healy
ACSSO President / Board Chair
September 3, 2021*



Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

One voice for every child in government education