

Question on Notice
No. 888
Asked on 17 September 2015

MS FARMER asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK)—

Will the Minister advise how the Drive to 95 campaign will help achieve 95% immunization among children in the Bulimba Electorate and across Queensland, to better protect our children from communicable diseases?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Bulimba for her question.

Vaccination is a critically important public health strategy that can protect all Queenslanders from vaccine preventable diseases.

Queensland achieves high vaccination rates for children at the key milestones of ages one, two and five years old. However, more can be done to achieve the 95% vaccination coverage needed to attain the full benefits of herd immunity.

That is why on 26 August 2015, I announced the *Immunise to 95* initiative to assist families get their children up to date.

Between 1 October 2015 and 31 December 2015, the Department of Health, via 13HEALTH, will attempt to contact the parents of every child under the age of five in Queensland who are not up to date with their vaccinations. Families will then be connected with their usual vaccination service provider to get their vaccinations up to date, or have them placed on a recognised catch up schedule by 1 January, 2016.

Families will also be referred, where appropriate, to out-of-hours/weekend immunisation clinics. This will help families who may not be able to access services during business hours.

Immunise to 95 will give Queensland families the opportunity to make sure their children are fully vaccinated before changes to federal and state government legislation come into effect on 1 January 2016. Commonwealth changes will impact on family assistance payments, including family tax benefits, childcare benefits and childcare tax rebate. Queensland government legislation will provide childcare centres with the power to refuse entry to unvaccinated children.

Increased vaccination rates will benefit the people of Queensland and the people of Bulimba.