

16 April 2015

Dear Judy

Thank you for writing to me to share your views on recent proposals to increase immunisation rates.

Labor is committed to strengthening the immunisation rates of children in Australia.

The science on immunisation is settled. Immunisation is the safest and most effective way for parents to protect their children from disease and one of the most important public health measures we have at our disposal. The Australian Medical Association, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance and countless other experts all agree that immunisation is the safest and most effective way for parents to protect their children from disease.

Labor believes that parents should have the final say in making health decisions about their child, but there is a strong public interest in ensuring children are immunised. That is why in government we introduced changes to family payments with a view to lifting immunisation rates, including linking the Family Tax Benefit end of year supplements to immunisation.

It is for the same reasons that Labor will support further changes to increase immunisation rates: so all Australian children have the best chance at growing up strong and healthy.

Unless a parent has a deeply-held religious view, Labor believes there should be no exemptions to the community expectation that children are immunised.

Thank you again for writing to me to share your views on immunisation.

Yours sincerely

Catherine King