

# Health Matters

## Never too Late to Vaccinate

**Never too late to vaccinate** your child even if you have declined them in the past.

**Never too late to vaccinate** your child can catch up in a matter of months depending on their age.

**Never too late to vaccinate** even though once you have started immunising your child you will not have to start again.

*HealthWEST PHO* been working with Immunisation Outreach for six years. Outreach helps parents/caregivers be aware their child has missed their vaccinations which can be for a number of reasons. We can assist parents by offering them: home vaccinations by our Outreach service or the Plunket Bus or making an appointment for them at their medical centre. We answer any questions about the vaccination process, common side effects, provide advice, education, and support and refer onto other services when needed

The barriers why parents/caregivers don't have or miss vaccinations are:

- ⊗ They don't like to see their baby/child hurt.
- ⊗ Afraid of injections (needles) themselves.
- ⊗ Lack of transport.
- ⊗ Don't have a Doctor, local or their doctor is too far away.
- ⊗ Have other children to care for at the same time.
- ⊗ Time spent waiting at their Medical Centre is too long.
- ⊗ No family support.
- ⊗ Life is just too busy.
- ⊗ Other people's influences.
- ⊗ Lack of the knowledge

Some years ago I visited a family whose child had not been vaccinated to discuss vaccination of their child. For many families life is busy, this Mum was leaving for work and Dad was at home looking after their child and invited me in for a chat. Twenty minutes later, I left after discussing the pros and cons of immunisations. He decided to discuss this with his wife later and was very positive about immunisation.

Recently we went to visit them to vaccinate their younger children who needed catch up immunisations. They now have four children, still leading very busy lives, so going to the medical centre for vaccinations was still being put off. Home vaccinations proved to be ideal for this family as we have now caught up all their children's vaccinations and they're up to date for their age with their immunisations.

To contact our Immunisation Outreach Service - free phone - 0800- 157- 157 or text - 021-656-189