

MEDIA RELEASE

Immunisation update in North East Victoria

26 April 2017

More than 80 local health professionals will gather at Charles Sturt University on Saturday 29 April for a professional development seminar, in World Immunisation Week.

The event, which is a collaboration between Murray PHN, Charles Sturt University and the Department of Health and Human Services, will look at pre-vaccine screening, vaccine safety and the importance of immunisation for good public health.

Richard McClelland, Murray PHN North East Regional Manager said that while the region's overall immunisation rate was close to the recommended national standard, there were pockets of worryingly low immunisation.

"Our goal is to target individuals and families at risk of poor health outcomes as a result of inadequate immunisation," he said.

"Young babies and those with compromised immune systems are particularly vulnerable and rely on herd immunity to keep them safe. With decreasing immunisation rates, herd immunity is at risk".

Mr McClelland said Murray PHN was pleased to give local clinicians and providers access to contemporary information on immunisation, close to home, as part of its Continuing Professional Development program.

The Federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, this week announced a new \$5.5m immunisation awareness campaign to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated. This follows the "No Jab, No Pay" policy which, according to the Government, has led to 200,000 additional children being vaccinated since the start of last year.

Speakers at Saturday's seminar will include representatives of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, DHHS, Latrobe University and Albury Public Health. There are still a small number of spaces available (six) at this free event for health professionals or accredited immunisers. For more details email NEevents@murrayphn.org.au

For more details, or to request an interview with Richard McClelland, contact Jackie Grant, Communications Coordinator e: jgrant@murrayphn.org.au or t: 03 4408 5613 m: 0472 842 066