



Media Release

SA Health

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NEW IMMUNISATION CLINIC OPENS AT WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Children with chronic medical conditions and pregnant women will be the main beneficiaries of a new immunisation clinic that has opened at the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH).

The new clinic will provide young people and pregnant women who are current inpatients or outpatients at the hospital with any vaccines on the National Immunisation Schedule, including the influenza vaccine for pregnant women.

Director of the Vaccinology and Immunology Research Trials Unit at the WCHN, Associate Professor Helen Marshall said the WCH is the only hospital in South Australia to provide an on-site immunisation service for children and pregnant women in its care.

"The clinic will be especially important for children with chronic diseases who often do not receive recommended vaccines because of the complexity of their pre-existing condition. These children may be undergoing chemotherapy or organ transplantation," Associate Professor Helen Marshall said.

"Children with chronic diseases often do not receive recommended vaccines because of the complexity of their pre-existing condition. As such, these children are at an additional risk of severe complications, hospitalisation and potentially death. That's why this clinic is so important.

"We now have a unique opportunity to achieve high vaccine coverage among our most vulnerable children and their families, including expectant mothers.

"Family members of women and children who are considered to be "medically at-risk" will also be able to receive vaccinations for influenza and whooping cough via a user pay system if additional vaccine supplies are available."

WCHN Chief Executive Officer Naomi Dwyer said the new clinic represents a long-held commitment of the Health Network to reduce hospitalisations from vaccine-preventable infectious diseases among South Australian women and children.

"As the leading provider of child and maternal healthcare in South Australia, I am proud that the Women's and Children's Hospital is taking this responsible and proactive step in protecting its women and children from vaccine-preventable diseases," Ms Dwyer said.

"We see many hospital admissions at the WCH that could have been prevented through vaccination.

For more information

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“It’s clear that our work to improve immunisation coverage must continue, particularly among vulnerable children at increased risk of complications from preventable infections.

“The clinic is a significant addition to the services currently provided by the WCH and testament to the leadership of our vaccinology team.

“I would like to acknowledge the vision of the Women’s and Children’s Hospital and thank the Women’s and Children’s Hospital Foundation for donating generously to the building of this state-first clinic.”

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