

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### Give your child the healthiest start to 2010 with immunisation

When children turn four years of age they are due several vaccinations under the National Immunisation Program Schedule. The four year old vaccinations protect children from diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps and rubella which are commonly forgotten.

Parents of children starting school this year are being encouraged by the Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice (ANDGP) to have their four year old vaccinations completed before the first day.

"In the community when there is a lack of disease it is very common for people to get complacent and the immunisation rates for these diseases drop, which is very worrying," said ANDGP CEO Ms Barbara Magin.

These diseases are painful and in some cases can lead to death and permanent disability.

Last year the rates of four year old immunisation significantly dropped leaving thousands of children exposed to the threat of preventable disease. Ms Magin said "declining immunisation rates in some parts of Australia had led to a recent outbreak of whooping cough, otherwise known as pertussis, with the number of disease notifications last year nearly three times higher than in 2008."

"This year the threat of whooping cough is still very real as is Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (swine flu) and parents are encouraged to speak with their local general practice about immunising their child before they start school," said Ms Magin.

GPs and Practice Nurses are the best source for parents with vaccination questions.

"Getting children immunised against swine flu in particular is something that we encourage as we are anticipating a second wave of the influenza starting from March," said Ms Magin.

She also said that immunisation plays an import role in protecting the health of individuals and the entire community. Completing the childhood immunisation program will ensure all children in the northern region are protected.

For more information about childhood immunisation, call the Immunise Australia info line on 1800 671 811, or visit [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au).

Media enquiries:

**ANDGP CEO,  
Barbara Magin 0412 728 307.**

A proud member of



Quality  
ISO 9001



Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice

1st Floor, 13 Elizabeth Way | PO Box 421 Elizabeth SA 5112

T 08 8252 9444 | F 08 8252 9433 | [www.andgp.org.au](http://www.andgp.org.au) | ABN 12 061 979 048

**Delivering local health solutions through general practice**