



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3607-21, tabled in Parliament on 16 November 2021, in relation to child vaccination.

There is a long history of childhood immunisation in Queensland as part of the National Immunisation Program and according to the Queensland Immunisation Schedule.

Under the childhood schedule, immunisations commence at birth and continue throughout infancy. For these very young children and for the majority of school-aged children, parents or guardians provide consent for their child up to the age of 18 years to be vaccinated.

As with any other medical procedure, parents are entitled to seek information on the benefits and risks of vaccination prior to providing consent.

In some cases, a child may also be able to consent to vaccination themselves if they are deemed to be Gillick competent. More information on this assessment can be found at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/consent>.

Thank you for taking the time to communicate your concerns with me. I assure you I am committed to safeguarding the health of Queensland children. Immunisation provides our children with the best protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvette D'Ath".

YVETTE D'ATH MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
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16/12/2021