



**Riverland Division
of General Practice Inc.**

Media Release

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Give your newborn the healthiest start to life with Immunisation

The Riverland Division of General Practice is encouraging parents of newborns to have their babies vaccinated on time, in order to avoid catching a preventable disease.

Immunisations are due when your baby is 2 months old. Children can now be immunised as early as 6 weeks old so that they are protected even earlier. The newborn immunisations protect children from diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hep B, pneumococcal, haemophilus and rotavirus.

This year, the immunisation rates for 0-4 month olds have significantly dropped, leaving over 100 newborn babies exposed to the threat of a preventable disease. While in the past doctor shortages have made it difficult to book an appointment for immunisation, this problem has been alleviated with the recruitment of more than 10 new GPs to the region.

"When there is a lack of disease in the community, it is very common for people to get complacent and the immunisation rates for these diseases drop, which is very worrying," said Dr Grant Baker, Medical Director for the Riverland Division of General Practice.

"These diseases are painful and, in newborns, diseases such as whooping cough can often lead to permanent disability or even death."

Dr Baker said that completing the childhood immunisation program will ensure all children in the Riverland are protected from preventable diseases.

General Practitioners and Practice Nurses are the best source of information for parents with vaccination questions.

There are a number of immunisation providers in the Riverland. For an appointment, please call your local Medical Clinic, local Council or Child and Youth Health Service, listed below:

Medical Clinic

Berri Medical Clinic	8582 2855
Lake Bonney Medical Centre	8588 2040
Loxton Health Centre	8584 7321
Waikerie Medical Clinic	8541 3500
Renmark Medical Clinic	8586 4111

Local Council

Renmark/Paringa Council	8580 3000
Loxton/Waikerie Council	8584 8000
<u>Other</u>	
Child and Youth Health	1300 733 606

For more information please phone Dr Grant Baker on 8582 3823



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