

No Jab No Pay/Play

Is the juice worth the squeeze?

PHAA National Immunisation Conference
Plenary 3
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THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Overview

- Definitions
- Impacts
- Pros and cons
- What now?



Ethical Principles

- Benefits
- Risks
- Effectiveness
- Equity and justice
- Autonomy
- Reciprocity

A shared goal
Health and wellbeing
Human flourishing

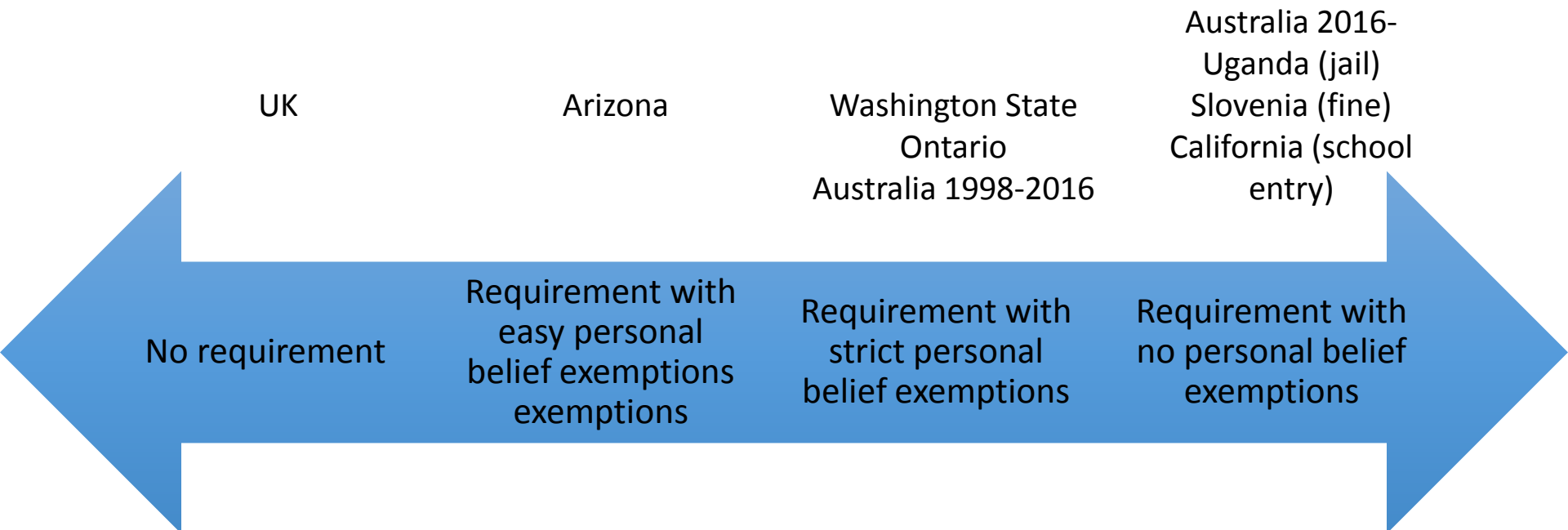
Leask J, Danchin M. Imposing penalties for vaccine rejection requires strong scrutiny. *Journal of Paediatrics & Child Health*. 2017

Verweij M, Dawson A. Ethical principles for collective immunisation programmes. *Vaccine* 2004; 22: 3122–6.

Isaacs D. An ethical framework for public health immunisation programmes. *N. S. W. Public Health Bull.* 2012; 23: 111–5.

Simple definition

- No Jab No Pay – Federal rules affecting family assistance payments
- No Jab No Play – State/territory rules affecting enrolment in childcare, preschool, kinder



Federal requirements - timeline

Maternity allowance

"Incentives"
Family assistance payments require full vaccination or exemption (medical and objector)

"Broadened incentives"
FTB-A(supplement)*
1, 2 and 5 years

Childcare Benefit*
Childcare Rebate
*income tested

"No Jab No Pay"
Applied_1yr-19 years
Removed objector exemption
Strict medical exemption
Other exemptions#

FTB-A fortnightly payment
Childcare subsidy

1912

1998

2012

2016

July
2018



No Jab No Pay is a re-working of a 17 year old policy
It has 4 components:

1. removal of objector exemptions
2. extending penalty beyond 5 years
3. More frequent existing requirements
4. Narrowed medical exemptions

How did we get there?



'Einstein parents' say no to kids' vaccination

SUE DUNLEVY AND DANIELA ONGARO • THE DAILY TELEGRAPH • APRIL 11, 2013 12:00AM



Claire Harvey: Anti-vaxers, you are baby killers

CLAIRE HARVEY THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH MARCH 22, 2015 12:00AM

"...time to act on plummeting vaccination levels

Abbott jabbed into action

Telegraph May 2013

EXCLUSIVE
JANE HANSEN

A TONY Abbott-led govern-

decade and a half." Although the national average of vaccine refusers, or conscientious objectors, is only 1.5 per cent, some



Post-announcement period



PRIME MINISTER
OF AUSTRALIA

THE HON TONY ABBOTT MP

[Home](#) » [Media](#) » No jab - no play and no pay for child care

NO JAB - NO PLAY AND NO PAY FOR CHILD CARE

12 April 2015

Prime Minister

The Commonwealth Government will end the conscientious objector exemption on children's vaccination for access to taxpayer funded Child Care Benefits, the Child Care Rebate and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement from 1 January 2016.

Parents who vaccinate their children should have confidence that they can take their children to child care without the fear that their children will be at risk of contracting a serious or potentially life-threatening illness because of the conscientious objections of others.

Pauline Hanson defends vaccination comments as 'personal opinion'

One Nation leader, who was criticised for saying government is blackmailing parents into vaccinating children, says she is 'not a medical professional' and had her own children vaccinated



The One Nation leader, Pauline Hanson, says her controversial comments on Sunday about childhood vaccinations were a "personal opinion" - and she has acknowledged she had her own children vaccinated.

On the campaign trail in Western Australia for the looming state election, Hanson attempted on Monday to move past the controversy she generated on the ABC's Insiders program over the weekend.

During the course of a wide-ranging interview on Sunday, Hanson ignited the controversy by arguing it should be up to parents to do their own research and decide whether or not to vaccinate their children.

Hanson argued the Turnbull government was "blackmailing" people - which was a reference to the current policy of withholding childcare fee rebates and welfare payments from parents who don't have their children fully immunised.

Budget 2015-16 forward estimates: \$508.3 million in projected savings from non-payment of benefits, budget 2015-16.

Vaccinate 'bundles of dribble and sputum', David Leyonhjelm says, as 'no jab, no pay' policy passes Parliament

By political reporter Jordan Hayne
Updated 23 Nov 2015, 2:11pm

Crossbench senator David Leyonhjelm has thrown his support behind the Government's "no jab, no pay" legislation, arguing babies should be vaccinated so they do not cause other people to fall ill.

The Liberal Democrat, whose party stands for civil liberties and individual freedom, has told the Upper House he backs laws that restrict welfare payments to parents who do not vaccinate their children.



"Senator is not known to vaccine his own kids"

VAX BAN

EXCLUSIVE PM pushes for childcare ban for unvaccinated children. P4,5

NO JAB, NO PRESCHOOL

EXCLUSIVE
Unvaccinated children to face daycare exclusion

In a powerful endorsement of The Sunday Telegraph's four-year No Jab, No Play campaign, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has written to state and territory leaders demanding all jurisdictions introduce nationally consistent laws to protect Australian children, and has vowed to take the policy to the next Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting.

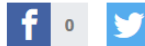
The campaign, launched in 2013, has won state and federal law

approved catch-up programs or an official objection had been lodged. The campaign also generated similar laws in Victoria and Queensland but children do not need to be immunised to enrol at centres in the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania or the Northern Territory. The Australia-wide laws would not only remove exemptions for objectors but would ensure vaccination rates at

NEWS

"No jab, no pay" policy clearly working

31st Jul 2016 5:21 PM



Vaccination rates rise in government's No Jab, No Pay policy

Alex Hart - Yahoo7 News on November 6, 2016, 6:34 pm



New figures show the Federal Government's tough No Jab, No Pay policy is working to boost the number of children vaccinated across Australia.



"This much is clear: [Australia](#)'s strict vaccination laws are working — and they're set to become even stricter."

AUSTRALIA | THE BREAKDOWN

'No Jab, No Play': How Australia Is Handling the Vaccination Debate

By ADAM BAIDAWI JULY 24, 2017



What maintains and increases coverage?

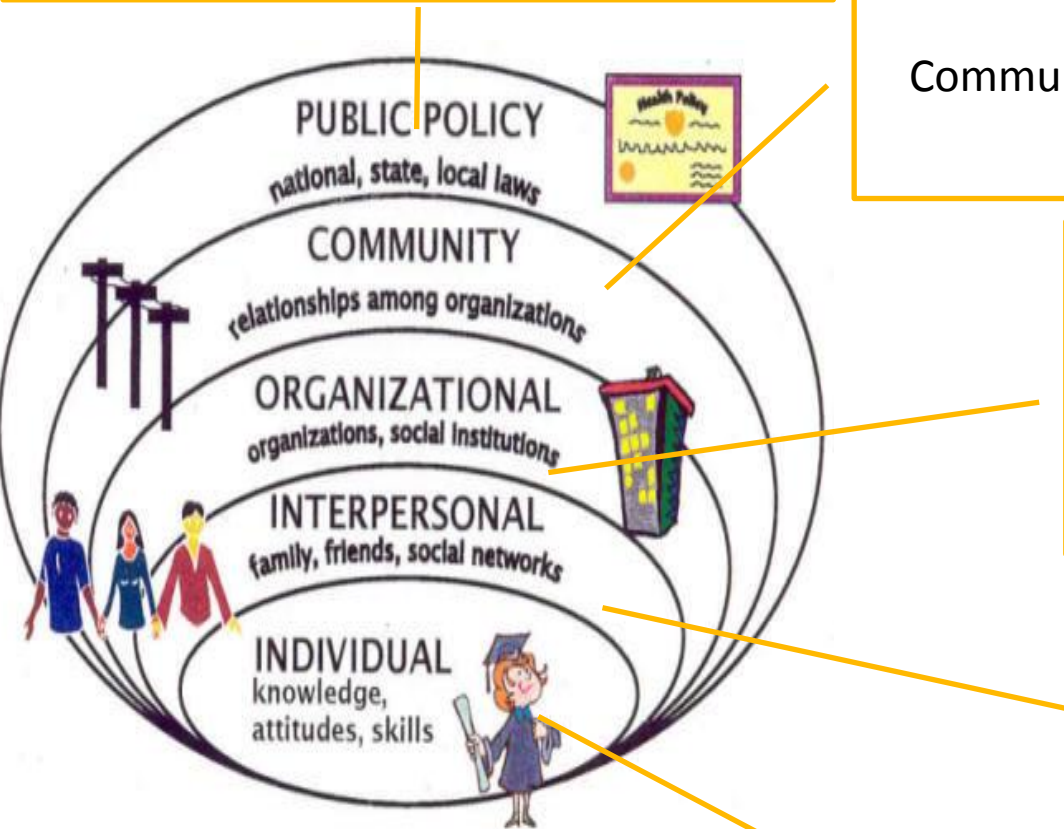
Requirements for school/childcare entry
Incentives
Reducing cost

Community-based in combination

Provider support, assessment, feedback & reminders
Recommendation
Standing orders
School or child care-based delivery
Combined interventions

Home visits

Reminder/recall systems
Education when used in combination



Sources: Increasing Appropriate Vaccination

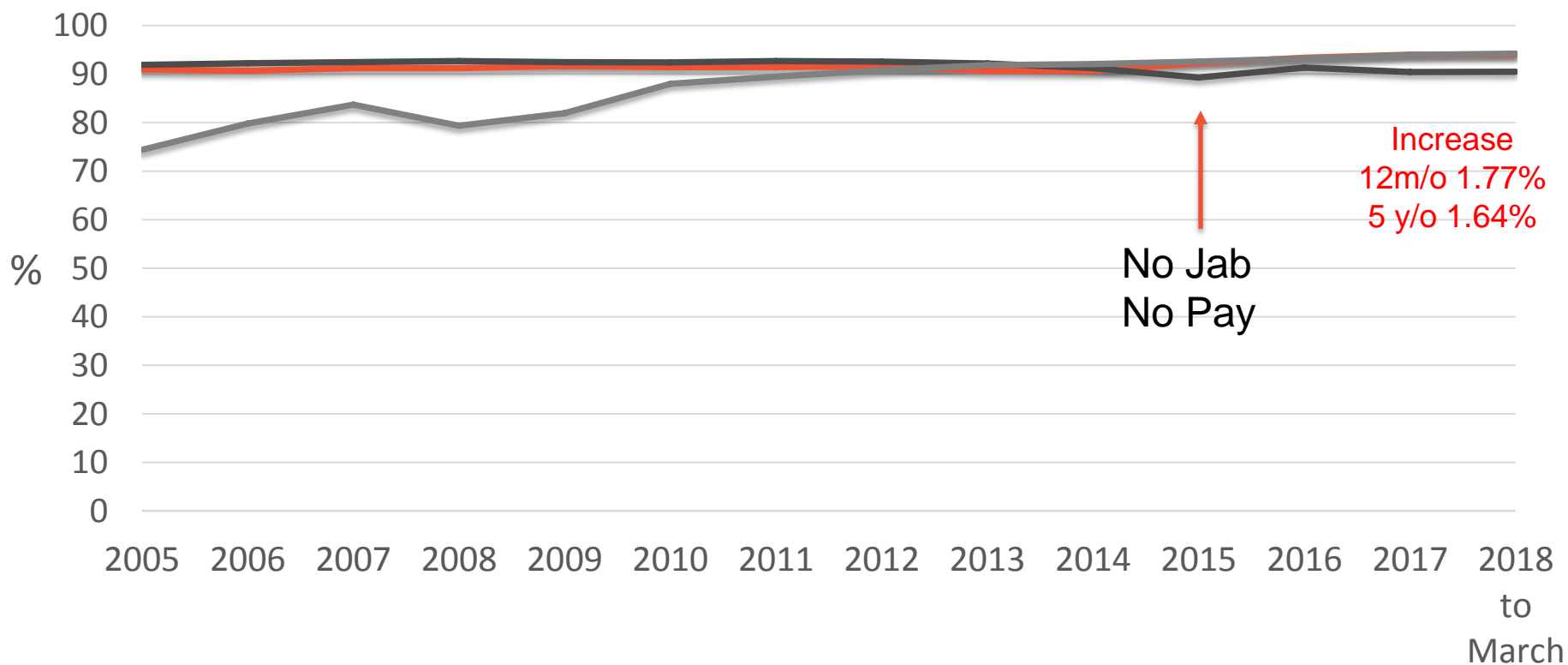
<https://www.thecommunityguide.org/topic/vaccination>

Ward K et al. Strategies to improve vaccination uptake in Australia, a systematic review of types and effectiveness. *Aust NZ J Public Health* 2012; 36(4):369–77.

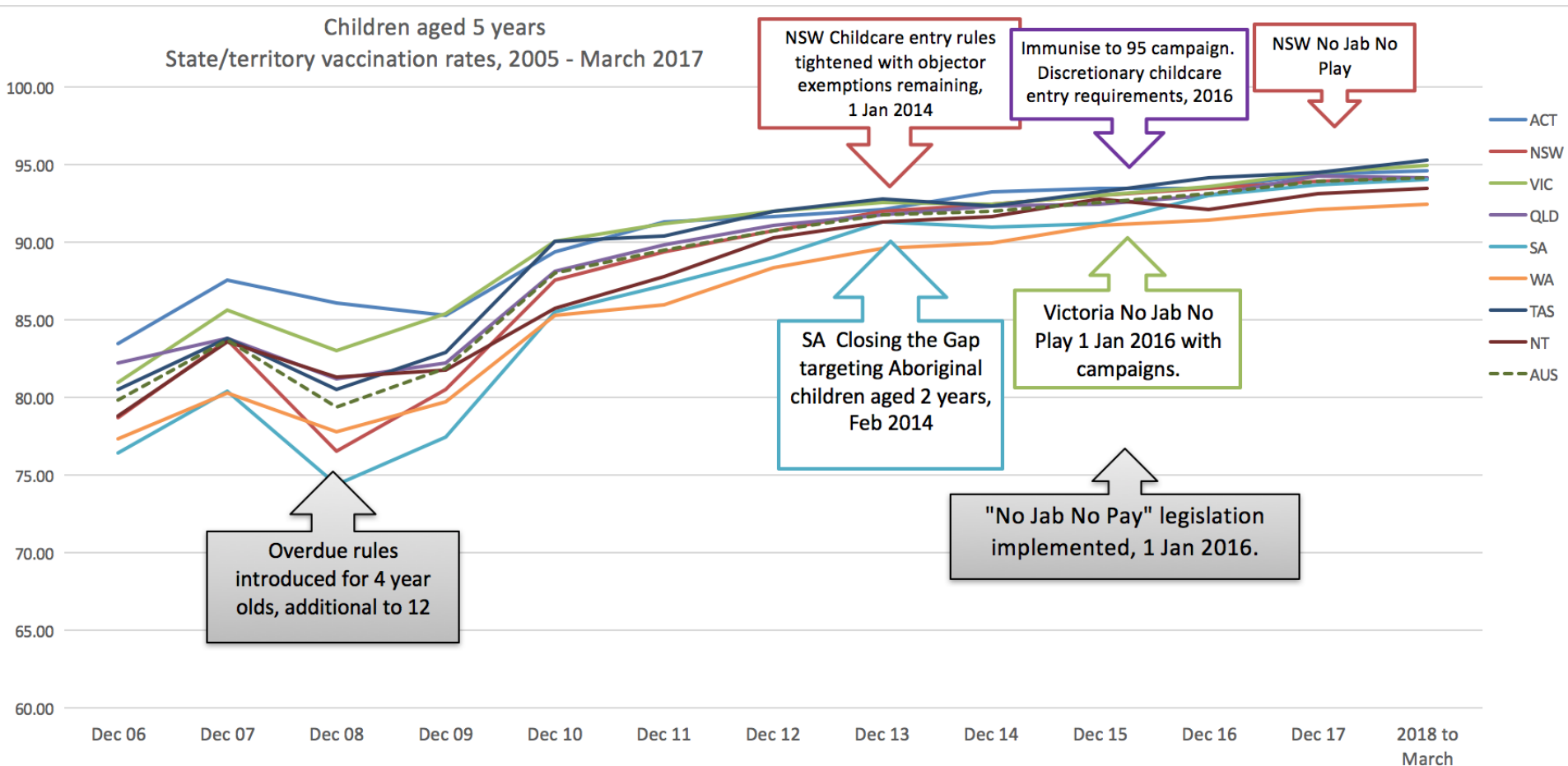
Impact in perspective

Childhood immunisation coverage 2005-2017, Australia

— 12-<15 Months — 24-<27 Months — 60-<63 Months



Coverage for 5 y/0 with state and territory initiatives

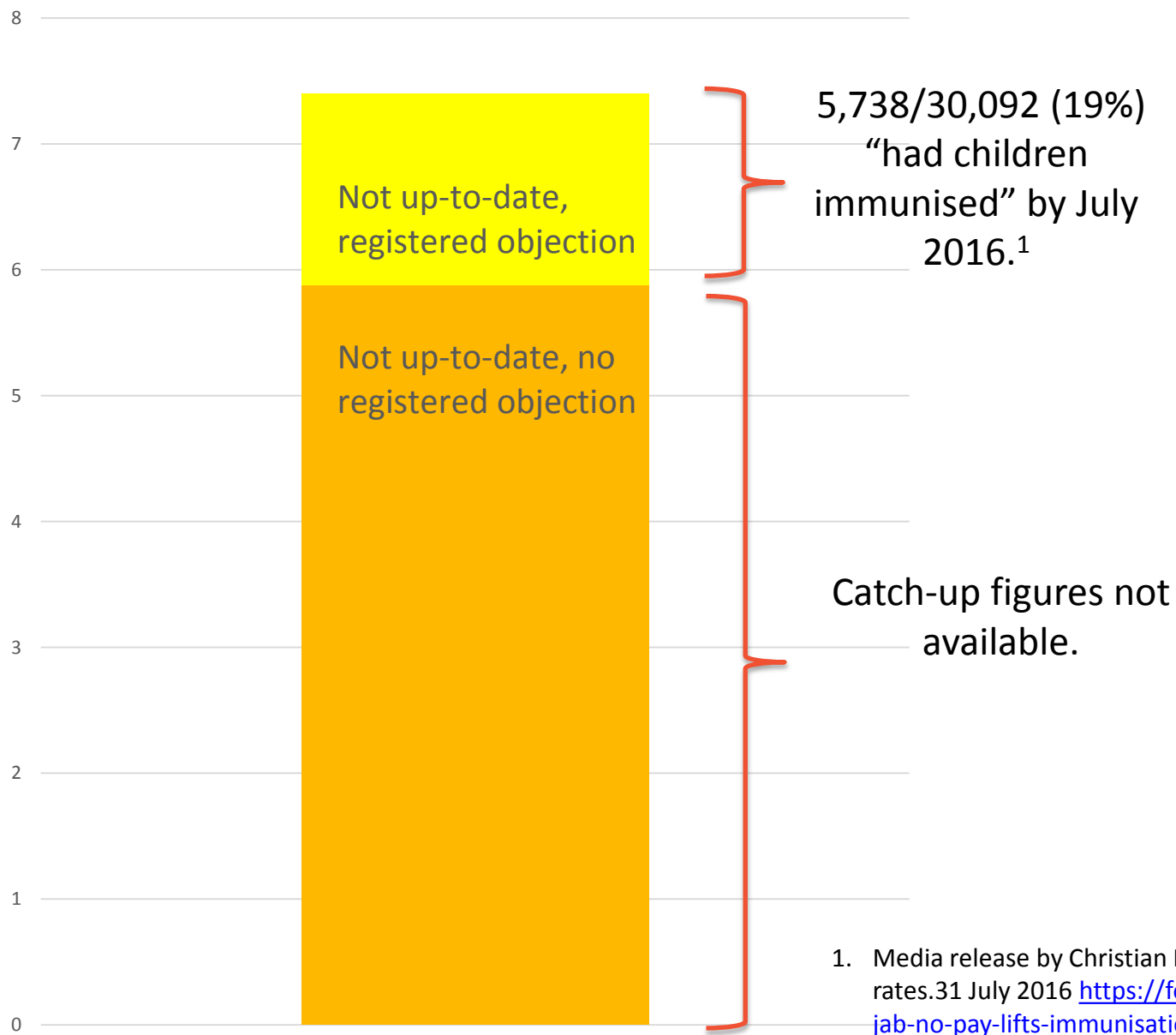


Coverage and gap, 5 year olds, Australia 2015



Source: Immunisation coverage rates for all children,
<https://beta.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/childhood-immunisation-coverage/immunisation-coverage-rates-for-all-children>

Children aged <5yrs in the gap, since January 2016



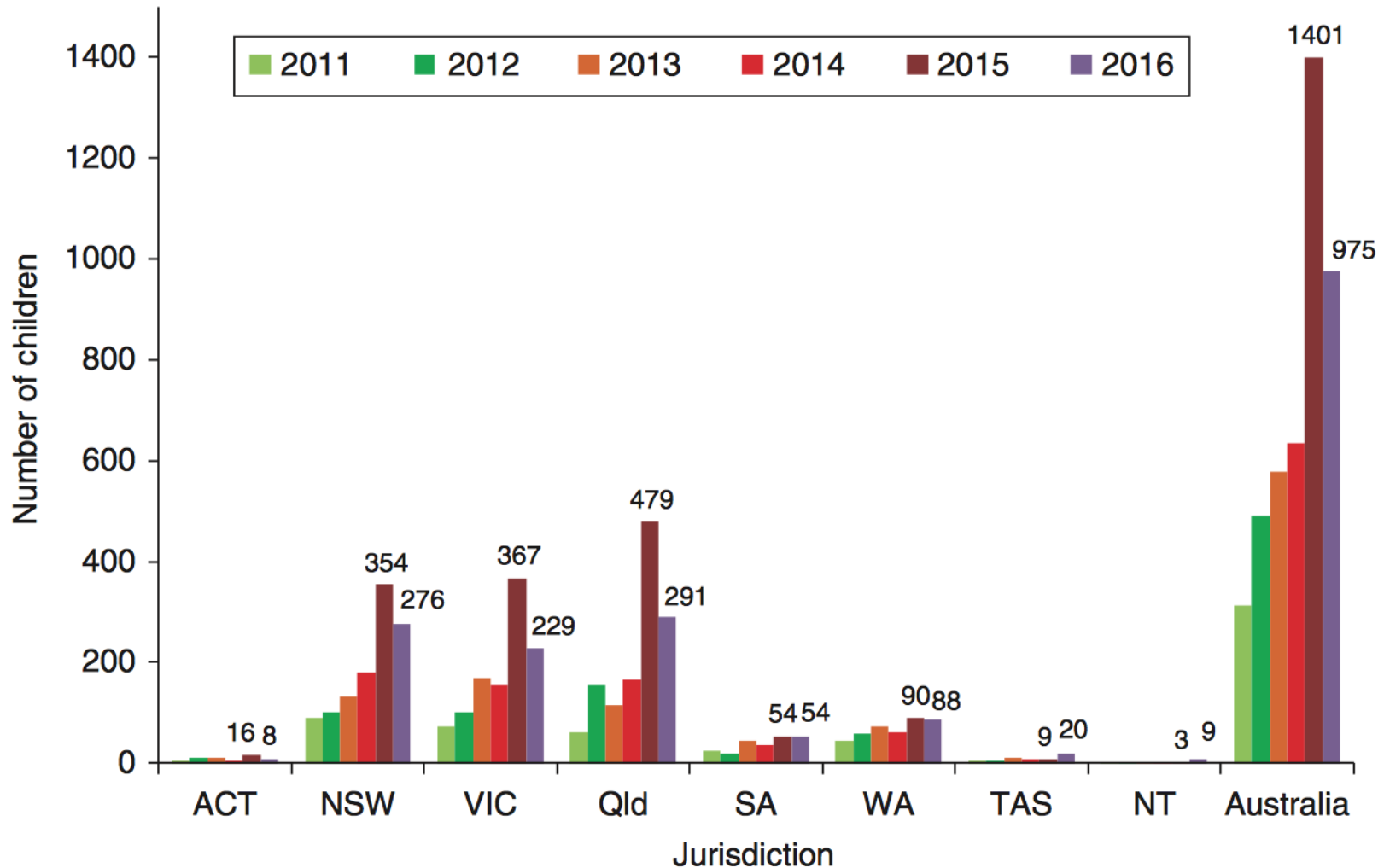
1. Media release by Christian Porter, No Jab, No Pay lifts immunisation rates.31 July 2016 <https://formerministers.dss.gov.au/17462/no-jab-no-pay-lifts-immunisation-rates/>

Population aged 1-19 years affected by extension of penalty.

- ~235,000 aged 1-19 have “taken action” Dec 2017-May 2018.¹
- “Taken action”
 - Received all the recommended vaccines
 - Or commenced and part-way through a catch-up schedule
 - Or received an exemption.
- Percentage who were previously ‘Conscientious Objectors’ is unknown
- Percentage with recording error corrected unknown.

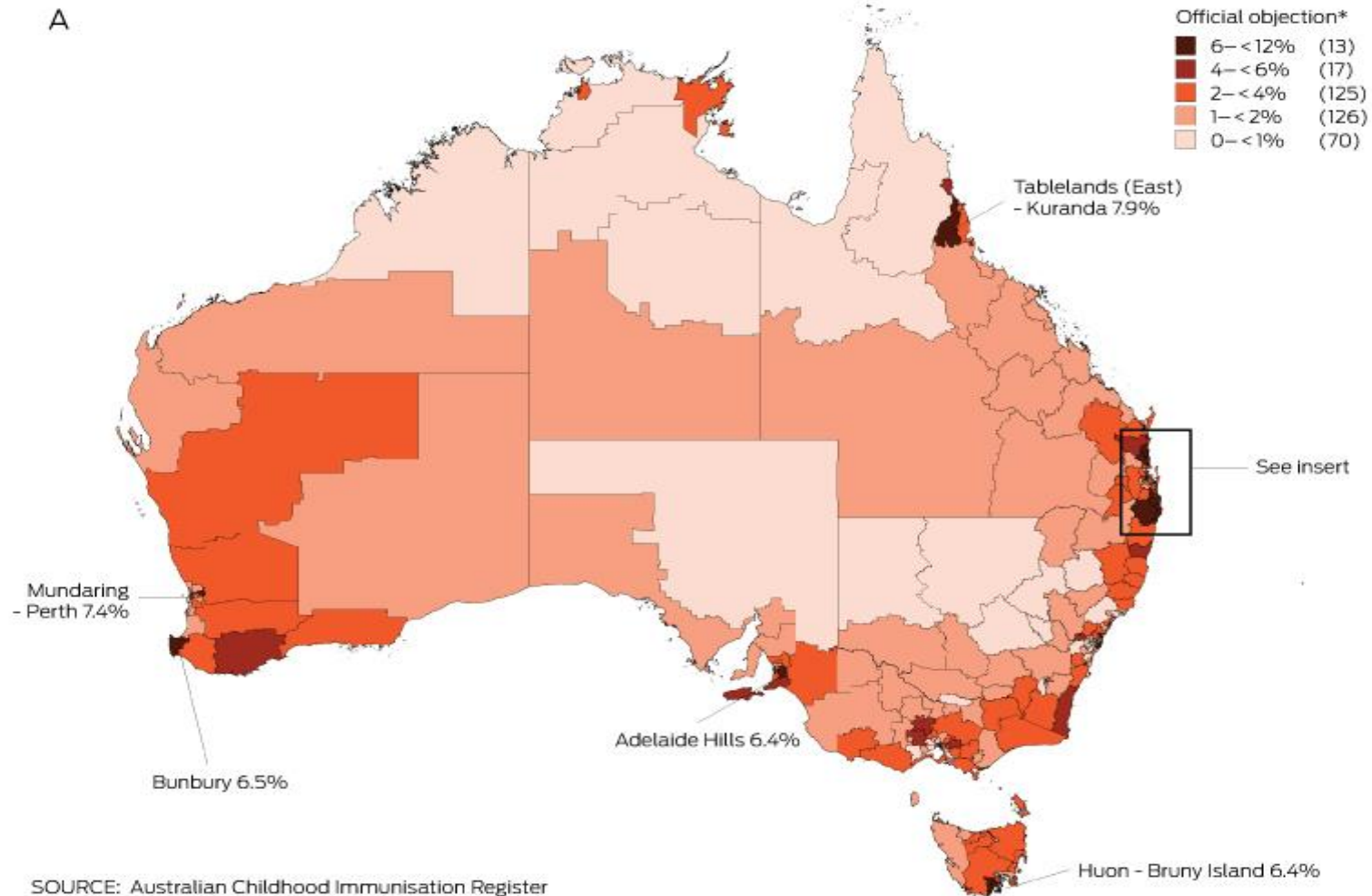
¹Department of Health, May 2018,

Medical exemptions – a pressure valve



Source: NCIRS Annual Immunisation Coverage report 2016

Impact on an exemption cluster?



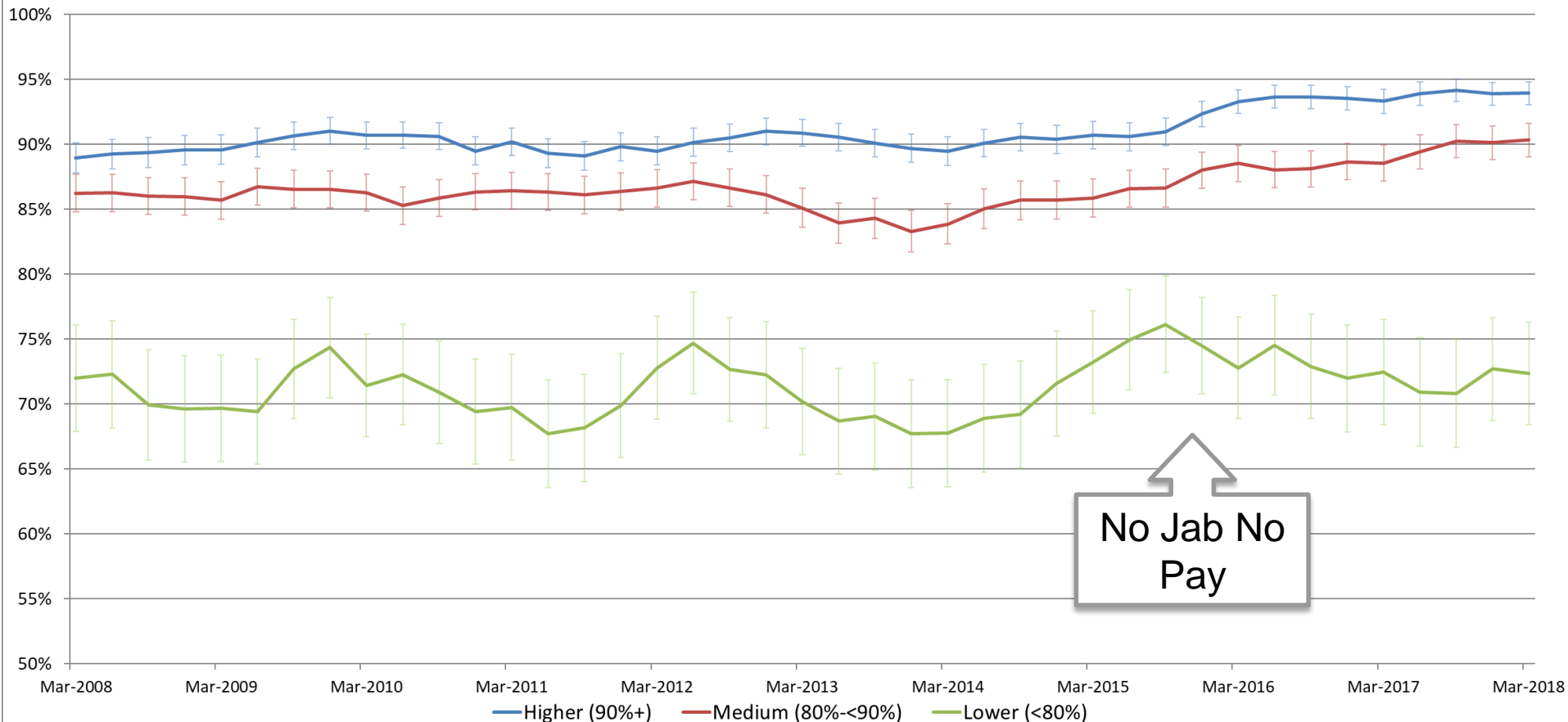
Proportion of conscientious objectors in Australia by Statistical Division, 2007-2012

Source: Beard F, Hull B, Leask J, Dey A, McIntyre P. Trends and patterns in vaccination objection, Australia, 2002-2013. *Medical Journal of Australia*. In-press; accepted 29 Feb 2016.

Impact on clusters with higher objection rates?

North Coast of NSW

Percentage of ALL CHILDREN fully vaccinated at 12 months,
Mar 2008 to Mar 2018, (rolling 12 month average), North Coast (NSW)



No Jab No Play, currently NSW and VIC

Vaccine preventable diseases

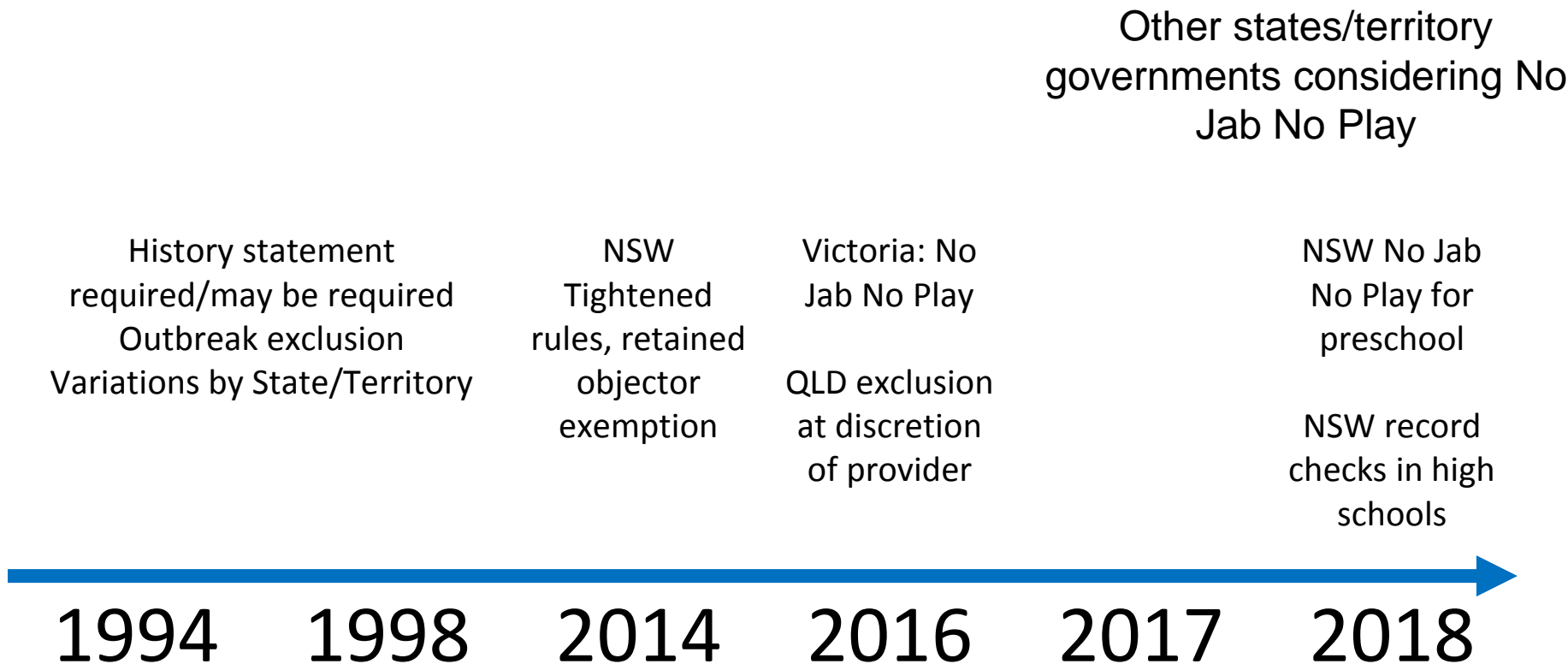
Schedule 1 [38] and [39] amend section 87 of the Act to provide that the principal of a child care facility must not enrol, or permit to be enrolled, an unvaccinated child at the facility if the only reason provided for failure to vaccinate the child is that the parent of the child has a conscientious belief that the child should not be vaccinated in respect of specified vaccine preventable diseases. The proposed amendments also make it an offence (with a maximum penalty of \$5,500) for the principal of a child care facility to enrol a child at the facility if the principal has not been provided

NSW Public Health Amendment (Review) Act 2017

No Jab No Play – information for parents



State requirements - timeline



VPD risk in childcare?

Pertussis

- Transmission in vaccinated
- Up to 50% of infants hospitalised with pertussis contracted it from a parent or sibling.¹
- Maternal immunisation highly effective

Measles

- Elimination status
- Outbreaks begin with imported cases
- Spread to mostly <1 and adolescents
- Outbreaks spread mostly in densely populated areas with large numbers of under-vaccinated.²

1. Wiley KE, Zuo Y, Macartney KK, McIntyre PB. Sources of pertussis infection in young infants: a review of key evidence informing targeting of the cocoon strategy. *Vaccine*. 2013;31(4):618-25
2. Najjar Z, Hope K, Clark P, et al. Sustained outbreak of measles in New South Wales, 2012: risks for measles elimination in Australia. *Western Pac Surveill Response J* 2015; 5: 14-20.

Early childhood education

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION – 2016 AND 2017

- “...universal access to, and improving participation in, affordable, quality early childhood education programmes for all children.”

Childcare Sector

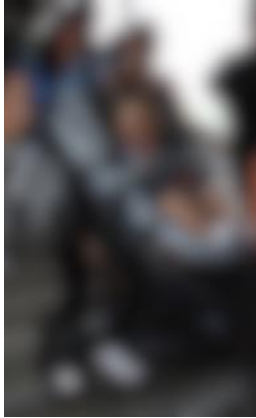
- “It’s going to be very difficult for a lot of educators to reconcile the conflict between the obvious benefits of immunisation and denying children access to enrolment.”

Jennifer Ribarowsky, early childhood educator,

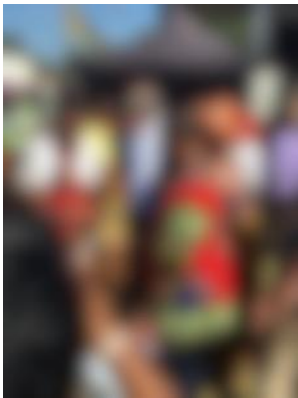
<https://www.cela.org.au/2017/08/17/policies-collide-vaccination-universal-access/>

Typology of impacts

Under fives,
unintentionally
late

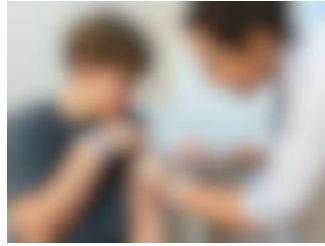


Reminded and
catches-up



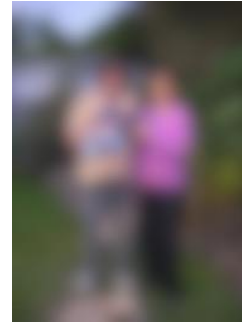
Refugee family,
complex catch-up,
misses deadline¹

Adolescents



Catch up MMR2 or other

Exemption limbo

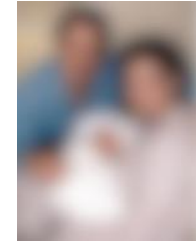


Supportive but
scared

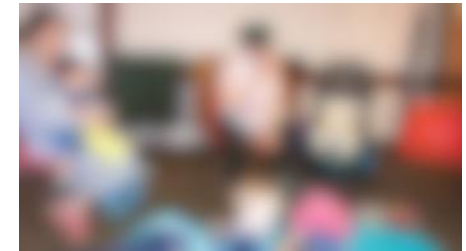


Medically
complex

Objectors



Reluctantly
catches-up



Holds ground
and adapts²

16.4% "Access to government family support
payments is important in my decisions"³

1. Leask, Danchin. J Paed Child Health 2017
2. Helps C, Barclay L, Leask J. *Journal of Public Health Policy*. 2018;39(2):156-169.
3. Corben P, Leask J. *BMC Public Health* 2018, 18(1)

Impacts of No Jab No Pay/Play policies

Upsides

- Coverage increase of 1.8% under 5's, amidst other strategies
- Expansion of requirement 1-19 years prompted catch-up or correction of recording error
- Catch-up of some objectors
- Raised awareness of existing requirements
- Savings of \$508.3 million (from non-payment of benefits) of which \$26 million goes to vaccine programs
- Responds to public demand and concern
- Perception of safety when world seems less safe
- Vic and NSW legislation ensures parents check records. It provides for disadvantaged families with grace periods for enrolment and catch-up.
- Obliges governments to enact other efforts to improve coverage
- Improvements in AIR

Impacts of No Jab No Pay/Play policies

Downsides

- Differential effects on lower income families
- Consent becomes coerced for low income families
- Objectors who won't change
 - No Play - Removed access to pre-school education is detrimental, particularly for disadvantaged families
 - Informal childcare arrangements
 - Impact on relationship with provider and other services
- Lost opportunity to engage with health care system
- Inadequate provisions for medically complex cases
- Others not up to date
 - Disadvantaged more often than before
 - Consequence of recording error falls on parent

What is needed now?

- Department of Social Services: Make the 2016 process evaluation publicly available
- Federal government: Conduct an impact and outcome evaluation (coverage and disease rates)
- Addressing remaining gaps in child and adult coverage
- Continued improvement of AIR recording
- Revision of medical exemption provisions – expert assessment in atypical cases
- State governments and other countries should carefully weigh potential benefits against known risks of removing early childhood education.
- No fault vaccine injury compensation



Is the juice worth the squeeze?

Vaccination requirements in legislation +
implementation + accurate register + minimise other
barriers + strict objector exemptions

= most of the juice

Removing objector exemptions from above

= little extra juice for
lots of squeeze



Thank you



Vaccine policy should be like a strong but flexible suspension bridge.