1. The Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 amends the *Public Health Act 2005* to give the person in charge of an education and care service, approved under the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) or the *Education and Care Services Act 2013,* the discretion to refuse enrolment and/or attendance of an unvaccinated child, unless the child:
* has a documented medical contraindication; or
* is on a recognised catch-up schedule.
1. The Bill requires a parent or guardian of a child to provide proof of a child’s immunisation status to a person in charge of an approved education and care service. A person in charge of an approved education and care service will not be permitted to refuse enrolment to a child who has a medical contraindication to one or more vaccinations, or where a child is on a recognised catch up schedule.
2. The person in charge of an approved education and care service will also be empowered to ask a parent of a child enrolled at the service to provide updated certification of the child’s immunisation status at key immunisation age milestones. Where a parent of a child does not provide updated certification of their child’s immunisation status within at least four weeks the person in charge of the service may cancel the child’s enrolment or refuse to allow the child to attend the service.
3. The amendments in the Bill will promote vaccination and protect children and those people working at approved education and care services from vaccine preventable diseases.
4. The Bill also contains an unrelated health legislation amendment. The amendment, to the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*, is urgently required to ensure the Health Ombudsman is empowered to undertake necessary public investigations into serious healthcare complaints.
5. The amendment effectively clarifies an existing power to require a person to provide ‘information’ in the course of an investigation, by specifically empowering the Ombudsman to compel a person to attend and answer questions.
6. However, the existing right of a person to refuse to answer questions on the ground of self-incrimination has not changed.
7. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.
8. *Attachments*
* [Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) Amendment Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf); [Explanatory Notes Erratum](Attachments/ExNotesErratum.PDF)