



## Department of Human Services

Incorporating: Health, Community Services, Mental Health and  
Housing

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Our Ref: e950479  
Your Ref:

Ms Fran Sheffield  
The Do No Harm Initiative  
26 Corona Lane  
GLENNING VALLEY NSW 2261

Dear Ms Sheffield

Thank you for your letter of 26 July 2007 to the previous Minister for Health the Hon Bronwyn Pike MP about a homeopathic prophylactic that protects against all strains of meningococcal disease. Due to the recent cabinet reshuffle and portfolio changes I have been asked to reply to you.

Immunisation policy is set by the Australian Government on advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation. All recommendations have recently been reviewed in light of the best scientific evidence. As a result, the recommendation for protection against meningococcal disease remains a single dose of meningococcal C vaccine at 12 months. All vaccines used in the National Immunisation Program must be registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration to ensure their safety and efficacy.

Since the introduction of an effective vaccine against meningococcal C disease in 2003, and its inclusion in the national immunisation schedule, there has been a forty-five per cent reduction in the numbers and incidence rate of all meningococcal disease. Even more encouraging is the significant reduction in deaths attributed to meningococcal disease. In addition there is no evidence of a corresponding rise in the rates of disease caused by meningococcal B. A polysaccharide vaccine is also available to protect against other, less common strain types and is often recommended as a travel vaccine.

Thank you for raising this matter and I trust this information has been helpful.

Yours sincerely

**DR C W BROOK**  
Executive Director  
Rural and Regional Health and Aged Care Services

