



Secretary

Department of Health and Human Services



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Hayley Burgess
Coroner's Registrar
65 Kavanagh Street
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Dear Ms Burgess

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 January 2018 in respect to the investigation into the death of Emma K McGrath (Court Reference: COR 2017 002066).

On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services I would like to express our condolences to the McGrath family for the sad and traumatic loss of their daughter, Emma.

In the findings document into Emma McGrath's death it is noted that the Coroner, Peter White, recommends the following:

'That the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services consider reinstituting access to free meningococcal ACWY vaccination for young people aged 15 to 19 years inclusive, whether in secondary school setting or otherwise.'

In the absence of a national vaccination program the Minister for Health, Hon Jill Hennessy on 8 February 2017, announced the \$7.1 million vaccination program for Meningococcal W for 15 to 19-year-old adolescents, commencing in term two of the 2017 school year. On 31 November 2017, prior to receipt of the coroner's recommendation, Minister Hennessy approved that the program would be extended in 2018 for year 10 students and age equivalent individuals (15 and 16-year-olds) across the state. Individuals aged 17 to 19 in 2017 should have already been given opportunity to be vaccinated through the comprehensive 15 to 19-year-old program in 2017.

It is also important to note that the meningococcal W vaccine program has been accompanied by an intensive and ongoing communication and education campaign targeting adolescents and parents.

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Kym Peake
Secretary

3 / 4 / 2018