



## Cavenagh Medical Centre

### **Meningitis in Darwin**

Death of a child on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 of meningococcal type B.

### **Frequently asked questions:**

#### **What is meningococcal?**

Meningococcal is one of the causes of meningitis. The child that died in Darwin had bacterial strain B.

#### **How do you get it?**

Close contact with someone who is unwell with this infection. It can look just like the flu.

If you want your child immunised for all strains of meningococcal the advice will depend on the age of the child, when their last other vaccines were and if they are well now.

For example:

- A 4 year old may need 1 vaccine of the 4(ACWY) strain and 2 vaccines of the B strain
- A 4 month old may need 4 doses of the B strain and 4 doses of the 4 strain ACWY.  
These are spaced out over around 12 months.

There is likely to be some delays in supply and access because of large initial demand.

#### **What is the cost?**

ACWY 4 strain cost varies from \$80 to \$120 depending on vaccine brand

B strain cost varies from \$130 to \$150

#### **Which vaccine does my child get at 12 months?**

Meningococcal C combined with other vaccines.

#### **Why is Meningococcal C the only one covered?**

Because this is the most common and we do vaccinate against every possible bacterial disease. We (government researched and advised) vaccinate against the most likely to cause risk to the population.

#### **See doctor if you know that a contact has had meningococcal.**

Centre for Disease Control has undertaken contact tracing for “at risk” people and have offered antibiotics to help prevent infection. If you or your child are well, have not been contacted by Centre for Disease Control, and you do not know anyone personally with meningococcal disease then you do not need antibiotics “just in case”.

For further detailed information regarding meningococcal, please see NCIRS link