



The Hon Melinda Pavey MLC
Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health

M14/3600

30 JUL 2014

Ms Heidi Robertson and Ms Alison Gaylard
Email: NRVS.group@mail.com

Dear Ms Robertson and Ms Gaylard

Thank you for your correspondence to Jillian Skinner MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research regarding the free provision of pertussis vaccine for women in their third trimester of pregnancy. Mrs Skinner has asked me to respond.

I appreciate the interest of the Northern Rivers Vaccination Supporters group in improving immunisation rates in the Northern Rivers region and assure you that the NSW Government is committed to supporting efforts to protect very young babies from pertussis.

I am advised that NSW Health will closely monitor the Queensland Health pilot program to fund pertussis vaccine for women in the last trimester of pregnancy.

While it is pleasing to note that pertussis notifications in NSW are at their lowest level since 2007, efforts to prevent pertussis are continuing. NSW Health recommends that women planning a pregnancy or in their third trimester receive a pertussis vaccine on prescription to protect their very young babies and will make free vaccine available to new mothers in public maternity units who have not received the vaccine in the previous five years.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to the Minister's attention. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Dr Vicky Sheppard, Director Communicable Diseases Branch, Ministry of Health, on 9391 9195 or at: vshep@doh.health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Melinda Pavey MLC