

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

4 February 2019

Lauga calls on Feds to subsidise meningococcal vaccines

Life-saving vaccines for Meningococcal B and meningococcal ACWY for adolescents should be funded by the Federal Government, the Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said today.

She said the vaccine is only available through the private market with the cost per dose between \$100 to \$150.

“While two meningococcal B vaccines have been registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, they are not yet approved for use by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and they are not currently funded under the National Immunisation Program.”

Mrs Lauga said Queensland Health Minister Stephen Miles wrote to Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt in late July 2018 about getting meningococcal B and meningococcal ACWY vaccine for adolescents on the National Immunisation Program.

She said Mr Miles urged Mr Hunt to fund the meningococcal ACWY vaccine under the NIP for children aged 12 months.

He also noted PBAC’s positive recommendation to fund meningococcal ACWY vaccine for adolescents, subject to price negotiations.

Mrs Lauga said her daughter Odette has just had the final of her three vaccinations for meningococcal and she was surprised at the cost for such an important vaccine.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation recommends meningococcal B vaccine to:

- Infants and young children, particularly those aged less than 24 months

ELECTORATE OFFICE

Shop 3, Evia Building Normanby Street
Yeppoon QLD 4703

POSTAL ADDRESS

Post Office Box 1474
Yeppoon QLD 4703

CONTACT

Phone: (07) 4913 1500 Fax: (07) 4913 1509
Email: keppel@parliament.qld.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.brittanylauga.com.au

- Adolescents aged 15 to 19 years
- Children and adults with medical conditions placing them at a high risk of meningococcal disease

In 2017 there were 25 cases of invasive meningococcal disease serogroup B notified in Queensland, following 17 cases notified in 2016, which was the lowest number of cases notified for many years.

There is no data for 2018 available; however the overall trend for several years has been a decline in notification numbers.

Children aged less than five years, particularly infants aged under one have the highest incidence of invasive meningococcal disease caused by serogroup B.

- **NB: Mrs Lauga will be available for comment tomorrow (Tuesday) 11.30am at the Learning and Development Centre, lower ground floor of rehab unit, Rockhampton Hospital, Canning Street where she will be celebrating 79 new nurses and midwives to the Central Hospital and Health District.**

Contact John 0400787037