



# Anaphylaxis Management

March 2008

The Victorian Government is leading the way nationally in responding to increasing rates of anaphylaxis in the community.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction. It is a sudden, severe and potentially fatal reaction. A survey of 2700 licensed children's services in 2006 found that at that time there were 1675 children attending who had been diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis. It is estimated that 35 per cent of schools have a child enrolled who has been diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis.

As children and young people are among those most likely to be affected by anaphylaxis it is essential for children's services and schools to provide a safe environment for children diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis.

The Children's Services and Education Legislation Amendment (Anaphylaxis Management) Bill 2007 was recently passed by Parliament. When the *Children's Services and Education Legislation Amendment Act 2008* commences on 14 July 2008 it will mandate minimum safety standards for children's services and schools to protect children and young people diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis.

This Act will amend the *Children's Services Act 1996* to require all licensed children's services to have an Anaphylaxis Management Policy, and will allow the development of regulations specific to anaphylaxis management.

New and amended regulations will be drafted to include matters directly related to anaphylaxis in the Children's Services Regulations 1998. Matters being considered for the regulations are enrolment requirements; a risk minimisation plan; provision to parents of the service's anaphylaxis management policy; requirements for staff training; the development and practice of emergency procedures; and the storage and transport arrangements for medication.

The regulations will build upon the detailed policy advice and resources already provided to children's services.

# Update



## children's services regulations

As part of the standard process for developing regulations, a Regulatory Impact Statement will be prepared. More information will be provided as part of the consultation on the Regulatory Impact Statement.

### Training and Resources

Over 5700 children's services staff have already received free anaphylaxis management training funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Staff in licensed children's services, where there is a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis, are required to have accredited anaphylaxis management training and regular training in the administration of the EpiPen®.

Information related to the free training for staff in children's services where a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis is enrolled can be found at:  
[www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/earlychildhood)

An Anaphylaxis Resource Kit was distributed to all licensed children's services in September 2007. This kit allows all staff in children's services the flexibility to regularly practice the correct administration of the EpiPen® and refresh the skills and knowledge gained through accredited anaphylaxis management training.

A practice note on anaphylaxis management is provided to support proprietors and staff to manage anaphylaxis in licensed children's services.

The website [www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/earlychildhood) contains a range of information resources and practice notes as well as links to other useful allergy and anaphylaxis websites.

**Contact the children's services regulations enquiry line on  
1300 307 415 if you have any questions or require further information**