



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**4 March 2010**

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### **Council changes delivery of immunisation programs**

Burnie City Council will change its focus on the delivery of community immunisation programs.

Due to a lack of community support, Aldermen agreed at last month's Council meeting to discontinue the delivery of the basic childhood immunisation program through its free monthly community clinics.

"Unfortunately Council's monthly immunisation clinics held at the Burnie Arts & Function Centre have suffered a steady decline in attendance over the years and are no longer sustainable," Burnie Mayor Alwyn Boyd said.

"Our figures reveal that the average attendance per clinic in 2009 was five patients and unfortunately this year's clinics were less. By comparison, attendances averaged above 200 patients per session in the 1970's."

However, Burnie Mayor Alwyn Boyd said Council would continue to assist in delivering immunisation programs, such as last week's swine flu clinic which saw more than 360 people vaccinated.

Mayor Boyd said Council facilitated the joint venture between the Department of Health and Human Services and UTas.

"Council sees immunisation options like last week's swine flu clinic as the most practical means of assisting our community," he said.

"Council will maintain provision of school-based and 'catch up' immunisation programs, which is a cost-effective and practical method for efficient delivery of vaccine to a larger and common target group."

Mayor Boyd said three other North West councils had already discontinued the provision of monthly immunisation programs due to poor patronage.

While the removal of the monthly clinics may inconvenience a small portion of the population, Mayor Boyd said it would not result in an absence of local immunisation.

“Commonwealth immunisation data indicates that most people are now taking their children along to a GP for immunization, with Tasmania boasting one of the highest rates of fully immunised children in Australia with more than 90% immunised,” Mayor Boyd said.

**The next swine flu clinic will be held on April 7 from 9am until 4pm at the Guide Hall, Howe Street, Burnie.**

**For more information please contact Council on 6430 5700.**

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