MEDIA RELEASE

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Doctor Dad joins Medical Mums to convince vaccine doubters

World Immunisation Week, 24-30 April 2017

All parents want the best for their kids and Dr Stuart McAuley, a general practitioner (GP) and father to two girls is no exception.

In a series of videos to be released to coincide with World Immunisation Week (24-30 April 2017), Dr McAuley explains why he has joined the annual Medical Mums childhood immunisation campaign.

“Vaccines can be given at the right time, and appropriately, and there are minimal or essentially zero side effects or complications,” Dr McAuley said.

As well as the videos, this Brisbane North PHN campaign will include an education resource for GPs to use with their patients.

The resource explains that a healthy lifestyle and good hygiene are not enough to protect your family against disease.

Vaccination can protect children against serious infectious diseases such as measles, whooping cough and diphtheria.

“The upshot of having a well-vaccinated child is that they won’t catch these conditions that can be potentially disastrous to a young child and really impact on their quality of life further down the line,” Dr McAuley said.

“These are preventable diseases that we’re vaccinating against,” he said.

“There is plenty in the community that isn’t preventable, so we need to do our upmost to stop things from happening that we can have an impact on.”

Dr McAuley joins the campaign with local GP and mum of two boys Dr Dana Newcomb, who says she did not hesitate to vaccinate her children.

“I know that immunisations are safe and effective,” Dr Newcomb said.

“I’ve seen what happens to children who aren’t immunised, and immunising your children is the best thing you can do for their health,” she said.

Brisbane’s inner city is home to a high number of vaccine doubters and will be a major focus for this year’s Medical Mums campaign.

As of December 2016, more than eight per cent of five-year-olds in the Brisbane Inner City region were not fully vaccinated, compared to seven per cent nationally.

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In the Moreton Bay region, the Caboolture Hinterland, Beechmere and Redcliffe are among areas most at risk. Work is also needed to lift one- and two-year-old immunisation rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

To get the facts about immunisation, the videos and other resources are available at www.medicalmums.com.au.

### ENDS ###

**Editor’s note:**
Print quality images of the health professionals featured in the Medical Mums campaign are available for download from Dropbox here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p2yte72z16sx3st/AABOQTcPvsdEdmy4LiFZslzua?dl=0

**About Brisbane North PHN**

Brisbane North PHN is one of 31 Primary Health Networks nationwide and supports clinicians and communities within North Brisbane, Moreton Bay and parts of the Somerset region. It covers approximately 4,100 km² of urban, regional and rural areas, with a population of over 900,000.

The key objectives of the PHN are:

- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and
- improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.