

## **New Anaphylaxis Resource Kits and Training for WA Schools and Child Care Services**

The incidence of anaphylaxis due to allergies is increasing. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe, rapidly progressive and potentially life threatening allergic reaction in a sensitised individual and it impacts the lives of many children.

Parents of children who are at risk of anaphylaxis are seeking reassurance that school and child care services can help to reduce the risk of exposure to allergens and that staff will know what to do in an emergency.

The WA Government has committed \$6.6 million over four years to implement the recommendations in the report *Anaphylaxis: Meeting the Challenge for Western Australian Children*. Part of this money will be used to provide information, training and resources to staff at schools and child care services.

In February 2010, all schools and child care services will receive a free **anaphylaxis resource kit**, which has been specifically developed based on the information collected from the 2008 Anaphylaxis School and Child Care Survey and extensive consultation with stakeholders.

Inside the kit you will find a range of publications and tools that you can use to manage anaphylaxis in your school or child care service and to communicate to your stakeholders:

- Anaphylaxis Management Guidelines
- CD ROM with a range of useful fact sheets, sample policy and plan, and sample letters (please note the CD ROM is designed for Windows operating system, Macintosh users may have a varied user experience)
- Training autoinjectors (Anapen<sup>®</sup> and EpiPen<sup>®</sup>) with posters
- Anaphylaxis fact sheet
- 7 Steps to Allergy Awareness poster
- Think FAST poster
- Anaphylaxis Australia DVD
- Canteen pack to give to your food coordinator

**Certified anaphylaxis training** to support the use of the kit will be available free of charge to school and child care staff during the 2010 school year. The training will be approximately one and a half hours in length and will be delivered by specially trained school/community health nurses, with specialist support from the Immunology Department at Princess Margaret Hospital. As training will need to be delivered in a staged approach, the nurse for your region will be in contact to confirm a mutually agreed time for this training.

This initiative is lead by the *Anaphylaxis Management Implementation Group* – a joint partnership between the Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Education Services, Department for Communities, Anaphylaxis Australia Inc, Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology, Catholic Education Office of WA, Association of Independent Schools of WA, Dietitians Association of Australia and General Practitioners.

For more information on the anaphylaxis project visit [www.health.wa.gov.au/anaphylaxis](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/anaphylaxis)