Understanding parental (mis)trust in childhood vaccinations.

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Brief outline of project

Childhood vaccination is one of the most successful and cost effective global public health programs to reduce disease-related mortality. Whilst Australia has a high childhood vaccination rate compared with many countries, vaccination coverage rates conceal significant variations between: individual vaccines, vaccine uptake at difference ages, social and cultural groups and geographic areas. Pockets of low vaccination coverage decrease the protection achieved through herd immunity, leaving non-vaccinated children, unborn babies and non-immunised adults vulnerable to infectious preventable diseases. Recent systematic reviews identify a need for research aimed at understanding parental mistrust in vaccinations.

The main aim of the proposed qualitative study is to understand (mis)trust around childhood vaccinations and develop ideas for trust-building strategies. We will interview ‘vaccine hesitant’ parents to understand their (mis)trust - not just in ‘the vaccination’ but in broader social systems and institutions that may foster a generalized mistrust.

Key references (  

Location of Project:  
Health Sciences Building, Bedford Park Campus