



Dear Parents and Carers,



The Amanda Young Foundation, with support from Telethon, provided our free “Kiddy Canter” program at your child’s centre or school as part of National Meningococcal Day.

The purpose of the event was to spread awareness about Meningococcal Disease – a rare disease that is spread through respiratory droplets and can cause death within hours of first symptoms.

The centre/school staff conducted activities with children about hygiene, such as coughing or sneezing into their elbow to avoid the spread of bacteria and how to wash their hands properly. Amanda Young was an avid horse rider, so the event had horse themed activities based on our character Melrose Mare.

As part of our Education and Awareness Program we are providing parents and families with information about Meningococcal Disease: what you can do to minimise the risk, and what action to take if you suspect yourself or someone you love has contracted the disease.

Meningococcal Disease is a bacterial infection that can make people critically ill and can kill within hours. It is classed as a rare disease, with less than 200 cases per year in Australia. Roughly 70% of patients make a full recovery. Sadly, around 10% will die from the disease.

- The disease can strike anyone at any time – regardless of age, race, gender or health.
- The most at risk group is children 0-5, followed by adolescents and young adults.
- The disease rapidly worsens, meaning patients can die within hours of presenting symptoms.
- Early identification and treatment are vital to survival.
- The disease can be difficult to identify as early symptoms resemble a virus or “flu”.

Please take the time to look through the pamphlet provided, and keep the symptoms card on your fridge for referral. Remain vigilant if your child presents symptoms similar to Meningococcal Disease and seek medical attention immediately if you are concerned. *Early detection saves lives.*

To organise a free Meningococcal Disease Awareness presentation for your school, workplace, sporting group or parenting group, please contact Education Program Manager, Deanna Howell, on 0433 615 656 or [education@amandayoungfoundation.org.au](mailto:education@amandayoungfoundation.org.au).