Don’t let Meningococcal C get in the way!

The Ministry of Health’s chief population advisor recommends university students be vaccinated against Meningococcal C disease – before it’s too late.

The call comes after the death of a 19 year old university student, who died after contracting Meningococcal Septicaemia – the C strain of the disease in April 2011. She had been vaccinated against Meningococcal B.

‘She was 19. Those kind of things don’t really happen to people like us. You always see them in the news and stuff and think ‘that’s not going to happen to us’. You kind of underestimate meningococcal’, said her sister.

‘Meningococcal disease is a very variable disease and sometimes, as in this case, it can have tragic consequences’. The immunisation handbook recommends parents of young people who are going to university and/or living in halls of residence consider having their young adult vaccinated against Meningococcal C disease.

The bacteria can be transferred from person to person through contact with saliva, including:

- Intimate kissing
- Shared drink bottles
- Coughing, sneezing or laughing

Health & Counselling – Albany campus invites students/parents/caregivers to talk with them about the vaccine. The cost for vaccination is $65.00 for enrolled students. A relatively small investment for providing protection against such a potential serious and life-threatening disease.

Contact Health & Counselling on 443 9783.