

# Australia's approach to tackling cervical cancer

14 February 2019



Australian Government

NATIONAL  
**CERVICAL SCREENING**  
PROGRAM

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

# Cervical Cancer in Australia

Australian rates of cervical cancer incidence and death are among the lowest in the world.

Incidence and mortality rates for cervical cancer (selected countries), 2012

Country	Incidence (ASRW) <sup>(a)</sup>	Mortality (ASRW) <sup>(a)</sup>
Sweden	7.4	1.9
United Kingdom	7.1	1.8
USA	6.6	2.7
Canada	6.3	1.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>5.5 (ASR)</b>	<b>1.6 (ASR)</b>
New Zealand	5.3	1.4
Finland	4.3	1.0

ASRW: age-standardised rate (World Standard Population) except for Australia (see note)

ASR: age-standardised rate (Australian population)

Source: GLOBOCAM (2012)

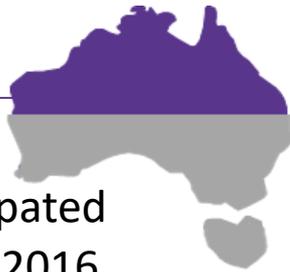
# National Cervical Screening Program

## 3.8 million

participants in the NCSP in 2015 and 2016

## 55%

of the target group participated in 2015 and 2016



## 80%

of cervical cancers in Australia are found in women who have never screened or have NOT regularly screened

## 50%

reduction in cervical cancer incidence since NCSP introduced in 1991

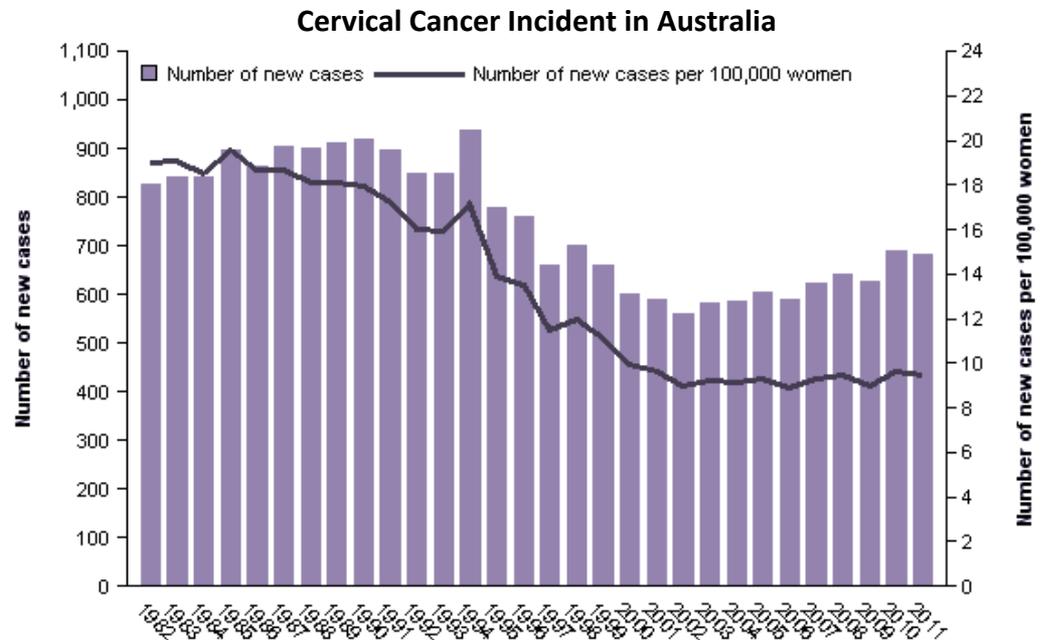


Figure 2.1: Incidence of cervical cancer in women aged 20–69 years, 1982–2011  
Source: AIWH (2011)

## National Cervical Screening Program (cont)

The reduction in the incidence of and mortality from cervical cancer has plateaued in Australian women since 2002.

In 2007, Australia introduced a national HPV Vaccination program.

In 2011, Australia commenced a process of renewal of the NCSP.

In 2017, the Pap test was replaced with the Cervical Screening Test which is expected to protect up to 30% more women.

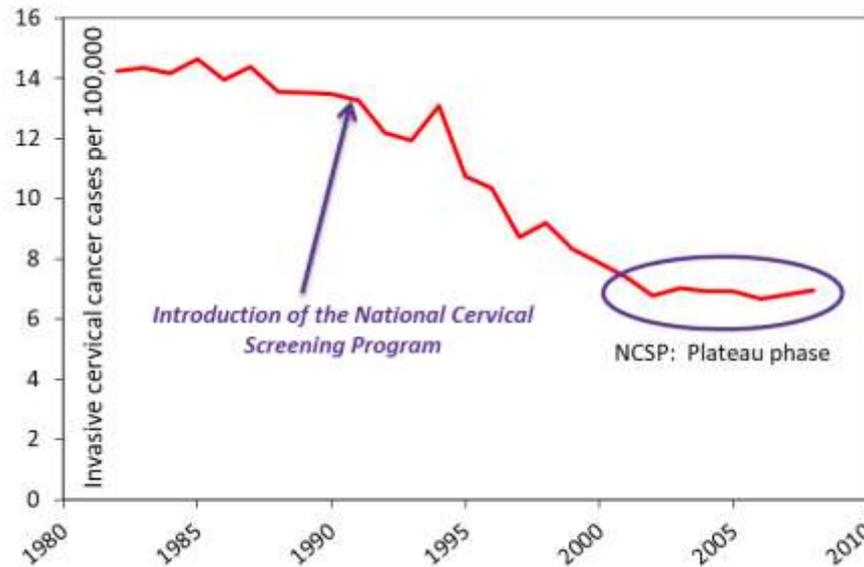
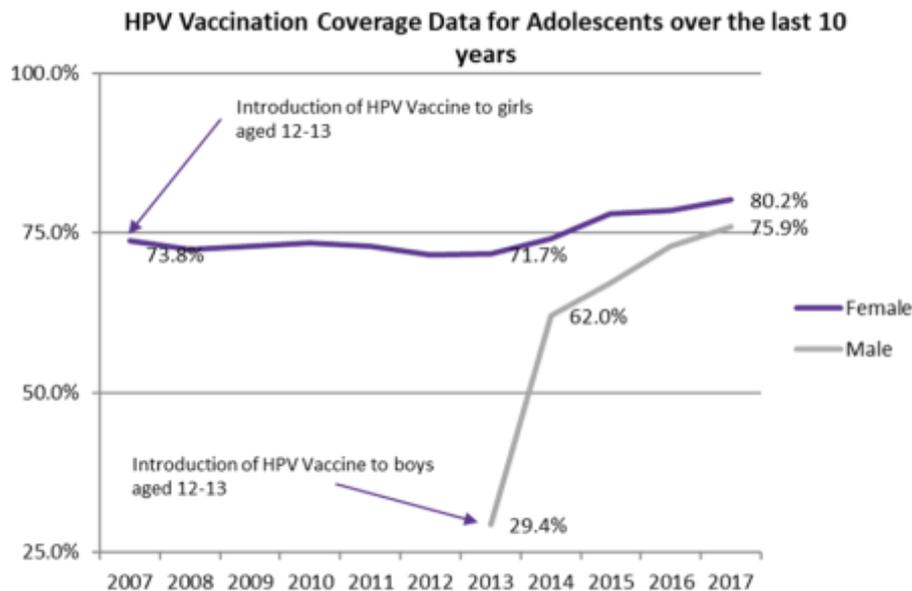


Figure 3.1: Incidence of cervical cancer in women aged 20–69 years, 1982–2011 per 100,000 cases

# Australia's HPV Vaccination Program

- HPV vaccine is delivered nationally via a school-based program to children aged 12-13 years, with ongoing catch up for adolescents aged up to 19 years.
- Switch from the 4-valent Gardasil vaccine to 9-valent Gardasil 9 vaccine in 2018, protecting against an additional five types of the virus.
- HPV vaccination program contributes to decline in high grade cervical abnormalities amongst young women in Australia.



**62%**

decline in detection rates in women aged 20 years or younger between 2006 and 2014

**35%**

decline in detection rates in women aged 20-24 years between 2006 and 2014

# Renewal of the National Cervical Screening Program



*Key changes to the test are...*

HPV test is the primary screening test

with reflex liquid based cytology test, if indicated



*Key changes to participation are...*

Screening is undertaken **every five years**

for participants **25 to 74 years of age**



*Additions to the NCSP are...*

Self-collection

**National Cancer Screening Register**

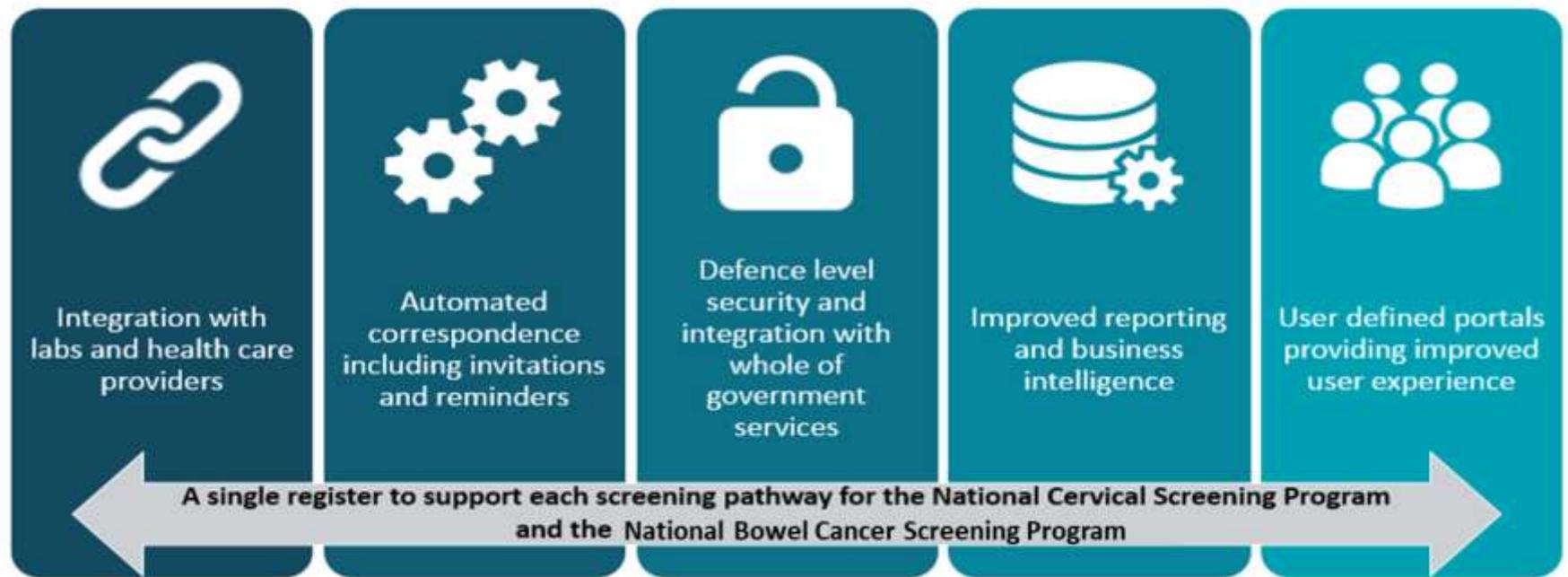
- single national record
- invitations, reminders and follow up

# National Cancer Screening Register

The Register **supports** the NCSP by providing:

- a **single national record** of patient histories for each participant of the NCSP;
- a **'safety net'** service to healthcare providers and participants of the program.

Key features of the National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR)



# Communications Strategy starting with Healthcare Providers

Started by conducting **education of NCSP changes directly with the health industry.**

Leveraged **peak bodies** and respected **clinical experts** to communicate key program changes to healthcare providers.

Arranged for **face-to-face training** to be delivered to healthcare providers and **online learning** materials to be developed.

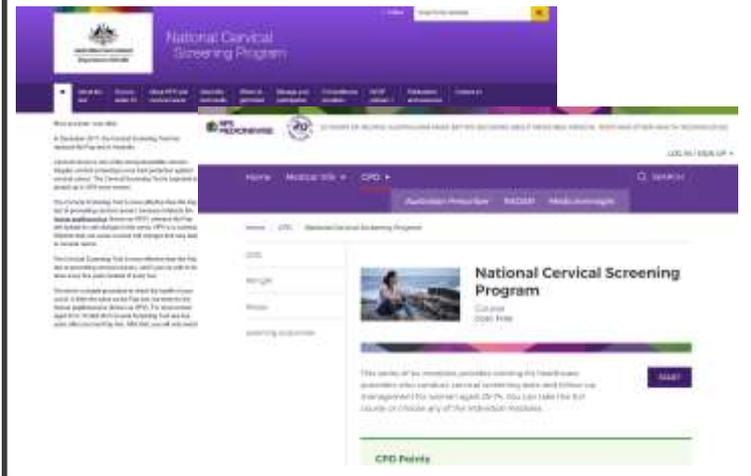
## Healthcare Provider

- Information booklets and guides
- Communication through peak bodies
- Clinical expert representatives
- Face-to-face training



## Online

- Program information website
- Online learning modules



# Patient Materials through Targeted Channels

Communications designed to **engage women with key program messages.**

Patient resources available through clinics in **24 foreign languages** plus Australian Indigenous languages.

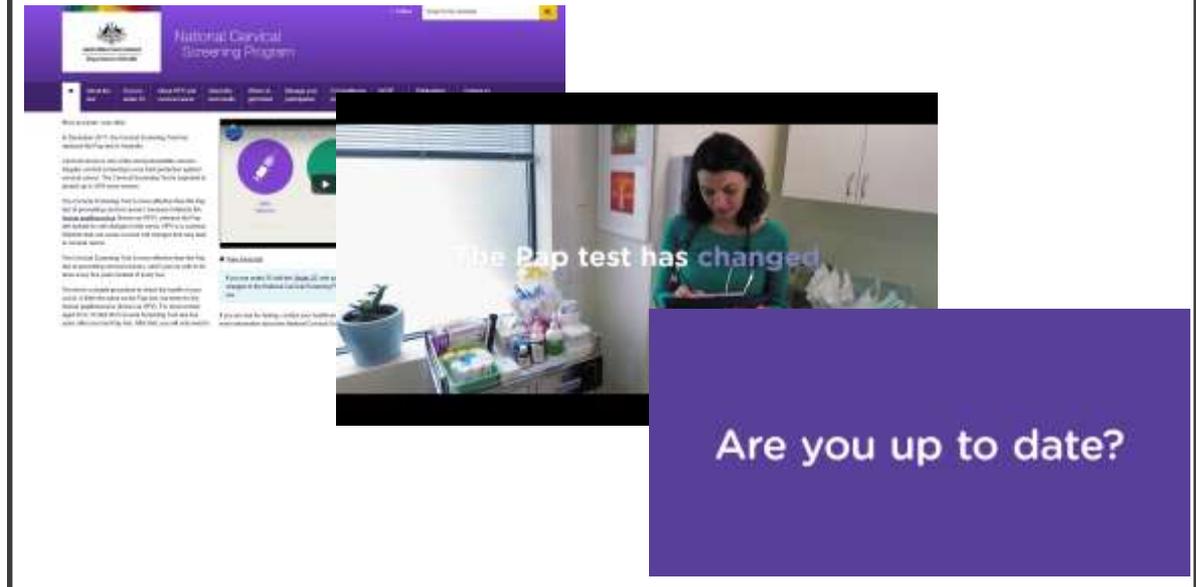
Online communications mostly through social media, leveraging awareness days.

Dedicated website ([www.cancerscreening.gov.au/cervical](http://www.cancerscreening.gov.au/cervical)) for more information.

## Healthcare Providers



## Online



# Communication and promotion of HPV vaccination

Australian Government communication activities are:

- implemented ahead of each school year to support states and territories implement the school based program; and
- undertaken to support doctors and other vaccination providers administering catch-up or additional doses.

Communication activities include digital and public relation materials to raise awareness of, and increase uptake of the HPV vaccine.



# Treatment options in Australia

The aims of treatment for cervical cancer are to:

- remove the cancer
- destroy the cancer cells and slow growth of the cancer and/or
- manage the symptoms of cervical cancer.

The main treatment options for cervical cancer are surgery, or a combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Depending on the extent of the cancer in the cervix, the following treatment options are available:

- Surgery (recommended where the cervical cancer has not spread to other parts of the body). Types of surgery for cervical cancer include:
  - Trachelectomy
  - Hysterectomy
  - Lymph node removal (pelvic lymphadenectomy)
  - Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
- Radiation therapy (also called radiotherapy)
- Chemotherapy.

# Optimal Cancer Care Pathways

Optimal Cancer Care Pathways (OCPs) are national guides to promote best practice cancer care for specific cancer types.

The purpose of this work is to improve patient outcomes by facilitating consistent cancer care based on a standardised pathway of care.

- In Australia, OCPs have been finalised for 15 tumour streams.
- An OCP for cervical cancer is currently being developed with the draft OCP disseminated for external review in 2018.
- The draft OCP outlines the following key principles of care:
  - Patient-centred care
  - Safe and quality care
  - Multidisciplinary care
  - Supportive care
  - Care coordination
  - Communication
  - Research and clinical trials.

# Global Action to Eliminate Cervical Cancer

Australia co-sponsored a World Health Organization Executive Board agenda item on the elimination of cervical cancer in January.

The purpose is to **build momentum** to accelerate action to implement established and **cost-effective strategies to prevent, detect and treat cervical cancer.**

Australia welcomes support for this important priority.

# Thank You

