

PapScreen Victoria

A cervical cancer prevention program

VISION

A Victorian community with minimal cervical cancer.



2009–2011 Strategic Direction

PapScreen considers and adapts to the changing environment of cervical cancer prevention in Australia.

PRINCIPLES

ACCESS

Women should have access to information and support in their first language that is suited to their literacy level and is culturally appropriate.

Women should have access to services and service providers of their choice. Service providers should have access to accurate information, advice and training.

EQUITY

Factors such as age, cost, geographic location, language, literacy, cultural diversity, sexuality and disability should not preclude women from accessing cervical screening.

Factors such as cost and geographic location should not preclude service providers from accessing information and training.

EFFECTIVENESS

Women have the right to a high quality screening service.

PapScreen supports service providers to strive for excellence in providing an effective, high quality and accessible service.

GOAL

To decrease the incidence and mortality of cervical cancer among Victorian women.

OBJECTIVES

1 Increase the proportion of women participating in the National Cervical Screening Program.

By 2012:

- › 65% of eligible women aged 20–69 will have had a Pap test in the previous two years
- › 78% of eligible women aged 20–69 will have had a Pap test in the previous three years
- › 90% of eligible women aged 20–69 will have had a Pap test in the previous five years.

2 Increase the number of women having a Pap test for the first time, with a particular focus on women aged over 30.

3 Maintain the high awareness of the human papilloma virus vaccine, its role in cervical cancer prevention, and the importance of screening even if vaccinated.

PRIORITY GROUPS

Women (vaccinated and unvaccinated):

- › who have never had a Pap test (unscreened)
- › who have had at least one Pap test but not for at least three years (underscreened)
- › who have a Pap test every two years (to ensure that they continue to do so).

PRIORITY AREAS

1 Communicate effectively to all women, especially those at greatest risk

- › Develop and implement targeted strategies to communicate with women.
- › Implement targeted strategies to reach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women from diverse cultures.
- › Ensure resources are available and accessible to all women.
- › Use the PapScreen website to reinforce messages.
- › Initiate media opportunities and respond to media requests.

2 Engage and support health professionals

- › Develop resources and assist health professionals to be informed of cervical cancer prevention developments.
- › Provide and support education and training initiatives for undergraduate medical students, GP registrars, nurses, international medical graduates, community health workers, disability support workers, Aboriginal health workers and refugee health nurses.
- › Support the role of nurse Pap test providers.
- › Use clinical audits and active learning modules to enhance the skills of health professionals in the general practice setting.

3 Undertake research, evaluation and monitoring

- › Evaluate PapScreen initiatives during development and after implementation.
- › Collaborate on and conduct innovative research.
- › Monitor cervical screening behaviour in response to program initiatives in collaboration with Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry.
- › Apply learnings and disseminate research and evaluation results.

4 Influence policy development

- › Contribute to cervical cancer prevention policy development and implementation at a state and national level.
- › Continue to support initiatives advocating for the inclusion and reporting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status and culturally and linguistically diverse groups in screening data.

5 Build and strengthen alliances and partnerships

- › Build new partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and health services and continue to collaborate with agencies such as VACCHO and the Aboriginal Women's Business Unit at the Royal Women's Hospital.
- › Continue to collaborate with agencies such as the Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry, Victorian Cytology Service, Victorian Department of Human Services, University of Melbourne, BreastScreen Victoria, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, and Family Planning Victoria.
- › Build new alliances and partnerships.

6 Operate as an effective program

- › Develop and review strategic plans to ensure that they reflect new and emerging cervical cancer prevention developments.
- › Adopt strategies that encourage growth and development of team members.
- › Monitor and review operational needs.