

Women's Business

This year has been jam-packed for PapScreen Victoria. Our aim for the year was to highlight the importance of well women's checks (Pap tests) within the Victorian Aboriginal community. This has been achieved through a number of activities including an advertising campaign, clinic extension grants, new resources and training days throughout the state.

Advertising campaign

PapScreen ran a statewide advertising campaign from September to November urging all women to have regular two-yearly well women's checks (Pap tests).

The aim of the Indigenous component of the campaign was to encourage under screened Aboriginal women to make an appointment with their Aboriginal Health Service or GP. This is because Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are five times more likely to die from cervical cancer than non-Aboriginal women.

The campaign included television, print and radio advertisements. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific ads were placed in the Koori Mail and the National Indigenous Times, on the National Indigenous Times website and Melbourne's Indigenous radio station 3KND.

New resources

Protecting Our Mob – with the cervical cancer vaccine.

To help raise awareness about cervical cancer and the new vaccine, PapScreen and the Victorian Department of Human Services developed a new set of resources titled 'Protecting Our Mob'.

The resources include a poster, a brochure and an information sheet, and were developed to provide information to Aboriginal health workers, women and community members about the vaccine and its role in preventing cervical cancer.

The resources were written in consultation with Aboriginal health workers, with artwork by Wemba-Wemba and Gunditjmara artist Paola Morabito. The story behind the artwork comes from the idea of everyone being involved in the health of the community. Even though cervical cancer affects only women, it is important for both men and women to understand how they can protect their mob.



Information sheets

We recently updated our information sheets and encourage all Aboriginal health services to review their stock and place orders for the updated resources.

To order our resources, including the 'Protecting Our Mob' resources, please complete the enclosed resource order form or visit the health professionals section of the PapScreen website www.papscreen.org.au

Well women's health training days

Throughout the year, PapScreen organised education and information sessions for Aboriginal health workers, health professionals and parents across Victoria. The sessions included information on the human papilloma virus (HPV),

the cervical cancer vaccine and the importance of regular two-yearly Pap tests.

Training days were held at the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS), the Western Suburbs Indigenous Gathering Place, Cumereragunja with staff from Rumbalara Health Service, and the Gippsland and East Gippsland Health Service (GEGAC) with staff from the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Health Centre, Morwell and RAMAHYUCK District Aboriginal Corporation.

Our training days attracted over 100 people, which was a fantastic result, and we would like to thank everyone involved.

For more information about training days in 2008, please contact Peta Reynolds on (03) 9635 5316 or email Peta.Reynolds@cancervic.org.au

Clinic extension grants

This year, PapScreen awarded 35 extension grants to Pap test clinics throughout Victoria. These grants enabled service providers to extend opening hours during the two-month period of PapScreen's advertising campaign.

As part of this grants program, four Aboriginal health services were awarded grants to run additional Pap test clinics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. The successful clinics were the Viney Morgan Aboriginal Medical Service in Moama, the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Fitzroy, the Coomealla Health Aboriginal Cooperation in Dareton and the Royal Women's Hospital in Carlton.

For more information about clinic extension grants for 2008, please contact Stacey Mansfield on (03) 9635 5663 or email Stacey.Mansfield@cancervic.org.au

The Cancer Council Victoria Arts Awards 2007 Indigenous Visual Art Prize

Winner: Mandi Travis
Artwork: Swallowed

Mandi Travis's painting 'Swallowed' won the Indigenous Visual Art Prize at The Cancer Council Victoria Arts Awards in August. Mandi received a \$1000 award for her winning entry, which will be displayed at exhibitions in Melbourne, Kyneton, Shepparton and Gippsland.

'Our loved ones are being swallowed up and taken away through the earth. In the last week I lost an Aunty to lung cancer. Another Aunty has brain tumours, an Uncle, lung cancer and an Aunty whom I never remember because of leukemia. The feeling of hopelessness led to Swallowed.'



Mandi Travis, *Swallowed*

If you would like to enter the Indigenous Visual Art Prize category in 2008, please register for an entry form by emailing arts.awards@cancervic.org.au.

For more information about The Cancer Council Victoria Arts Awards and to view the outstanding entries from this year's awards visit www.cancervic.org.au/artsawards.

We hope you enjoy the festive season and we look forward to an exciting and eventful 2008. Please send your feedback and contributions for the next issue of *Talkin' Women's Business* to Peta.Reynolds@cancervic.org.au

