



Submission to the Development of a National Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy

In November 2021, the Australian Government announced the development of a National Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy to be led by the Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer (ACPCC). In 2022, the ACPCC conducted public consultations into the development of this Strategy. Cancer Council Australia provided input into the consultation process, with our submission prepared by Cancer Council's National Cancer Screening and Immunisation Committee and including input from state and territory Cancer Councils.

Cancer Council's response outlined ways to improve uptake of the HPV vaccination, including working in collaboration with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities using a peer-based education model whereby decision makers such as parents and caregivers can take part in education delivered by relevant community members as advocates for participation. Additionally, Cancer Council were pleased to share ideas for new outreach strategies including developing a national approach to assist with coverage disparities for Indigenous young people embedded into the overarching elimination strategy. We also emphasised the need to increase knowledge and acceptability of the use and efficacy of HPV vaccinations by providing resources that highlight vaccine importance, counteracting vaccine hesitancy and guiding and reassuring parents and caregivers through the vaccination process.

Cancer Council's submission also delivered ideas to improve cervical screening. We suggested the use of peer-supported education initiatives as a tool to support priority groups such as (CALD, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and LGBTIQ). Additionally, we encouraged that novel collection methods and delivery methods such as home-based self-collection and mobile clinics be trialled as a way to reduce access barriers to doctors and health care settings. Cancer Council recommends that employing methods to improve data collection and data usage efficiency will assist in more timely understanding of how programs such as cervical cancer screening reduce the cancer burden on the population.

Cancer Council advocates for a strong funding commitment to financially support efforts to deliver and implement policy and guideline changes at a local level.

Cancer Council's submission will be made publicly available, along with further information on the Development of a National Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy here:

<https://acpcc.org.au/elimination/get-involved-2/>