



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Your Choice Can Prevent Cervical Cancer - Awareness Week (17-1623 Nov 2025)

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women worldwide, with about 660,000 new cases and approximately 350,000 deaths in 2022. In 2025, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will continue its efforts to eliminate cervical cancer by recognising World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day on 17 November.

Cervical cancer is a preventable disease that still causes women to suffer and die prematurely, and many women either aren't aware it can be prevented or are choosing not to take action.

Australian women have more choices than ever to help make cervical cancer history in Australia!

Cervical Cancer Awareness Week is organised by the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation as its annual awareness campaign. This year, the theme is 'The Power of Choice', and the key message is "You can choose to protect yourself from cervical cancer with more choice than ever before."

Women can safeguard themselves and reduce the risk of cervical cancer in three ways:

1. One (1) dose of the HPV vaccine is free for all young Australians aged 12 to 25 years, male and female, if you missed your chance at school age.
2. Due to improved detection, Cervical screening tests are now every five (5) years for women *and those with a cervix from age 25 – 74 years*.
3. Women can choose a preferred Screening Method. There are two choices:
 - a. To have a doctor or nurse perform a cervical screening test OR
 - b. Self-Collect – Women can talk with their doctor or nurse about choosing to collect a sample.

Queensland-based ACCF Charity Director Fiona Gaske states, "I want everyone to know that lifesaving Cervical Cancer (HPV) vaccination is now free for anyone from 12 to 25 years. It's very safe and prevents 90% of the risk of cervical and some other cancers. Equally importantly, cervical screening is now every 5 years, and the self-collection option makes detection easier than ever before."

ACCF's [Orange Hearts Programs](#) help support women with cervical cancer and their families through emotional and financial assistance. There are two ways to show your support.

1. [Make a donation](#)
2. [Register for 'A Girl's Night In' to raise funds for the Orange Heart's Program.](#)

Funds raised go straight to the Orange Hearts Program, which offers real, practical support — from assistance with bills to family needs and essential medical care. Your night in or donation can help make someone's toughest days a little easier.

Two Orange Heart recipients have recently said:

"Thank you to ACCF and Orange Hearts for your help. It helped me a lot. I was able to fly to Newcastle with my mum for comfort. I am now happy and stronger. Everyone at ACCF was so nice and helpful."

Serghi Fernansez – Queensland

"I'm currently undergoing another intensive round of chemo. I didn't have any Pap tests for many years, but the new HPV test detected it. The financial support from ACCF Orange Hearts helped my family and me pay some bills, as I haven't been able to work. Thank you again, ACCF"

Jaclyn Harris – NSW



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