**Self-collection Saves Lives**

**Cervical Screening Campaign**

**Newsletter content**

The Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer (ACPCC), together with Cancer Council Victoria, is pleased to be collaborating on a campaign titled “Self-collection Saves Lives” which calls for healthcare practitioners, including GPs, nurses and antenatal professionals to offer patients the option of HPV self-collection.

Australia is one of the first countries in the world to implement the HPV Cervical Screening Test as part of a national population screening program, and that work, combined with our HPV vaccination program, means we are on track to be the first in the world to eliminate cervical cancer. Even with the HPV vaccination, cervical screening remains an important part of regular health checks for women and people with a cervix aged 25-74 who have ever been sexually active.

HPV self-collection was introduced to the National Cervical Screening Program in 2017. The test is taken in privacy, where the person inserts a very thin swab about five centimetres into the vagina and rotates it a few times.  Self-collection has previously only been available to women and people with a cervix under strict eligibility criteria. However, since 1 July 2022, all participants in the screening program have had the option to choose their screening method.

Providing patients with the choice to collect their own vaginal sample makes screening accessible for those who are uncomfortable with having a sample collected from their cervix by a healthcare practitioner using a speculum. This could be for multiple reasons including cultural beliefs, previous negative experiences of cervical screening, past experiences of trauma, or for other personal reasons.

HPV self-collection makes it possible for more women and people with a cervix to participate in screening for cervical cancer, preventing devastating diagnoses and saving lives. Learn more about the #SelfCollectionSavesLives campaign [here](http://www.acpcc.org.au/self-collection-campaign/)

**Campaign banner**

