

Cervical Cancer Prevention Program

The Role of the Tasmanian Cervical Cytology Register

The National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) is jointly funded by the Australian State and Territory governments.

The Tasmanian Cervical Cancer Prevention Program (CCPP) is part of the State Department of Health and Human Services.

It is responsible for the management of the Tasmanian Cervical Cytology Register (TCCR) also known as the 'Pap Smear Register'.

The Register has an important role to:

REMIND

- ♦ Women who are overdue for re-screening and provide a safety net system to ensure timely follow-up of asymptomatic women with abnormal Pap smears.

COLLECT DATA

- ♦ Provide the laboratory and/or the Pap smear provider with results of previous cervical cancer tests so that there is appropriate follow up;
- ♦ Record cervical cancer test results of women;
- ♦ Provide de-identified data to researchers and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) for statistical purposes;
- ♦ Contribute to data collection and research for the National Cervical Screening Program.

Follow-up reminders to women and medical practitioners are based on the National Health & Medical Research Council cervical cancer screening guidelines, *Screening to Prevent Cervical Cancer: Guidelines for the Management of Asymptomatic Women with Screen Detected Abnormalities* published in 2005 and implemented in July 2006.

Following is some important information regarding the Public Health Act 1997 and the role of the TCCR in assisting practitioners to ensure their patients receive appropriate management.

Public Health Act 1997

PART 7 – REGISTERS

Division 1 – Cervical Cytology Register
(ss. 137-142)

The Registry receives cervical cancer test results from the laboratory that processed the test. Under the Public Health Act 1997 a **cervical cancer test** result is defined as *'A test or procedure which may indicate whether or not a person is suffering from cancer of the uterine cervix or any of its precursors'*.

Cervical cancer test results are automatically sent to the TCCR by laboratories unless the medical practitioner performing the Pap smear has indicated on the request form that the test is **'Not For Register'**.

The role of the medical practitioner is to advise the woman that unless she **'objects to inclusion'** her cervical cancer test result will automatically be sent to the Register.

The Register protects the privacy and confidentiality of cervical cancer test results.

If you require more information, please visit the National Cancer Screening website at www.cancerscreening.gov.au and follow the links to the National Cervical Screening Program and NHMRC Cervical Guidelines page.

If you have further queries, please contact the Tasmanian Cervical Cytology Register on 13 15 56.

