

Media Release



27 January 2009

Free HPV Vaccine Extension means More Wheatbelt Women will be Protected

Young women in Wheatbelt can now access the cervical cancer vaccine for free until the end of the year and are being encouraged to do so by the Wheatbelt GP Network.

"More than two-thirds of young women aged up to 26 years old have already accessed the vaccination, but the opportunity now exists for even more to take it up," said Dr Duncan Steed.

The Department of Health and Ageing extended the access to the free vaccine if the first shot was administered before June 30 2009. Young women can then complete the course of three shots for free until December 31 2009.

"This is a safe and efficient way to protect against HPV (human papillomavirus), which is a leading cause of cervical cancer," said Dr Steed.

"This vaccine and continuing with regular pap smears offers women the best protection against contracting HPV."

The Wheatbelt GP Network said GPs in the area were able to administer the shots and provide advice and information about the vaccine and HPV.

"Accurate figures about the number of women and girls who have been vaccinated will soon be available from the HPV register, but the extension means a higher percentage can now be protected," Dr Steed said.

The vaccination will cost \$450 for a course of three shots from 2010.

More information about the HPV vaccine can be found at:
www.immunise.health.gov.au

For more information please phone Emma Draper on 96211530



PO Box 781 NORTHAM Western Australia 6401
T 08 9621 1530 | F 08 9621 1532 | E central@wheatbelt.com.au | www.wheatbelt.com.au

Wheatbelt GP Network is an initiative of the Central Wheatbelt Division of General Practice Inc (ABN 73 639 952 959)

