

SA Cervix Screening Program

Clinic Extension Grants 2016/2017

Guidelines

SA Cervix Screening Program (SACSP) Clinic Extension Grants of **up to \$2,000** are now available. This funding is available to increase the reach of cervical screening clinics over a specified period of time by enabling existing cervical screening providers to extend clinic hours or support outreach clinics to screen women who are overdue or who have never been screened.

Applications close **COB Monday 12th December 2016.**

Background

The aim of the SA Cervix Screening Program (SACSP) is to decrease the incidence and mortality of cervical cancer among women in South Australia through the promotion of accessible cervical screening services in the community. The program encourages all women to have regular Pap smears 1 to 2 years after first becoming sexually active, or 18 years of age (whichever is later) up until the age of 69. If women have regular Pap smears, 90 per cent of cervical cancers can be prevented.

The incidence of and mortality due to cervical cancer in Australia has halved since the National Cervical Screening Program commenced in 1991. Between 2013 - 2014, SA had the second highest (2 yearly) cervical screening participation rate in Australia at 59.4%, and 84.3% participation rate for women who screen every 5 years (AIHW, 2016). The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW, 2016) also estimated 50% of cervical cancers occur in women who have never been screened, with a further 28% in women who are lapsed screeners.

Trends in participation rates show a link between increasing cervical screening participation rates and an increase in socio economic status. Vulnerable population groups, remote communities and socio economically disadvantaged areas have lower cervical screening rates, and greater numbers of women who are either lapsed screeners or have never been screened. Factors effecting participation rates include for instance, accessible and sensitive health care services, female general practitioners (GP's), nurses, Aboriginal health workers, culturally appropriate health services, information in community languages, use of appropriate interpreters, assistance navigating a complex health care system, knowledge of and information about preventative health and screening, cost, proximity of health services, transport, previous experiences (i.e. sexual abuse/trauma) and appropriate facilities.

SACSP aims to increase participation rates in areas or population groups where screening rates are lower than the national average, and for women who are either overdue for screening or who have never been screened. The Clinic Extension Grants are one of a range of strategies used by the SACSP to engage with and build capacity in the health sector and under-screened communities to increase participation rates and prevent cervical cancer.

The National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) Renewal

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing is leading a Renewal of the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) to update the current national guidelines and cervical screening recommendations for women.

Since the National Cervical Screening Program was introduced in 1991, there is greater knowledge and understanding about the development of cervical cancer and new technologies and testing capabilities have been developed.

The NCSP Renewal aims to ensure Australia has the most effective cervical screening program that will continue to improve health outcomes for Australian women.

The NCSP Renewal changes to Australia's cervical screening program **will come into operation on 1 May 2017**, and include:

- The test for cervical screening will change **from** the current Pap smear **to** a test for the human papillomavirus (HPV). The new test will be called **the Cervical Screening Test**.
- The new test will be offered **every five years instead of every two**.
- The recommended screening ages will change from 18 to 69 years of age to **25 to 74 years of age** (exit test between 70-74 years).

What the NCSP Renewal means for Cervical Screening and Clinic Extension Grant Projects

Cervical screening clinics prior to May 1, 2017

Until 1 May 2017, it is **business as usual** with your clinics still offering 2 yearly Pap smears to women when they are due/overdue. Cervical screening should not be delayed.

Cervical screening using a primary HPV test is not recommended prior to 1 May because the infrastructure, clinical management guidelines and supporting quality and safety activities are not yet in place. MBS items for the new screening program will be available from 1 May, 2017. As such, private billing will continue for women who choose to have reflex liquid based cytology (LBC) (i.e. ThinPrep or SurePath) as an adjunct to conventional cytology prior to 1 May, 2017.

You may choose to promote to your patients that changes (listed above under 'the NCSP Renewal') are coming and that the new cervical screening pathway will be implemented from 1 May, 2017. You will be supported with information resources for consumers/women to do this.

Cervical screening clinics post May 1, 2017

As of 1 May 2017, you will need to follow the new cervical screening pathway and clinical management guidelines as part of your cervical screening extension clinics. This means that women aged 25-74 years will be invited every 5 years to have a primary HPV test. If HPV is detected, a reflex liquid based cytology (LBC) test will be performed on the same cervical specimen. The new pathway is a risk-based approach to cervical screening. Women are managed according to their risk of developing cervical cancer which is determined by their HPV result and subsequent reflex LBC result, if indicated.

MBS items for the new screening pathway will be available from 1 May 2017. MBS items for the Pap smear will no longer be available after this date.

In support of women's transition to the renewed program from 1 May 2017, women will be due for a Cervical Screening Test when they are next due for their two-yearly Pap smear. For example, if a woman has a Pap smear in February 2016, she will be due for her next (now called) Cervical Screening Test in Feb 2018. If this test indicates a low risk, then her next test would be due in Feb 2023.

SA Cervix Screening Program staff will support your practice with resources for both consumers/women and health care professionals. These will be available by March 2017. This will include the new guidelines - *NCSP: Guidelines for the Management of Screen Detected Abnormalities, Screening in Specific Populations and Investigation of Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding* (available by February 2017), brochures, and simple key messages and advice. It is important for women to be reassured that the changes are safe, and based on new evidence which indicates that the Cervical Screening (HPV) test every 5 years is more effective than, and just as safe as, screening with a Pap smear every two years.

For more information about the NCSP Renewal please visit the website: <http://www.cancerscreening.gov.au/internet/screening/publishing.nsf/Content/overview-of-the-renewal>

Please note: in the event that the NCSP Renewal timeframes change, the SACSP will be in contact with your practice.

Target group

All clinics funded under the Clinic Extension Grant must target under-screened or never-screened women. This would include:

- Women aged 18-70 years who have not had a Pap smear for four or more years.
- Women who have never had a Pap smear

Clinics could also be tailored to reach specific groups such as:

- Women of low socio economic status
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and newly arrived refugee women
- Women with disabilities
- Working women (who are overdue) – after hours / weekend clinics
- Same sex attracted women and transgendered participants
- Women who have experienced sexual trauma
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

Extended and/or outreach clinics should be located within a Local Government Area (LGA) with a cervical screening participation rate **below the South Australian state average of 59.4% (AIHW, 2016)**.

To obtain the LGA cervical screening participation rate for SA, please see the attachment to the email that was sent on **3rd November 2016**, find it on the SACSP page (website address below) or contact the SA Cervix Screening Program on 131556. For the first time data at the LGA level was produced by the SA Cervical Screening Register for the period 2012 – 2013. Whilst this data is several years old, participation rates and trends are likely to be consistent now.

For more detailed information on screening participation, cervical abnormality rates and cervical cancer incidence and mortality from 2013 as well as the last 10 years for key comparisons, please visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/cervicalscreening to obtain a copy of the **SA Cervix Screening Registry Statistical Report 2013**.

How much is the grant worth?

Clinic Extension Grants up to \$2,000 are available and will be paid in one lump-sum payment to successful grant applicants. Applications are assessed on merit.

Eligibility Requirements

- Only incorporated organisations, based in South Australia, with an ABN are eligible.
- Women clients who are 4 or more years over-due for cervical screening or women from vulnerable population groups listed above must be targeted.
- Extended hours will be for the purpose of cervical screening providers working in general practice, community health or outpatient services to offer free cervical screening clinics outside of standard business hours such as after hours or weekend clinics.
- Outreach clinics are for existing cervical screening providers to run free outreach services in rural/regional communities or high need suburbs or communities within metropolitan Adelaide.
- All extended and/or outreach clinics must be a free (bulk billed) service for all women attending
- A minimum of two cervical screening clinics or outreach clinics must be implemented
- Evidence must be provided regarding the number of under-screened women (four or more years) who can be reached through your practice and this proposal. Please refer to the application form for further details
- Successful applicants will be required to demonstrate effective use of medical records management tools (i.e. Medical Director, PENCAT, Practice Based Reminder systems) and reminder systems to identify and invite women clients who are >4 years overdue for a pap test and/or demonstrate effective promotional activities or partnerships with community organisations to ensure participation of vulnerable under screened women and communities in cervix screening clinics.
- Numbers of targeted and invited women screened must be recorded and provided for the project evaluation and acquittal at the end of the project.
- As part of your Clinic Extension Grant, you should promote Renewal key messages to women leading up to the Renewal and follow the new screening pathway as of 1 May, 2017. You will be supported with resources to do this.

2016/17 Funding Priorities

- Applications that plan to deliver cervical screening clinics in identified low screening areas in SA (refer to SA 2012 - 2013 Screening Participation rates by LGA).
- Applications that aim to sustain strategies and outcomes to improve cervical screening to under-screened or never screened women beyond the life of the grant funded initiative.
- Applications that utilise incentives, additional or creative efforts to reduce Do Not Attend (DNA) rates for the women invited to participate.

What will be funded

Funding will cover the costs associated with implementing cervical screening extension clinics or supporting outreach programs including:

- Nurse or general practitioner salary.
- Promotional expenses including advertising costs.
- Venue.
- Transport (for nurses or general practitioners providing outreach services, or for women attending services).
- Administration that supports targeted cervical screening clinics or clients or both.
- Incentives for participants (i.e. women's health and pampering activities/products, afternoon tea).
- Interpreting/translating language services.
- Practical support for women to attend screening (i.e. support worker).

What will be NOT be funded

- Establishment of new or ongoing cervical screening clinical services (unless future sustainability without assistance can be demonstrated).
- Cervical screening clinical services that generate commercial and competitive income or profit.
- Funding of existing debts or shortfalls.
- Sponsorship of fundraising events.
- Employment and training programs (training for community or women's health nurses to become cervical screening providers).
- Capital items such as computers or other office equipment, mobile phones and clinic equipment.
- Resource development costs where a similar resource is or has already been developed by SA Cervix Screening Program or the National Cervical Screening Program.

Examples of activities that CAN be funded:

- Outreach education, health promotion and cervical screening provided to under-screened women in isolated rural areas.
- Improving access to appropriate, sensitive and respectful Pap/Cervical Screening test services for under screened women with for example, the assistance of an interpreter.
- Partnerships with other GP's, health or community services, community groups or organisations to support cervical screening clinics targeting under-screened women.
- Out of hours/twilight/Saturday morning clinics with a female GP and/or practice nurse.
- Follow up reminders to women >4 years overdue for a Pap test.
- Providing incentives for targeted/invited women attending a clinic (e.g. pamper packs, coffee vouchers, movie tickets, gift cards, free nails session etc).
- Provision of bulk billing service with female GP and/or practice nurse.
- Utilising a visiting or agency female GP, practice nurse or the Rural Women's GP Service.
- Additional administrative support to improve medical records and reminder systems to identify and invite women who are overdue for their Pap test.

Application process and timelines

It is not possible to fund all application requests. Funding should therefore not be anticipated or deemed automatic.

All applications will be reviewed and assessed against criteria with recommendations made and sent to a senior executive at Women's and Children's Health Network for approval.

Successful applicants will receive a letter notifying them of the outcome of their application. This **can take approximately** four weeks from the time you submit your application.

Plan activities thoroughly in the first part of 2017 to run clinics during the period April - June 2017.

The current Cervix Screening Grant Program will fund approved projects for a **six month cycle** 2016-2017 financial year.

Successful applicants will receive a grant agreement detailing the terms and conditions of funding. Please note that organisations may have **to wait up to 3 months** from the time the grant round closes to receive their grant funding.

Accountability requirements

All organisations approved for **funding will be required to:**

Sign and **comply with reporting requirements** in the grant agreement. You may also be required to fill in finance related forms to ensure you receive funding correctly.

Provide numbers of women >4 years overdue for cervical screening who were identified (pre project implementation), invited to attend and numbers of pap tests provided (post project implementation) to identified women.

Provide **reports and financial expenditure statements** which must be completed and returned to SA Cervix Screening Program at agreed milestones. Clear pro-formas are supplied for these reports.

Funding **can only be used** for the purposes of the project.

Appropriately acknowledge the SA Cervix Screening Program, as the funding body and use the SA Health logo **in any promotional material**. The logo can be supplied on request.

How do I apply?

Read these grant funding **guidelines**

Fill in the grant application form. Applications will be available online www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/cervixscreening or as an attachment to the email that was sent on 3rd November.

Hard copies of applications will not be accepted. All applications are to be filled in electronically and returned via email to:

megan.vanzanten@sa.gov.au

For any assistance please contact:

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