



Media Release

Western Australian women urged to have regular Pap smears

26 October 2016

As part of the 2016 Cervical Cancer Prevention Campaign Country WA PHN is partnering with General Practices across the Pilbara to encourage women in the region to make an appointment for a cervical screening test (Pap smear).

Country WA Primary Health Liaison Sharon Sewell, based in the Pilbara, said it was important for women to ensure they are up to date with their screening.

“We need to encourage all women to have a Pap smear every two years as four out of five women who develop cervical cancer have either never had a Pap smear or do not have them regularly,” she said.

“In 2014-15 the Pilbara region had a cervical screening participation rate of 43.8%, which is lower than the State rate of 55.5%.

“This shows there is a large number of women who do not screen regularly and are therefore at risk of developing cervical cancer.”

Currently, the best way to prevent cervical cancer is through regular cervical screening with a Pap smear every two years.

All women aged between 18 and 69 years who have ever been sexually active need to have regular Pap smears as part of their ongoing health and wellbeing checks.

To encourage women to have regular cervical screening the following Pilbara GP Clinics will be offering bulk-billing* across part of the November campaign for women wishing to have a Pap smear:

Sonic Health Plus Newman: 9175 1231

Port Hedland Medical Centre: 9173 3733

Port Hedland Family Practice: 9174 7600

Sonic Health Plus South Hedland: 9172 5911

Wirraka Maya Health Service: 9172 0400

Puntuturnu Aboriginal Medical Service: 9177 8307

**Conditions may apply, please refer to individual GP clinics*



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Please contact your local clinic as listed above to arrange an appointment, or for more information about the importance of regular cervical screening visit:

<http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/papsmears>

ENDS

For more information:

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