

# Cervical Screening

Australia has established a new cervical screening process based on recommendations by Australia's independent Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC).

The new Cervical Screening Test has replaced the existing Pap test, with the new screening test conducted every five years instead of every two for people aged 25 to 74 years. The Cervical Screening Test detects infection with human papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that causes abnormal changes in the cells of the cervix, which if left untreated may eventually lead to cervical cancer.

People with symptoms (including pain or bleeding) can have a cervical test at any age. Nearly all cervical cancers are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). Cervical cancer is a rare outcome of persistent infection with oncogenic HPV types. The time from HPV infection to cervical cancer is usually 10 to 15 years.

## Education

- Cervical Screening Changes "[What you should know](#)" Dr Sally Sweeney HNECCPHN
- NPS medicinewise [National Cervical Screening Program](#)
- Family Planning NSW [National Cervical Screening Program Update Webinar](#)
- Education module for GPs, nurse Pap providers, sexual health physicians and general gynaecologists -[Click here](#)
- Cervical Screening test changes and preparing for updating Recall and Reminder systems [Click here](#) presented by Katrina Otto

## Useful Links:

[National Cervical Screening Program](#)

[Cervical Screening NSW](#)

[Family Planning NSW](#)

[RACGP Early detection of Cancers: Cervical Cancer](#)

[National Cervical Screening Program: Guidelines](#)

[Information for Health Care Providers](#)

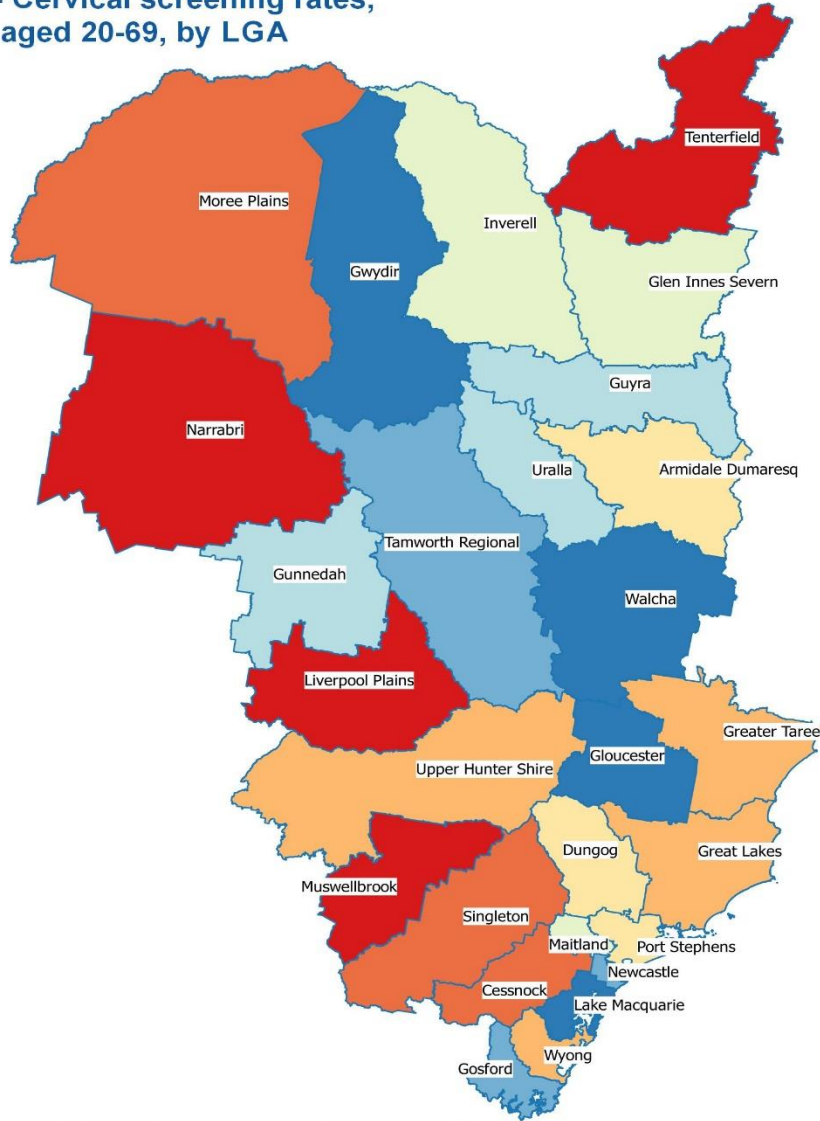
[Information for Community](#)

NATIONAL  
**CERVICAL SCREENING**  
PROGRAM  
A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

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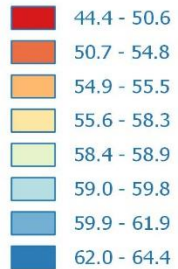
**HNECC Primary Health Network - Cervical screening rates, 2015-2016, Percentage of women aged 20-69, by LGA**



NSW cervical screening rate - 56.3%  
HNECC PHN - 58.5%

**Cervical screening rates (%)**

Quantile data grouping (equal counts of LGAs)



Source: Reporting for Better Cancer Outcomes- 2017 Report Hunter New England Central Coast PHN, Cancer Institute NSW

Local Government Area	%
Armidale Dumaresq	56.7
Cessnock	52.1
Dungog	58.2
Glen Innes Severn	58.5
Gloucester	63.4
Gosford	59.9
Great Lakes	54.9
Greater Taree	55.5
Gunnedah	59.2
Guyra	59.2
Gwydir	62
Inverell	58.7
Lake Macquarie	62.9
Liverpool Plains	49.9
Maitland	58.8
Moree Plains	51.6
Muswellbrook	50.2
Narrabri	48
Newcastle	61.6
Port Stephens	58.3
Singleton	54.6
Tamworth Regional	59.8
Tenterfield	44.4
Upper Hunter Shire	55.5
Uralla	59.7
Walcha	64.4
Wyong	55.3