



Australian Government

# NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAM

A joint Australian State and Territory Government Program

## The Cervical Screening Test

It's important to have regular Cervical Screening Tests to live long and strong – for yourself, your family and your community.



### What is the Cervical Screening Test?

Cervical screening is a simple test that can help you stay healthy. It checks for a virus called the human papillomavirus (HPV) that can lead to cervical cancer if it stays in your body for a long time.

### Who should have a Cervical Screening Test?

Women aged 25 to 74 who have ever been sexually active should have a test every 5 years. This includes women who have had the HPV vaccination.

### How do I have a Cervical Screening Test?

There are two choices for how you can have your Cervical Screening Test. You can choose to:

- collect your own sample from your vagina using a simple swab (self-collection). Your doctor or nurse will explain how you take the test, provide a private area and be close by to help if you need it. If HPV is found you will need to come back to have a sample collected by your doctor or nurse.
- have a doctor or nurse collect your sample. They will collect a sample from your cervix using a speculum.

Talk to your doctor or nurse about the right choice for you. They will talk to you about the results and let you know if you need more tests.

If you need more information, talk to your doctor, nurse or health worker, visit [www.health.gov.au/NCSP](http://www.health.gov.au/NCSP) or call **1800 627 701**.

