

Contact your Local:

- Aboriginal Medical Service
- GP
- Women's Health Centre
- Community Health Service

For more details:  
WA Cervical Cancer  
Prevention Program

13 15 56 (Cost of a local call)  
1800 800 033  
(toll free from the country).



*The women reach out their hands to help others. They hold hands to stick together. The footprints show that they go out to help those in need.*

Emanuelle Miilangka Torres



Department of Health

– WA Cervical Cancer –  
PREVENTION PROGRAM

National Cervical  
Screening Program  
A Joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

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*A Pap smear is a special test that can find changes that may lead to cancer in the Cervix (entrance of the womb). When these changes are found they can be treated before cancer starts. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are dying from cancer more often than other Western Australian women. Some of these women did not know that it was important to have this simple test every two years. Please don't wait to have this test until you are very sick.*



### **When should you have a Pap smear?**

You should have a Pap smear from the first time you have been with a man until you are an older woman.

### **My partner and I have been together for a very long time and don't really bother with sex anymore?**

Regular screening is still important because at one stage you were having sex and the risk of developing cervical cancer is higher for women who have had sex as well as women still having sex.

### **How often will I have to have a Pap smear?**

It is important to have this test every two years after you have first had sex or from 20 years of age, whichever comes first, until you are seventy years old.

### **I don't have a partner, does that matter?**

Even if you don't have a partner it is still important to have a regular Pap smear.

### **What if my test is abnormal?, does that mean I have cancer?**

No. The Pap smear does not detect cancer only changes in the cells that may develop into cancer. You will need to speak to your Doctor if your test shows changes to the cells lining your cervix and sometimes other tests will be needed.