



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Vaccine Update 451 – Daffodil Day HPV catch-up reminder, launch of SKAI adolescent

Daffodil Day HPV catch-up reminder

August 21 marks Daffodil Day, a timely reminder on the important role you play in protecting your community against vaccine-preventable cancers.

- Cervical Cancer is almost entirely preventable and caused by human papilloma virus (HPV), a common but highly contagious sexually transmitted infection.
- In Australia, around **930 women** are expected to be diagnosed with cervical cancer this year; an estimated **250 will die** from it.
- Australia's **national HPV vaccination program** has significantly reduced HPV infections and is credited with saving lives.
- The HPV vaccine is offered to all year 7-aged students across Western Australia. Young people who haven't received an HPV vaccine can receive a free catch-up dose up until the age of 26.
- Australia has a target to **eliminate cervical cancer by 2035, with a goal of 90% HPV vaccination coverage by 2030.**

HPV vaccination coverage in adolescents at 15 years of age is lower than the 90% coverage target. In order to eliminate cervical cancer, it is crucial to reverse the declining vaccination rates and increase HPV vaccination uptake in all adolescents and adults under the age of 26. As a trusted immunisation provider, you play a vital role in protecting young Australians from future HPV-related cancers, including cervical cancer, and your advice is crucial in influencing vaccination decisions.

Please ensure you:

- **Check HPV vaccination status** during patient visits, regardless of reason for presentation.
- **Offer catch-up vaccinations** to eligible individuals aged under 26.
- **Support informed conversations** with patients who have questions or concerns.

Launch of SKAI Adolescent

The Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation (SKAI) website has expanded to include a comprehensive new section focused on adolescent vaccination. This resource provides clear, evidence-based answers to common questions about vaccine-preventable diseases and is designed to support both the community and health professionals.

SKAI Adolescent covers all vaccines recommended for young people aged 12–16 years in Australia. The content includes:

- Information on all vaccines recommended for 12–16 year olds in Australia
- Pages tailored for:
 - Parents vaccinating adolescents
 - Common questions and concerns
 - Disease and vaccine info
 - What to expect at the vaccine visit
- Special topics:
 - Medical risk conditions
 - Religious/spiritual considerations
 - Vaccine safety, ingredients, and side effects

The launch of SKAI Adolescent comes at a critical time. Recent data from NCIRS highlights a concerning decline in adolescent vaccination coverage—particularly for HPV and MenACWY vaccines—following the COVID-19 pandemic.

This new suite of resources is designed to build trust and empower parents with credible information, helping them make informed, confident decisions about adolescent vaccination. It also equips immunisation providers with tools to engage effectively with families, address common concerns, and counter misinformation.

Visit SKAI Adolescent to explore how this resource can support your work in protecting adolescents from vaccine-preventable diseases.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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Commented [JM1]: See comment in HPV section

Commented [EB2R1]: National data indicates the 'concerning trend' identified by NCIRS. WA data identifies a slight decline. I have accepted your changes and kept the 'concerning decline' for this paragraph as that is NCIRS wording.