

MEDIA RELEASE



**The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists**

ABN 34 100 268 969

Excellence in Women's Health

College House
254 – 260 Albert Street
East Melbourne Vic 3002 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9417 1699
Facsimile: + 61 3 9419 0672
E-mail: ranzcog@ranzcog.edu.au

19 October 2009
For Immediate Release

College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists URGES Australian Women to get the Free HPV Vaccine before December deadline

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) is strongly advocating the importance for Australian women to remember to go to their doctor and receive their second and third Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, before the Australian program funded free HPV vaccination for all women aged between 12 to 26 years of age runs out on 31 December 2009.

‘The College is urging Australian women to take advantage of the free HPV vaccination. This vaccine not only has the enormous potential of saving women’s lives, but it also reduces the need for women to access hospital treatment’, said RANZCOG President, Dr Weaver.

‘Cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer morbidity and mortality in women. We recommend the vaccination of women aged nine to 26 years against HPV and endorse both the Australian and New Zealand National HPV Programs’, according to Dr Weaver.

‘We congratulate the Federal Government and in particular Health Minister Nicola Roxon, for their commitment in providing the vaccine free to girls and young women in Australia, as part of the National HPV vaccination program’, said Dr Weaver today.

According to RANZCOG’s College statement titled: *Screening for the prevention of cervical cancer*, primary prevention of cervical cancer is enhanced with HPV vaccination. Seventy percent of all cervical cancers are caused by HPV 16 and 18.

To view the current College statements on the college website www.ranzcog.edu.au go to:

Guidelines for HPV vaccine

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/statements/C-gyn18.pdf>

Screening for the prevention of cervical cancer.

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/statements/C-gyn5.pdf>

**For further information or to arrange an interview with the President, please contact:
Julia Serafin, Marketing, Media & Communications Senior Coordinator, RANZCOG
(m) 0488 367 476; (e) jserafin@ranzcog.edu.au (w) www.ranzcog.edu.au**