



Project Title: Attitudes and experiences of younger women (<25) no longer invited for cervical screening under the National Cervical Screening Program in Australia		Code: SPH4
Host School / Institute: Sydney School of Public Health		Address: Edward Ford Building, Camperdown Campus, Sydney, NSW
Certificates & Clearances required: No		
Primary Supervisor: Dr Rachael Dodd		
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Co-Supervisor/team: This project will be conducted within the Sydney Health Literacy Lab in the School of Public Health. The health literacy lab consists of researchers at all levels who are available to provide support for the summer scholar.		
Project Type: Survey; Data Analysis; Literature Review		
Project Category: Public Health; Cancer		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: The successful student should have a keen interest in communication of healthcare and the impact of changes to policy of national screening programs. The successful student should have excellent verbal and written communication skills, with an attention to detail and an interest in survey research. Previous experience with SPSS would be advantageous, but not essential. Students should be enthusiastic and be able to work independently but ask lots of questions.		
Project Keywords: cervical screening; attitudes; young women		
<p>Project Description: Almost 4 million women in Australia receive cervical screening each year. In December 2017, the National Cervical Screening Program in Australia undertook a change in policy guidelines, called 'the Renewal'. Women aged 25 to 74 are now screened every five years, primarily for the HPV virus. Women used to be invited from the age of 18 and screened every two years. Therefore, some women who have received cervical screening in the past (aged 18-25), are now being told they will not be screened again until they are 25. Qualitative research with health professionals suggests that they find this group of women particularly challenging when they attend for cervical screening, as they need to explain why they are not recommended to have the screening test again until they are 25, and why this is safe to do so.</p> <p>This summer research project aims to finalise a survey designed for younger women, under 25 years of age, to examine their knowledge towards, and attitudes about, no longer being recommended for cervical screening until they are 25. The summer student will create the online questionnaire, and conduct the study using an online sample recruited through Instagram or Facebook. This information will be used to support work on developing communication strategies for targeted age groups both in Australia and worldwide where countries are switching to HPV primary screening and changing the age of invitation for screening.</p> <p>The student will work in a collaborative environment with a team of supervisors to design and run the study. The successful applicant will learn many useful and transferable research skills, using the software Qualtrics to create the online questionnaire, quantitative data analysis and report drafting. The applicant will also develop skills in preparing a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The successful applicant who contributes well will be rewarded with co-authorship on any resulting publications. There may be opportunities to develop and extend this topic area into further projects suitable for honours, masters or PhD work.</p>		