

Victorian Cytology Service

**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
ON HEALTH SERVICES**

OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

- A1 The Victorian Cytology Service is a Victorian State Government funded pathology laboratory, primarily responsible for reporting cervical cytology tests.
- A2 The objective of the service is the prevention of morbidity and mortality from cervical cancer among Victorian women, by functioning as a national centre of excellence in the accurate and cost effective reporting of cytology specimens.
- A3 The National Cervical Screening Program receives significant benefits from the funding of the Victorian Cytology Service. The Victorian Cytology Service provides a benchmark for both quality and pricing purposes across the whole of cervical cytology in Australia. In addition, the Victorian Cytology Service processes smears taken by health professionals other than General Practitioners (for example, Aboriginal health workers, nurse Pap test providers) which are not eligible for funding under the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- A4 The Parties to this Implementation Plan are:
 - The Commonwealth of Australia; and
 - The State of Victoria
- A5 This Implementation Plan commences with effect from 1 July 2009 and ceases on 30 June 2013.
- A6 The Parties agree to complete a review of the operation of this Implementation Plan by 30 September 2012.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role of the Commonwealth

- A7 The Commonwealth will provide a funding contribution to assist Victoria in funding the Victorian Cytology Service, in accordance with Table A1 set out in this schedule.

Role of Victoria

- A8 Victoria will be responsible for all aspects of the administration and performance of the Victorian Cytology Service.
- A9 Victoria will report to the Commonwealth on the performance of the Victorian Cytology Service, as agreed below.

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Commonwealth funding

A10 The maximum funding available to Victoria under this Implementation Plan is set out in the following table:

Table A1: Maximum Commonwealth funding available

Initiative	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Victorian Cytology Service	\$6,985,000	\$7,334,000	\$7,700,000	\$8,085,000

A11 Payments will be made in equal monthly instalments.

Performance Benchmark

A12 To qualify for continuing project funding, the Victorian Cytology Service must demonstrate that it continues to provide a level of service commensurate with the funding it receives.

(a) The Victorian Cytology Service will maintain its market share of the total number of cervical smears processed in Victoria at 47 per cent

(b) The maximum annual payment will be reduced where the market share falls below 42 per cent for two consecutive years.

(c) The revised annual funding under such circumstances will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Maximum annual funding} \times \frac{\text{Market share}}{47 \text{ per cent}}$$

(d) The reduction will apply until annual market share is restored to at least 47 per cent.

A13 Payments will be suspended for any period during which accreditation was not maintained for the whole period or mandatory reporting requirements were not met.

Reporting

A14 Victoria will provide an annual report to the Commonwealth outlining the number of Pap smears processed each quarter and the average unit cost of processing smears. The report will also provide a breakdown of the number of services ordered by medical practitioners, nurses and Aboriginal health workers.

A15 Victoria will provide the Commonwealth with annual evidence that the Victorian Cytology Service has:

(a) maintained its National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)/Royal College of Pathologists Australasia (RCPA) accreditation for cervical cytology; and

(b) reported on cervical cytology consistent with requirements of cytology laboratories which receive funding under the Medicare Benefits Schedule.