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MEDIA RELEASE

12 October 2017

YOUNG PEOPLE IN KOOYONG HAVE ACCESS TO NEW VACCINE

The Turnbull Government is providing young people in Kooyong with free access to the new Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine from the start of 2018 to protect against more strains of HPV infection.

The new Gardasil® 9 vaccine will offer protection against nine strains of HPV (up from four), expanding protection against the virus and improving the health of the young in Kooyong now and into the future.

Gardasil® 9 is the most comprehensive and effective HPV vaccine ever and it only requires two doses (down from three), making it easier for young people to receive the full schedule and be fully protected.

As part of the National Immunisation Program, Gardasil® 9 will be provided through school based programs to all 12 to 13 year old boys and girls in years 7 or 8.

The new vaccine will help protect girls and women ages 9 to 26 against cervical, vaginal, vulvar, and anal cancers and genital warts caused by 9 types of HPV. For boys and men ages 9 to 26 the vaccine will protect against anal cancer and genital warts caused by those same HPV types.

The HPV vaccination program has dramatically reduced the incidence of the HPV infection and disease in Australia. HPV coverage rates are now higher than they have ever been in Australia, with the proportion of 15 year olds receiving all recommended doses increasing to 78.6 per cent for girls (up from 78 per cent in 2015) and 72.9 per cent for boys (up from 67.2 per cent in 2015).

The Turnbull Government has committed \$460 million in 2017–18 for vaccine purchases and activities to promote immunisation uptake.

Our recent expansion to the NIP means all individuals up to the age of 19 years can catch up on missed vaccines – including Gardasil® 9.

Further information about the new vaccine will be provided to parents and young people in Kooyong over coming months, in preparation for the 2018 school year.

Up-to-date HPV vaccination coverage rates are available at www.hpvregister.org.au/.

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