



National HPV Vaccination Program Register



18 November 2013

Dear Japanese colleagues

I was so saddened to hear of Japan's withdrawal of its recommendation for the HPV vaccine earlier this year. I have watched the HPV vaccine's progress very closely over the last decade. We are so fortunate to have such a highly effective vaccine that can prevent infection and disease due to this cancer causing virus. The evidence from all over the world and the millions of doses given is that this vaccine is very safe indeed.

We are fortunate in Australia to have a very good public health system and infrastructure to support giving and monitoring vaccines and to support our national cervical screening program. These programs are challenging and maintaining public trust and confidence is very important indeed. This can only be done with a meticulous approach to evidence based policy, training, education, best practice performance standards, program responsiveness and transparency in operations and communications. Every country struggles with vaccine safety concerns and scares and I believe we can learn a lot from each other in how best to investigate and manage these.

I would like to reach out the hand of friendship to the Japanese government and people. If there is any way we can assist you in your assessment of the future of cervical cancer prevention strategies in Japan please let us know.

With warm regards

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