

PhD Confirmation Seminar

The University of Melbourne

Optimising and evaluating the implementation of a universally available self-collection cervical screening pathway in general practice in Victoria: The solution to declining participation and long-standing inequities?

Presenter: Nicola Creagh

Supervisors: Dr Claire Nightingale, Prof Julia Brotherton, Prof Jane Hocking, Dr Emily Karahalios, Prof Anne Kavanagh (Advisory Chair)

Tuesday 4th October 4pm-5pm (AEDST)
MSPGH room 410, 207 Bouverie Street Carlton, 3053

Also available **via Zoom:**

[https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/85040871645?
pwd=WEIzK3BVMTFnUIZud1pBL0RjWEVpQT09](https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/85040871645?pwd=WEIzK3BVMTFnUIZud1pBL0RjWEVpQT09)
Password: 457479



Nicola Creagh is a PhD Candidate at the Centre for Health Policy, supported by a NHMRC post-graduate scholarship. Nicola's work in evaluation and implementation science since 2019 has largely focussed on increasing equity and participation in Australia's national cancer screening programs, with a specific focus on cervical screening.

More recently, Nicola has been involved in early scoping work to inform the design of a potential lung cancer screening program and is part of the VCCC Health Equity Advisory Group. Nicola holds a Master's degree in Public Health and a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Biology).

Australia has led the world in cervical cancer prevention, however, a long-standing decline in screening participation, with even lower participation for some groups, is compromising Australia's capacity to achieve and sustain the elimination goals for everyone. To address this, an alternative pathway within the National Cervical Screening Program, named self-collection, was introduced initially in a restricted form. On 1 July 2022, self-collection became a universally available choice for all people undergoing cervical screening through a practitioner-supported delivery model. While this policy change will elevate barriers related to the restricted eligibility criteria, it will not solve all implementation barriers. This PhD program of research will not only report on the impact of a universally available choice to self-collection on screening participation in Victoria but will also identify the most effective ways to implement the pathway in general practice, thereby contributing to Australia's global leadership in cervical cancer control.