

## **Developing Accessible Cervical Screening Resources**

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### **Background/Purpose:**

Overall, 70% of Australian women who develop cervical cancer are under screened or have never been screened. People with disabilities are at higher risk of developing cervical cancer and are a priority population for prevention initiatives. People with disabilities are less likely to participate in cervical screening due to a range of complex barriers. Consults by SECCA with stakeholders and people with disability have highlighted specific barriers. These include ambivalence towards the Cervical Screening Test, namely surrounding insufficiently detailed information and overusing of scientific language creating a sense of fear. Responding to this need, SECCA has developed an A5 resource and brochure on the Cervical Screening Test.

### **Approach:**

This resource takes an inclusive, updated, and comprehensive approach to the Cervical Screening Test. It is picture-based and written in Easy English. It outlines the social and factual aspects of the Test to promote reduced anxiety and increased preparedness to attend testing regularly. The resource covers the importance of the Test, where to go, who needs it, and a step-by-step guide to the Test. It considers accessibility factors including bed hoists, what to wear, and the bringing a support person to the appointment.

### **Outcomes/Impact:**

This resource is targeted towards people with disabilities and their supports. It is anticipated it will facilitate increased support for individuals to understand cervical cancer prevention and make informed decisions regarding the Cervical Screening Test.

### **Innovation and Significance:**

The resource will ideally support increasing the number of people attending cervical screening to therefore reduce the risk of cervical cancer. This responds to disparities in cervical screening between the general population and people with a disability. This resource has been targeted to create increased understanding and less hesitation towards the Cervical Screening Test, whilst taking an accessibility-minded approach to cater for different abilities.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement**

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