



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER WELCOMES HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR BOYS

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today welcomed the launch of a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program for boys.

The school-based HPV vaccine program has been available to Year 7 girls in NSW since 2007, helping to protect them against developing infections that can lead to cancer.

Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek today launched the vaccination program for Year 7 boys. Boys in Year 9 will be offered the vaccine in 2013 and 2014 as part of a national catch-up program.

Ms Plibersek visited Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, where she saw nurses from the public health unit of the Sydney and South Western Sydney local health districts administer vaccines to students.

The NSW Government has committed \$3.6 million to run the HPV vaccine program for boys in its first two years. The Commonwealth will supply the vaccine and manage the vaccine register.

“I am very pleased this vaccine, which has been so successful in reducing infections that lead to cervical cancer in females, is now available to boys in NSW. They, too, need to be protected against infections which can lead to cancer,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Our specially-trained nurses will bring this vaccine to school children across the state, wherever they live.”

HPV is the name given to a group of viruses that affect males and females. Most people who are sexually-active will have a genital HPV infection during their lifetime. Most will suffer no symptoms and the virus will go away by itself but in some cases infection can cause cancer.

Year 7 students in NSW are also offered vaccination against diseases, including diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough (dTpa), hepatitis B and varicella (chicken pox).

For more information, go to www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation.