

School girls to get papilloma virus vaccine

SCHOOL aged girls will be provided with free vaccines for the human papilloma virus to help protect against cervical cancer.

The move is expected to start midyear and will be an extension of the national cervical screening program.

Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston said the program would target school aged girls, but women aged up to 26 would have access to the vaccine.

"The Australian Government will spend more than \$537 million over the next four years to give Australian women and girls aged between 12 and 26 years access to the vaccine for free," he said.

"This means more than 2.2 million girls and women in this broad age group will be eligible for the free vaccine. The vaccine, which has been developed in Australia, is effective against two of the viral strains which cause 70 per cent of cervical cancers."

For more information call 1800 671 811 or visit www.australia.gov.au/cervicalcancer.