



# VCS Foundation

An overview



VCS  
Foundation



VCS  
Pathology



VCS  
Population Health



VCS  
Digital Health



# Our vision

“To prevent cancer and infectious diseases through excellence in the provision of public health services supporting screening, population-based testing and vaccination.”

- VCS Foundation was initially established in 1964 to make a positive difference in the lives of Victorian women by reducing the impact of cervical cancer, but now is leveraging its expertise, product and service capability to deliver improved health outcomes globally.
- VCS Foundation is a recognised leader globally in the delivery of cervical cancer prevention programs and research.
- With its long history of successful contributions to cervical screening programs through laboratory services, medical education, digital health solutions and registry services, VCS Foundation is well placed to support the World Health Organization’s call for all countries to take action to end the suffering caused by cervical cancer.



# Shared strategic objectives with UNAA

- Equitable access to health services and programs
- Innovation and partnership to achieve better population health outcomes
- Scalable solutions that meet the needs of the communities we work with



# VCS Foundation expertise and strengths

- **Laboratory expertise** e.g. VCS pioneered HPV self-collection in Australia and Malaysia, we have evaluated and validated HPV tests on all available testing platforms, we have developed affordable point of care testing models, recently introduced testing for SARS-CoV-2
- **Innovative, scalable digital health infrastructure** to support population health program implementation, evaluation and research e.g. canSCREEN platform, Program ROSE, National HPV Vaccination Program Register
- **Partnership** with government bodies in Australia and overseas, health care sector, research institutes e.g. we understand how to listen and learn from our partners in other countries to help build programs and services that will succeed in the local context





DELIVERING  
EXCELLENCE IN  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
OUTCOMES IN  
AUSTRALIA AND  
AROUND THE WORLD

A laboratory and education service that specialises in gynaecologic health including HPV testing, histopathology, cytology and related molecular microbiology, clinical support and advice

LEADERS IN SELF-COLLECTED  
HPV TESTS, RESEARCH,  
EDUCATION & DELIVERY

An unrivalled combination of experience in delivering and managing population health services through registries, epidemiology, research and evaluation, health information management, reporting and statistics

IMPROVING THE HEALTH  
AND WELLBEING OF  
COMMUNITIES

Leaders in innovative and integrated digital healthcare solutions and services, offering population health management platforms and a broad range of IT service management expertise

DIGITAL INNOVATION  
ADVANCING GLOBAL HEALTH



# VCS Pathology

- Largest public cervical screening laboratory in Australia & is the national HPV Reference Laboratory
- Second largest public molecular microbiology laboratory in Australia, including ~ 100 staff
- First Australian laboratory to be accredited for self-collected HPV-based cervical screening (Saville et al, J Clin Virol, 2020; Dutton et al, BMC Health Serv Res, 2020, Saville et al, Curr Oncol, 2018)
- VCS has reported over 70,000 SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) tests since May 2020
- VCS has reported over 620,000 HPV tests since the beginning of the Renewed National Cervical Screening Program in December 2017, and reports an average of 12,500 Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea tests per annum





# Saving more lives with HPV self-collection

- Self-collection is as sensitive as practitioner-collected for the detection of CIN2+/AIS and HPV (Arbyn et al, BMJ, 2018; Saville et al, JCV, 2020)
- Self-collection is highly acceptable to women and people with a cervix, particularly for underscreened groups
- Self-collection can be done safely by pregnant women
- Self-collection is feasible and well-accepted in low and middle income countries where healthcare settings may not be able to provide the space and privacy requirements for screening tests performed by a health practitioner
- Self-collected samples remain stable for 28 days at a wide range of temperatures



# Preventing cervical cancer in the Indo-Pacific

- VCS Foundation works closely with partners across the Indo-Pacific region and beyond to work to achieve the elimination of cervical cancer and save lives.
- Initiatives are led by our valued in-country partners who are experts in designing programs that will best suit their local communities and health services.
- VCS contributes scientific expertise, cutting edge pathology technologies and innovative registry services, underpinned by high quality standards.
- Details on three of these initiatives follow, including Program ROSE in Malaysia, the new Eliminate Cervical Cancer in the Western Pacific project and the Scale Up for Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy Success (SUCCESS) ECHO.





# Program ROSE in Malaysia



- The ROSE Foundation is a partnership between University of Malaya, the Malaysian government and VCS Foundation to offer self-sampling cervical screening to Malaysian women via Program ROSE.
- This highly successful partnership brings together local clinical and implementation expertise with VCS Foundation's innovation across self-sampling, HPV testing and e-Health.
- The Program ROSE service model enables women to 'self-sample', which is highly acceptable and less demanding at the primary care level.
- The innovative state-of-the-art e-Health registry solution, developed by VCS Foundation, facilitates more women to be screened, enables women to receive test results by mobile phone and importantly, ensured fewer women are lost for follow-up.
- For more details visit [www.programrose.org](http://www.programrose.org)



UICC Awards

Finalist 2018

The Collaboration Award



# Eliminating Cervical Cancer in the Western Pacific

- On 26 March 2021, [Minderoo Foundation](#) together with NHMRC [Centre of Research Excellence in Cervical Cancer Control \(C4\)](#) announced a first-of-its-kind humanitarian and research effort to eliminate cervical cancer in the Western Pacific. The initiative is expected to save over 150,000 lives in Papua New Guinea alone.
- Minderoo's conditional grant of \$AUD8.1 million - when supported by additional funding and in-kind support from other partners - will provide almost \$30 million to enable C4 and in-country partners to set Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu on a path to eliminating cervical cancer.
- The initiative will fast-track HPV vaccines for girls and cervical screening for women in PNG and Vanuatu and deliver training and equipment to build healthcare capacity.
- VCS Foundation, as a lead member of C4, is proud to provide scientific, population health and digital health expertise and technology for this initiative.





success echo

# SUCCESS ECHO in the Indo-Pacific

- Through the use of the ECHO™ model and web based video conferencing, SUCCESS ECHO provides peer-to-peer and expert support to multi-sectorial country teams answering the World Health Organization call to scale up cervical cancer prevention to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem by the end of the century (<4 per 100,000 per year).
- SUCCESS ECHO brings together practitioners across the Indo-Pacific and beyond seeking and contributing peer and expert advice on the challenges faced when scaling up to reach the WHO 2030 goals to:
  - Achieve 90% HPV vaccination coverage by age 15 years
  - Achieve 70% participation in twice lifetime high precision screening of mid adult women
  - Achieve 90% treatment of screen detected cervical lesions and cancers
- To find out more, email [echo@vcs.org.au](mailto:echo@vcs.org.au)



# Compass Trial



- Compass is the first large scale clinical trial internationally to assess primary HPV DNA testing and Liquid Based Cytology screening tests in a population that is highly vaccinated against HPV.
- Over 76,000 women consented into the trial, making it the largest randomised controlled trial in Australia.
- The Compass trial is intended to build on existing evidence by specifically comparing the performance of HPV primary screening with cytology based screening in cohorts of women offered HPV vaccination and by using HPV tests that allow partial genotyping, distinguishing between HPV types 16/18 (responsible for 70 to 80 % of cervical cancer) and ten other oncogenic HPV types. It is also designed to serve as a sentinel experience of the renewed NCSP, providing early evidence of the safety of the 5 year interval for women with negative HPV tests.
- The trial is a partnership between Cancer Council NSW and VCS Foundation. VCS Foundation is the operational partner providing laboratory services, the Compass Register (follow-up functions according to trial protocols for trial participants) and education and liaison services for over 600 participating GPs and other health care providers.
- For more details visit <https://www.compasstrial.org.au/>





# Population Health Registry Projects



Project ROSE – Removing Obstacles to Cervical Screening in Malaysia

*Enabling Malaysian women to access cervical screening*



Victorian Department of Health & Human Services - Providing Access to Immunisation for Vulnerable Groups

*Enabling all Victorians to be vaccinated*



Australian Department of Health – National HPV Vaccination Program Register

*Setting the standard for national immunisation health systems & services*

VCS Population Health are leaders in the delivery of high quality, high performance population health services, with a 30 year strong track record in registry operations.



COMPASS Research Trial

*Digital Health Delivering Large Scale Life-Saving Research*



South Australian Department of Health – SA Cervix Screening Register

*World class standard for registry services*



Victorian Department of Health – Victorian Cervical Cytology Register

*Digital Health Saving Women's Lives*

We work closely with clients and stakeholders to find the best solutions to improve health outcomes for all



VCS Foundation



VCS Pathology



VCS Population Health



VCS Digital Health



# canSCREEN® - PHM Platform

- canSCREEN® is a digital health platform developed and used by VCS Foundation to underpin population health programs such as cervical cancer screening.
- Key features include:
  - Digital communication channels
  - Clinically designed and architected and thus is proven as fit for purpose
  - Secure, cloud-based and highly configurable
  - Ease of integration, particularly important within the digital health ecosystem and with government platforms e.g. electronic health records
  - Includes point of care interfaces as seen with the Program ROSE implementation
  - Responsive design and context sensitive help

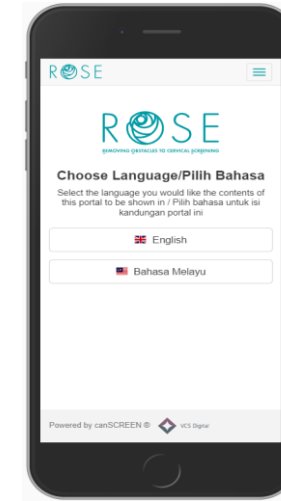
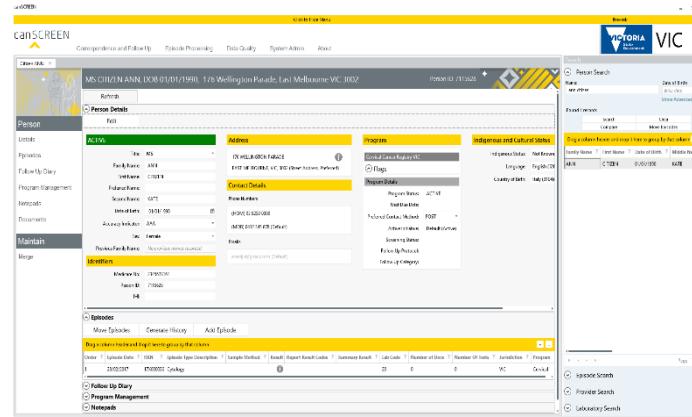




Foundation for population health management programs

Stratifies risk and categorises populations to prioritise high risk participants

Digital Communication Channels



Clinically designed and architected

Configurable clinical pathways

Secure and highly configurable

Ease of Integration

Provides Point of Care interfaces



# Contact Us

- For further information about VCS Foundation and any of our services and initiatives, please reach out via the following contact channels:

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