

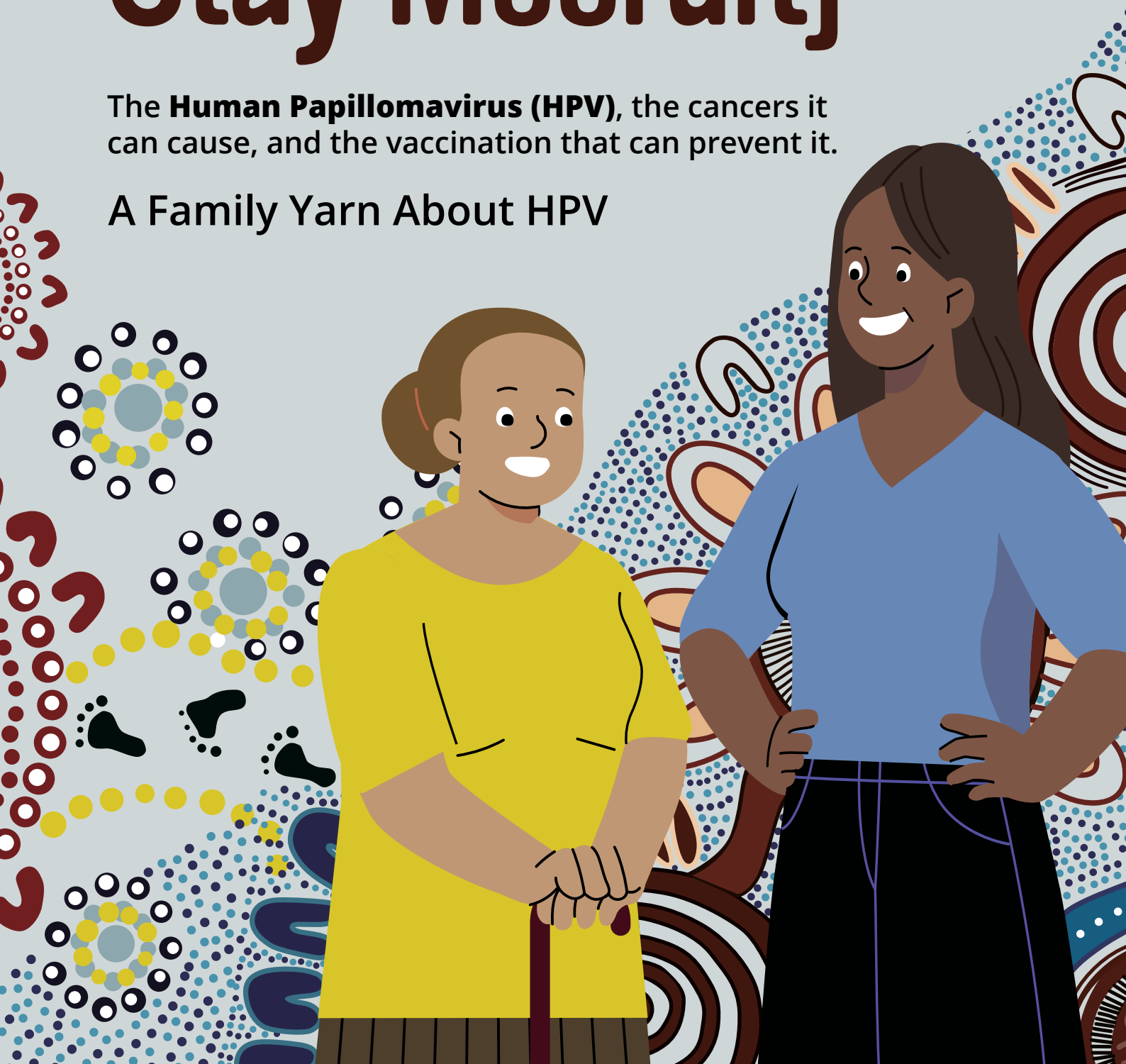


Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia

Stay Safe, Stay Moorditj

The **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**, the cancers it can cause, and the vaccination that can prevent it.

A Family Yarn About HPV





**We acknowledge
the Whadjuk people
of the Noongar Nation
as the custodians of the land
that AHCWA is located on
and we pay our respects
to all Elders, past, present,
and future.**

Developed in consultation with the WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program and the Cancer Council of WA.

This story is for mob living on Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar and may be expanded to include other areas and of Western Australia in the future.

We acknowledge all people with lived experience of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and the sickness it can sometimes bring. We remember and honour those we have lost to cancers caused by HPV, holding them and their families in our koort (hearts).

We give thanks to everyone working in prevention, care, and treatment—walking alongside community to improve health and wellbeing for our people.

May this story bring knowledge, courage, and healing, so together we can look after ourselves, our moort (families), and our boodjar (Country) for the generations to come.

Cover Artwork by xx
About the artwork

*Disclaimer: The word 'Aboriginal' has been used throughout this document.
When referring to 'Aboriginal' we are referring to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.*



Hey sis, what's this Gardasil 9 needle the kids are meant to be getting at school? Did you get a note sent home about it?

We got this one here. It says I gotta sign a consent for Dylan to get an HPV vaccination, but I don't even know what HPV is!

I got one too for Lakeisha. I asked the nurse at school and she told me all about it. Stops them getting the HPV that could give them cancer when they're older. It's a big problem with our children not getting the needle now.

FACT

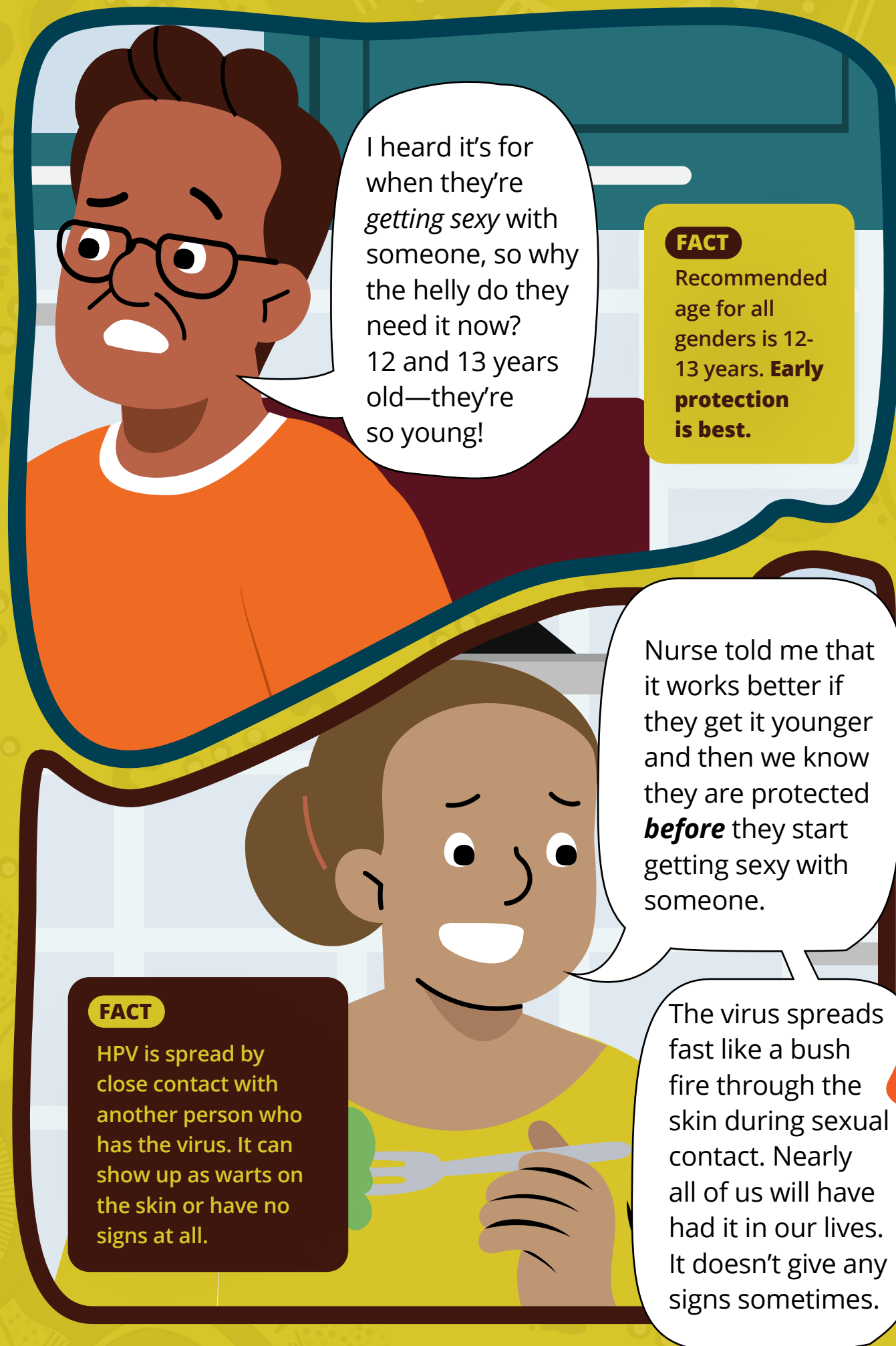
HPV is Human Papillomavirus.
HPV can be prevented.

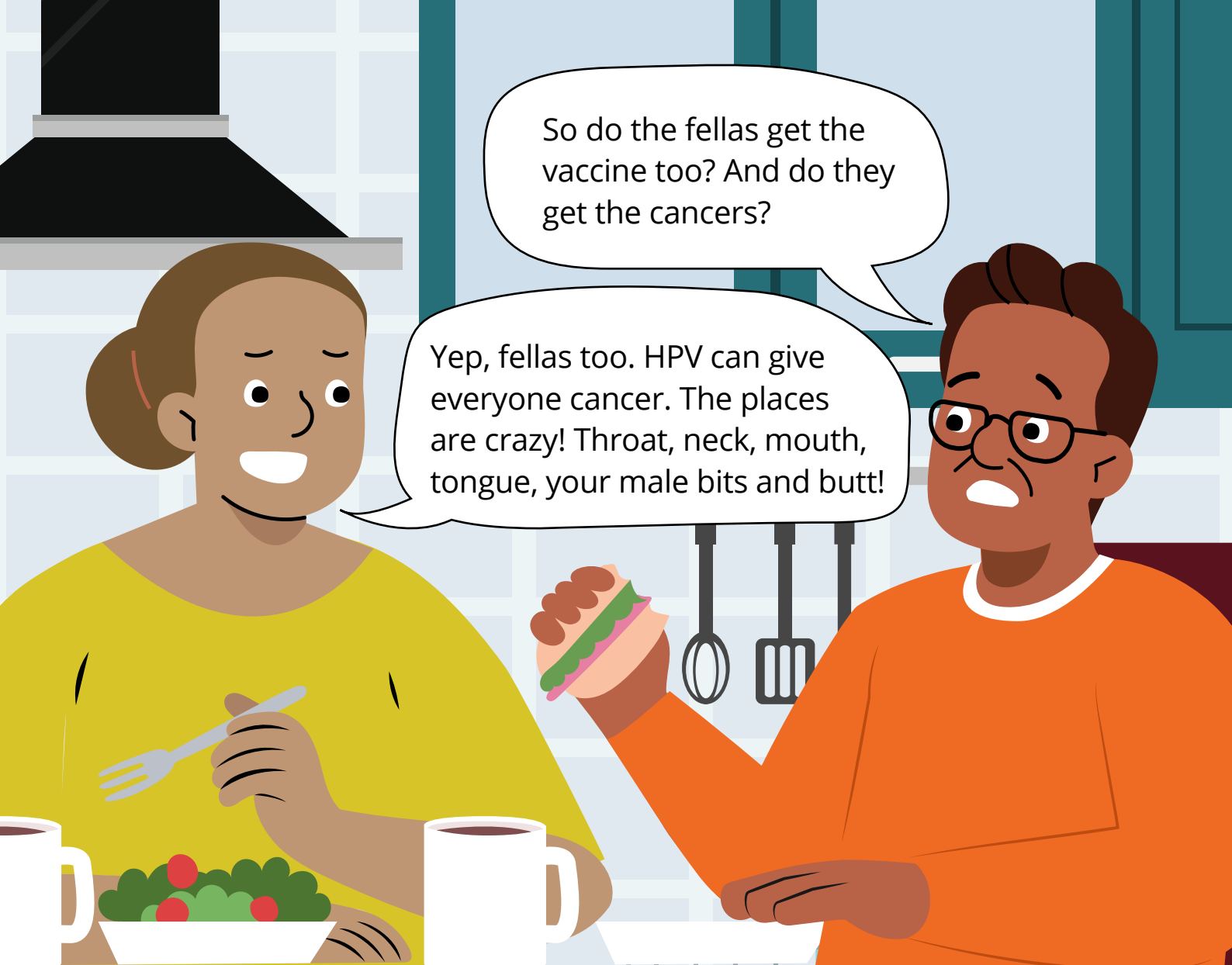
FACT

The needle or vaccine is called Gardasil 9.
It protects from nine types of HPV, seven of which can lead to cancer while two can lead to genital warts.

FACT

Parents or carers need to sign a consent form for their kids to get the HPV vaccination.





So do the fellas get the vaccine too? And do they get the cancers?

Yep, fellas too. HPV can give everyone cancer. The places are crazy! Throat, neck, mouth, tongue, your male bits and butt!



Wow Sis! I didn't know all of that. Of course we'll be signing the consent! This is so important.

How many needles is it?



It sure is important and I'm so glad I found out more about it. We need ALL our kids to get this needle to keep mob healthy and strong.
It's only 1 needle!

FACT
HPV can lead to cancer of the cervix, vagina, vulva, penis, anus, mouth, tongue, throat, head and neck.
It is spread by all genders.





How did you talk to your kids about all this? Pretty awkward? I don't know if I can do it.

Just keep it real brother. They know more than we think! And nurse gave me good resources to use to help us all understand better. Lakeisha hates needles, but who doesn't?

She just feels better about getting the vaccine needle, now that she understands the reasons why. I'll give you the links that I used.

Dylan's gonna end up on the floor if he gets this needle at school. He don't like stuff like that. Feels all weird when he gets pain. He'll skip school if he knows this is happening.



Take him to the pharmacy or the Doctor. They can give it to him in private and he won't feel any shame. Just make sure he gets it on time so he's protected early.

Give him some food before you go,
• get him to wear a short-sleeved shirt,
• keep his muscles soft,
• wiggle his toes,
• think about something else,
• and lie him down if they have a bed.
It all helps!



FACT
The Gardasil 9 vaccine is available through the school-based immunisation program, at medical clinics, Aboriginal Medical Services, and some pharmacies.



Thanks, sis. This is real important. Do they get sick from the vaccine needle?



Nah, sis. Maybe a sore arm for a bit, but this Gardasil 9 needle has been given to kids for a long time now and it gets checked regularly in Australia to make sure it's still safe. They'll be right.



Looks like we got homework to do! Awkward yarn about *sexy times*, HPV and cancer, **sign the consent**, and get the kids ready for their needle.

FACT

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) checks the safety and quality of vaccines before they can be used in Australia. The TGA monitors vaccines for safety after they are supplied in Australia.

FACT

Common side effects include pain, swelling, redness, bruise around needle site in arm. Sometimes headache, tired, fever or dizzy. **Serious side effects are extremely rare.** The staff who give vaccines are trained to deal with them if they should occur.



Well, lucky we came here for a yarn today. You may have saved Dylan's life, sis!

Nah, brother. You will be saving Dylan's life when you make sure he gets the needle.

We need to keep yarning about this to other parents and carers to get our kids protected from HPV and the cancers it can cause.

Thanks, sis. You're the best!

Resources

For more information about HPV, Gardasil 9, HPV related cancers, follow the links below, yarn with your AMS staff and check with your children’s school.



WA Cervical
Cancer Prevention
Program
WACCPP



HPV vaccine
information
Healthy WA.



Samantha’s story
– Surviving HPV
related cancer



Vaccines overview
Therapeutic Goods
Administration



Cancer Council Western
Australia,
Human Papillomavirus
(HPV) and cancer



Human
papillomavirus
WA Department of
Health (DOH)



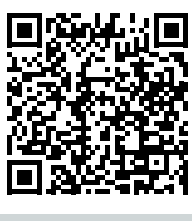
Cancer Council
Western Australia,
Cervical cancer.



Sharing
Knowledge About
Immunisation
(SKAI)- Adolescent
vaccinations.



Your cervical screening
test-Preventing
cervical cancer. WA
Cervical Cancer
Prevention Program

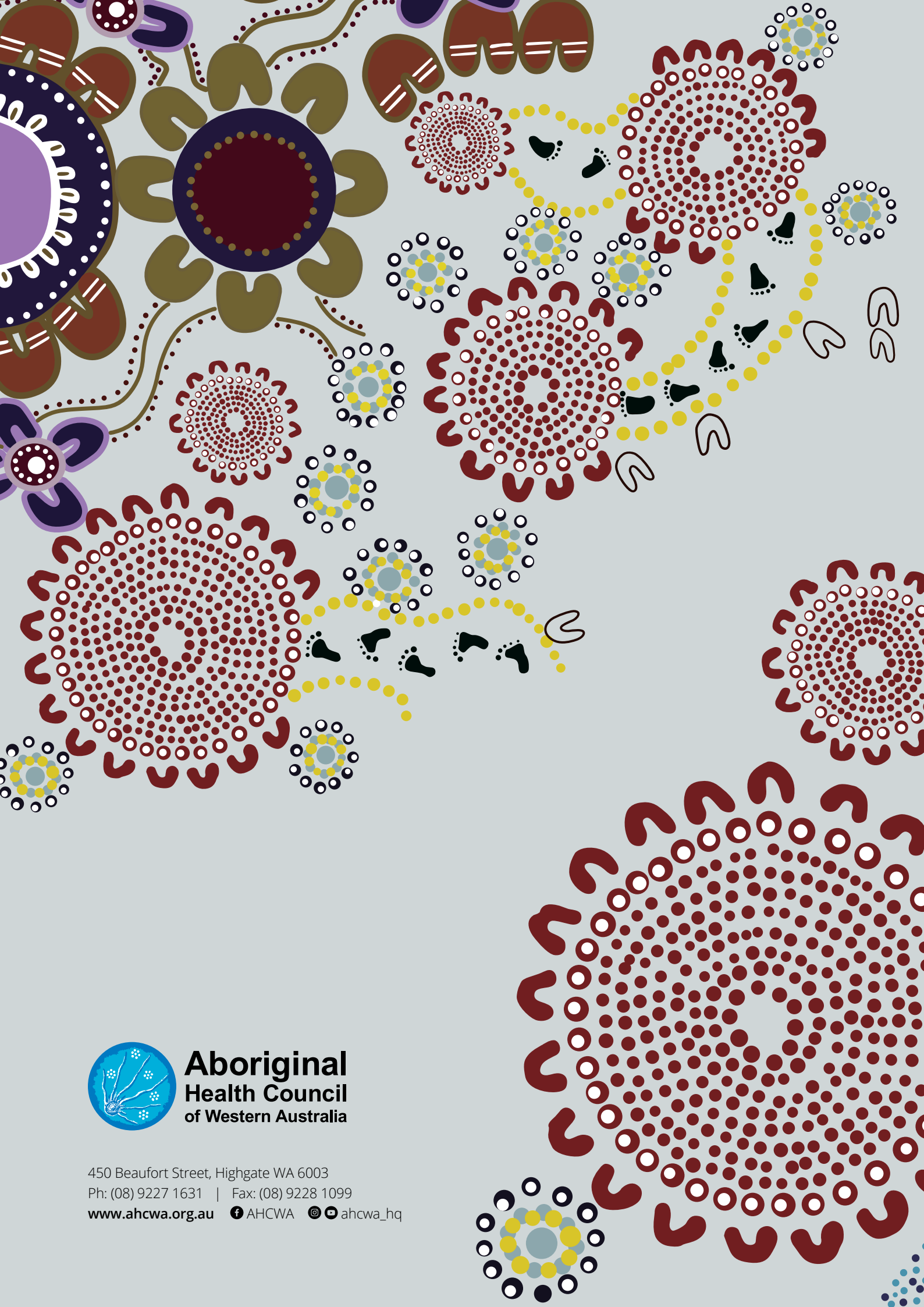


National Centre
for Immunisation
Research and
Surveillance
(NCIRS)

HPV is **Human Papillomavirus**.
There are lots of different types.
There is **often no signs** you have HPV.
Many people’s immune systems will
naturally clear the HPV.
Some **HPV can lead to warts or cancers**
of the mouth, throat, cervix, and genitals.
HPV is spread easily through the skin during
sexual contact.
Condoms alone are not enough to protect
from HPV

Gardasil 9 is the vaccine
that protects you from the HPV types
that cause cancer .
Early protection is best,
given at 12-13 years .
Catch up vaccination is advised if missed
at this age.
It’s **only one needle**.
It’s **free for 12-25 years of age**.
Get it at easily at school, doctor’s clinic,
AMS, and some pharmacies.





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