Karen Canfell

Chair, Cancer Council Australia Cancer Screening and Immunisation Committee

Professor Karen Canfell is Chair of the Cancer Council Australia Cancer Screening and Immunisation Committee, Director of the Cancer Research Division at Cancer Council NSW and Adjunct Professor at the University of Sydney.

Her work involves the evaluation and translation of new strategies for cancer prevention, screening and control. A focus has been the interplay between HPV vaccination and cervical screening in both high and low resource countries and she leads a Centre of Research Excellence in Cervical Cancer Control funded by Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council which has a regional and global cervical cancer control agenda. Her group’s work underpins the transformation of the National Cervical Screening Program in Australia which in 2017 moved to HPV DNA testing to replace Pap smears. She is co-PI of an ongoing large-scale trial, Compass, which will provide ongoing information on cervical screening in an HPV-vaccinated population.

Karen is currently working with WHO as lead of one of three modelling groups working together to predict optimal strategies for global cervical cancer elimination, to support the WHO strategic plans for elimination.