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NEWS 05

HUME

# Pap test rates too low

Natalie Savino

EARLY DETECTION 'CRITICAL', EXPERTS SAY

YOUNG women in Hume are contributing to dangerously low cervical screening rates across Melbourne, new data reveals.

The Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry's 2014 statistical report shows less than half of all women aged 20-29 are having regular Pap tests.

Hume was among the worst for screenings in metropolitan Melbourne in 2013-14, with just 52.2 per cent of women undergoing two-yearly screens - a drop of 1.3 per cent on the previous year.

It followed Wyndham, where rates were as low as

49.4 per cent, and Melbourne, which recorded the worst rates statewide at 42.7 per cent.

Nurse cervical screening provider Tracey Willis of Hillcrest Health Centre in Broadmeadows said it was disappointing to see rates so low despite heavy edu-

cational campaigns, and urged young women to take time out of their schedules to get tested.

"We don't know quite why ladies aren't getting the message," she said.

Dianella Community Health chief executive Neil Cowen said their after-

hours service allowed women to have Pap tests seven days a week.

"It's critical that this sort of preventative work happens, and early detection is the absolute best mechanism to make sure that women don't die unnecessarily," Mr Cowen said.

To find your nearest Pap screen provider, visit online at [papscreen.org.au](http://papscreen.org.au)

BROADMEADOWS

## Students in limbo offered options

TERTIARY students left in limbo following the collapse of private training providers in Broadmeadows are encouraged to give Hume Multiversity a go.

Keystone and Aspire Colleges in Broadmeadows were among a group to go into voluntary administration in February, following changes to the Vet Fee-Help sector.

Hall Chadwick partners Richard Albarran, Blair Pleash and Shahin Hussain were appointed voluntary administrators.

At the time, Australian Council for Private Education and Training chief executive Rod Camm said they were working to offer students places at other colleges.

But Hume Council has encouraged those affected to consider Hume Multiversity, which delivers courses provided by La Trobe, Deakin and Victoria universities, along with Kangan Institute.

Mayor Helen Patskathodorou said the studies were at certificate, diploma and bachelor levels.

Hume Multiversity runs from the Hume Global Learning Centres in Broadmeadows and Craigieburn.

Students can study through video conferencing and have face-to-face contact with tutors and lecturers.

It offers courses from early childhood education and arts through to health sciences and commerce.

Find out more at [hume.vic.gov.au/multiversity](http://hume.vic.gov.au/multiversity)

CRAIGIEBURN

## Lives more important than toys to Cohan

A BIG heart of gold and an empty box of baby wipes was all nine-year-old Cohan needed to raise hundreds of dollars for sick children.

The Craigieburn youngster came up with the idea of raising money to help others after his friend's grandfather died.

At the time, the annual Good Friday Appeal was just months away, so Cohan decided to put the cash towards the Royal Children's Hospital.

Mum Hayley Davies said it was something her compassionate son had come up with off his own bat, possibly driven by the fact he lost his own grandfather last year.

"He came home and got one of the baby wipe boxes out of my daughter's bedroom," Ms Davies said.

"He just took whatever was in there out of it and he started up a charity box."

Cohan even tipped years of his own savings into the



Little Cohan from Craigieburn is making a difference in other people's lives.

Picture: CARMELO BAZZANO

box and had sold about \$250 worth of toys through garage sales, she said.

"He said to me, 'No, Mum, lives are more important than toys'."

"He's a pretty special little kid."

"He's not the normal nine-year-old boy who just wants

to play games and spend money on his own things.

"I just think he's a beautiful kid with a really kind heart and soul."

Cohan didn't think twice about parting with his 400 Thomas the Tank Engine toys and close to 300 Matchbox cars.

"I'm raising money for the Royal Children's Hospital charity because I know that a lot of kids are dying and my Pop died last year, and my friend's grandpa died not long ago," he said.

"(My friend) wants to do a charity too ... He did one and then I wanted to do one."

Cohan said he'd passed his goal of raising \$500, with more than \$700 collected as of Thursday.

He said it would be something he might do again in future.

But the best feeling for the youngster was "that I've raised a lot of money".



# WHOLESALE PRICES\*

\*ON FRESH MEATS - CAMPBELLFIELD STORE ONLY

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MONDAY to WEDNESDAY 7am - 4pm THURSDAY & FRIDAY 7am - 5pm SATURDAY 7am - 12.30pm

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