

What is cancer screening?

Cancer screening is an important part of staying healthy. Screening tests look for early signs of cancer, or the conditions that cause cancer. The tests can find cancer or changes in the body, often before they can be seen or felt. When cancer is found early, it is easier to treat successfully.

There are three cancer screening programs currently available in Queensland:

NATIONAL BOWELCANCER SCREENING PROGRAM



Bowel screening

More than 9 out of 10 bowel cancers can be successfully treated if found early.

Eligible people aged 50 to 74 are sent a free bowel screening home test kit in the mail to their Medicare registered address every two years. From 1 July 2024 people aged 45 to 49 can request a free kit. The test kit comes with step-by-step instructions and can be completed at home in private.

The test can detect tiny amounts of blood in poo, which may be an indicator of cancer or abnormal growths called polyps. If blood is found, it does not necessarily mean cancer is present, however a visit to a doctor for follow up is recommended as soon as possible.

Steps to take:

- Complete the bowel screening home test kit when it arrives in the mail.
- See a doctor to discuss any bowel symptoms or concerns about bowel health.
- Call 1800 627 701 or visit www.ncsr.gov.au/boweltest



Breast screening

Most women diagnosed with breast cancer do not have a family history.

BreastScreen Queensland offers free breast screening for women who are 40 and over and haven't noticed any changes to their breasts. Breast screening is most effective for women aged 50 to 74.

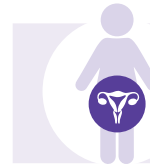
A breast screen is the best way to find breast cancer before it can be seen or felt. A doctors referral is not required.

Steps to take:

- See a doctor to discuss any breast symptoms or concerns about breast health.
- Call 13 20 50 or visit www.breastscreen.qld.gov.au

NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAM

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program



Cervical screening

Cervical cancer can be prevented by having a Cervical Screening Test.

Women, or people with a cervix, who are aged 25 to 74, and have ever had sexual contact, should screen for cervical cancer every 5 years.

The free test looks for an infection called human papillomavirus (HPV), which can cause cervical cancer.

There are two options for having a Cervical Screening Test:

1. Have a healthcare provider collect the sample.
2. Collect your own sample.

Steps to take:

- Speak to a healthcare provider about cervical screening options.
- See a doctor to discuss any unusual symptoms or concerns.
- Call 1800 627 701 or visit www.health.gov.au/ncsp

For further enquiries about cancer screening education your local contact can be found at:
www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/cancer-screening/bowel/contact



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