

Have Your Say as part of the Review of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program

In September 2020, the Department commissioned Deloitte Access Economics to review the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (the NBCSP).

The review is expected to report on all aspects that drive NBCSP performance and efficiency with a strong emphasis on increasing participation.

As part of the review, the consultant is seeking input and submissions from all Australians with an interest in bowel cancer.

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program

The NBCSP was implemented in 2006 by the Department to address the rising incidence and mortality of bowel cancer. The NBCSP was implemented in a phased approach, starting with limited age brackets in 2002 and extending to full biennial screening (every two years) for those aged 50-74.

The objectives of the NBCSP are to:

- achieve participation levels that maximise the population benefit of early detection of bowel cancer in the target population
- enable equitable access to the program for men and women in target population, irrespective of their geographic, socioeconomic, disability or cultural background, to achieve patterns of participation that mirror the general population
- facilitate the provision of timely, appropriate, high-quality and safe diagnostics assessment services for program participants
- maximise the benefits and minimise harm to individuals participating in the program
- ensure the program is cost effective and maintains high standard of program management and accountability
- collect and analyse data to monitor participant outcomes and evaluate program effectiveness.

Purpose of the review

The NBCSP has not undergone a review since 2012, highlighting the importance of a robust review to inform ongoing implementation.

Key focus areas for assessment include:

- program adoption, effectiveness and efficiency (i.e. value for money)
- equity of access of different population groups
- appropriateness and safety of the clinical pathway
- attitudes, behaviours, and the drivers of participation
- effectiveness of program delivery, including invitation methods and other correspondence, kit delivery, governance, diagnostics, reporting, and key performance indicators
- new program features, including enhanced data collection (e.g. the National Cancer Screening Register), reporting processes, and alternative pathway pilots
- compliance with the NBCSP Policy Framework.

Key findings and recommendations from the review will be provided to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt and are expected to inform the future strategic direction of the program.

Have your say

A broad consultation process is underway to solicit views and input across all sectors of the Australian community.

The consultation is being held to seek feedback from members of the public, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, people affected by cancer, health professionals, clinical colleges, researchers and research institutes, cancer organisations, peak bodies, and governments

The review is seeking responses to the following key questions:

1. What are the key enablers and barriers to participation in the NBCSP?
2. What are the key enablers and barriers to compliance with the NBCSP [screening pathway](#)?
3. What are your experiences with participation in the NBCSP, program correspondence, quality, timeliness, and clinician engagement?
4. Are there any equity of access challenges or opportunities that should be considered as part of ongoing implementation?
5. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the NBCSP?