

## **Review of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program | Terms of Reference**

The Department of Health has commissioned an independent and comprehensive review of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. The review will have particular reference to the objectives of the program, which are to:

1. Achieve participation levels that maximise the population benefit of early detection of bowel cancer in the target population;
2. Enable equitable access to the Program for men and women in the target population, irrespective of their geographic, socioeconomic, disability or cultural background, to achieve patterns of participation that mirror the general population;
3. Facilitate the provision of timely, appropriate, high-quality and safe diagnostic assessment services for Program participants;
4. Maximise the benefits and minimise harm to individuals participating in the Program;
5. Ensure the Program is cost-effective and maintains high standards of program management accountability; and
6. Collect and analyse data to monitor participant outcomes and evaluate Program effectiveness.

### **Review Scope**

The review is expected to report on all aspects that drive Program performance and efficiency with a strong emphasis on increasing participation. It will also look for the presence of potential or emerging issues that require Program modifications; and opportunities to improve the Program and maximise its ability to meet its policy objectives.

### **Timing**

The review commenced in September 2020 and is expected to run over approximately eight months.

### **Consultation**

Consultations will commence in October 2020. It is expected that all key Program stakeholders will be consulted. Public submissions will also be accepted via Department of Health's consultation hub.

An Expert Advisory Group has been established to provide advice through the course of the review. This group comprises seven members with expertise in policy, evaluation, data and analytics, Program delivery, bowel cancer screening and prevention, gastrointestinal tract pathology, and health economics.

The Department of Health will also draw on existing governance arrangements such as the Program's Clinical Advisory Group for clinical input and the Program Delivery Advisory Group for Program expertise.

### **Review outcomes**

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.