

# Breast Screening Age Extension (Ages 70 and 74): Guidance for Primary Care



The age for free breast screening is being extended - starting with women who turned 70 and 74 from 1 October 2025\*

The age range will continue to be extended each year in October, to include all eligible women up to the age of 74 by the end of 2029.

\* The Nelson and Marlborough district started as a pilot region from 1 October 2024.

## A new online system called Te Puna

A new online breast screening system called Te Puna went live nationwide in June 2025. It moves BreastScreen Aotearoa from paper based to digital management of the breast screening pathway.

Te Puna will automatically identify eligible women to enrol/re-enrol/book a mammogram with BreastScreen Aotearoa. A provider will then send your patients a secure personalised link (via email, text or letter).

### What this means for GPs and primary health professionals:

- Being part of the BreastScreen Aotearoa programme has changed from an opt in to an opt out approach. Eligible women are now automatically identified in Te Puna based on their NHI and NES data.
- When women are due for their mammogram they will be invited by a BreastScreen Aotearoa provider through a secure personalised link via email, text or letter.
- Please encourage your patient to enrol/re-enrol and to book a mammogram when they receive their secure link.
- If your patient is eligible and has not received an invitation, you are still able to refer them through your usual processes.
- If women wish not to be part of the BreastScreen Aotearoa programme, they need to opt out by calling 0800 270 200.

Further resources for age extension eligibility:

- [One-page flyer](#) for wāhine with additional information
- [Age extension eligibility calculator](#)
- Age extension eligibility flowchart (overleaf)

Guidance regarding recalls, along with eligibility for screening for transgender and gender diverse peoples, will be released in April 2026.

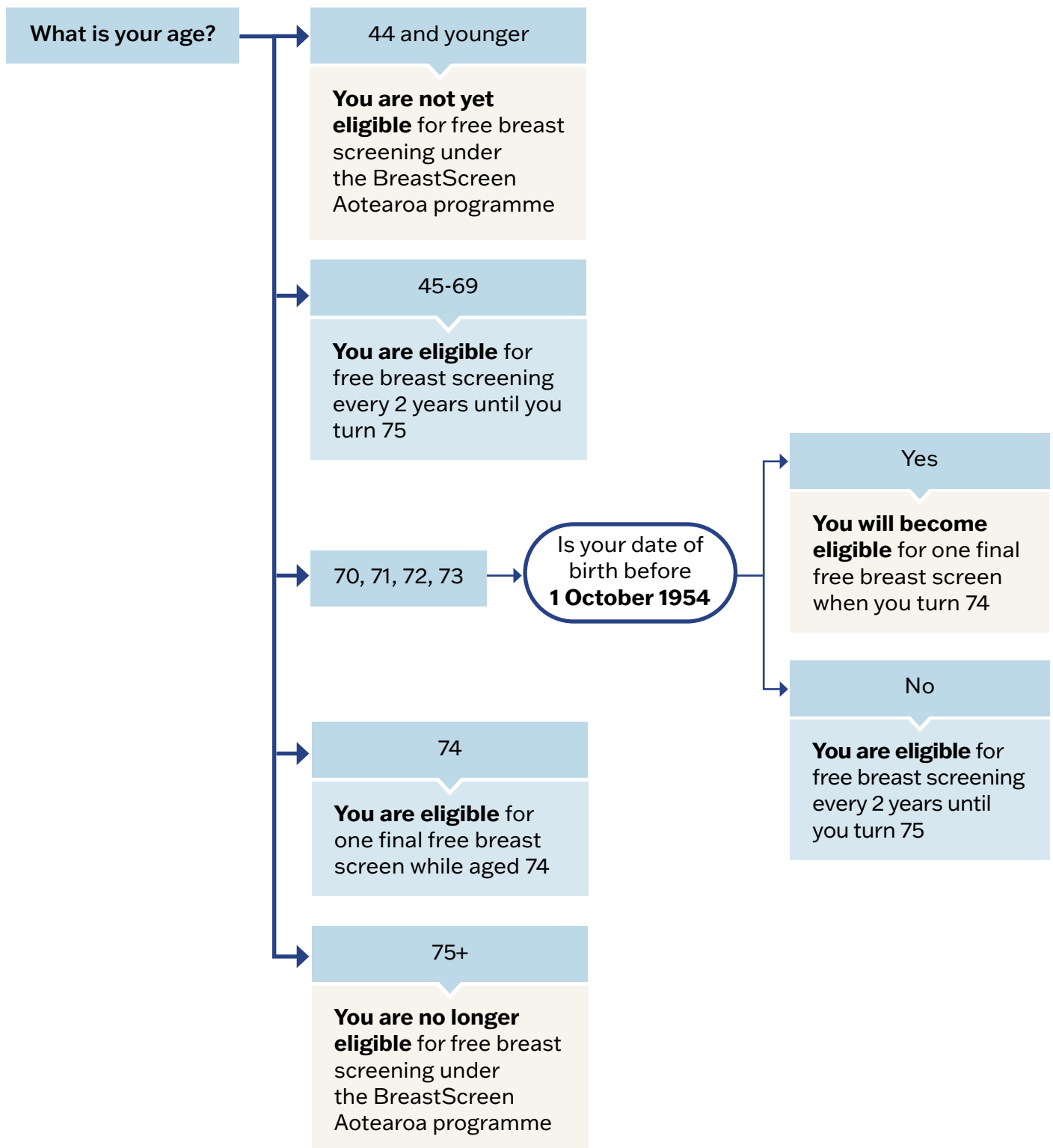
For further information please go to the BreastScreen Aotearoa section on [tewhātuora.govt.nz](https://www.tewhātuora.govt.nz)

**Health New Zealand**  
Te Whatu Ora

## BreastScreen Aotearoa Decision Pathway

The following decision trees are designed to help primary health professionals quickly determine a woman's eligibility for free breast screening under the BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA) programme during the age extension rollout.

### If you live in the Nelson and Marlborough district:



## If you live in the rest of NZ:

