

# Breast screening is being extended



BreastScreen  
Aotearoa

- Currently mammograms are offered to women between the ages of 45 to 69 every 2 years. In October 2025 the age for free breast screening will start to be extended.
- Extending the age for free breast screening in year one **ONLY applies to two age groups: 70 and 74 year olds (except for the existing pilot in the Nelson Marlborough district)\***
- Extending the age (to include all women up to the age of 74) will be fully in place by the end of 2029. This phased approach will enable breast screening and cancer treatment services to progressively meet the additional demand.

## All of New Zealand – excluding the Nelson Marlborough district\*:

### From October 2025:

<b>For women who turn 70 on or AFTER 1 October 2025</b>	Are eligible for free mammograms every 2 years (from their last screen) until aged 75. <b>Note:</b> some women may have screened at 69 and won't be due again at 70.
<b>For women who are 70 – 74 BEFORE 1 October 2025</b>	Are eligible for one final screen at age 74, if booked before turning 75.

### New online system will identify eligible women:

**Te Puna** (the new online breast screening system) will automatically identify 70 and 74 year old women who are eligible. A BreastScreen Aotearoa provider will then send them a secure personalised link (via email, text or letter) if they are:

- Not currently enrolled and eligible to screen  
OR
- Already enrolled and due for their next screen

This is a shift away from what was an opt-in to an opt-out enrolment approach.

## \*PILOT DISTRICT: Nelson and Marlborough

### From October 2024:

<b>For women who turn 70 AFTER 1 October 2024</b>	Are eligible for free mammograms every 2 years (from their last screen) until aged 75. <b>Note:</b> some women may have screened at 69 and won't be due again at 70.
<b>For women who are 70 – 74 BEFORE 1 October 2024</b>	Are eligible for one final screen at age 74, if booked before turning 75.

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

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora