

# INFORMATION FOR PRIMARY CARE

## Waikato age extension to include 50-59 years for Māori and Pacific people



National  
Bowel  
Screening  
Programme

### Background

The National Bowel Screening Programme (NBSP) went live across the Waikato District in March 2021 and is now fully rolled out across Aotearoa for those aged 60 – 74 and eligible for public funding.

In the 2022 Budget funding was announced to lower the NBSP eligibility age to 50 for Māori and Pacific peoples. This is a step toward addressing an acknowledged health inequity. A higher proportion of bowel cancer occurs in Māori and Pacific people before they reach 60 (approximately 21 percent compared to 10 percent for non-Māori non-Pacific peoples).

Te Whatu Ora Waikato will undertake the age extension pilot from early December 2022.

The age extension evaluative implementation will enable lessons learned to be shared with other Te Whatu Ora districts as the age extension for Māori and Pacific people is rolled out across Aotearoa – indicative July 2023 onwards.

Te Whatu Ora Tairāwhiti will also undertake an age extension pilot beginning in early 2023.

### Key points

- The current NBSP screening age for all people is 60 – 74 years.
- From early December 2022 Māori and Pacific people residing in Waikato District will be eligible for the NBSP from 50 – 74 years.
- FIT kits for Māori and Pacific people aged 50 – 59 will be sent out around the participant's birthday. Those with a birth date that falls on an even number will be invited in the first 12 months, with odd birth dates invited in the second 12 months.
- The NBSP age remains at 60 – 74 years for people living in Waikato who do not identify as Māori or Pacific.
- The NBSP pathway will not change – there is no change to the positive FIT referral process and payment process for submitting a positive FIT.
- Eligibility for the NBSP is taken from NHI information. To help reach all newly eligible people please ensure your patients ethnicity and address details are current in your Patient Management System.
- Please continue to encourage your patients to participate in the NBSP – research shows GPs are key influencers in encouraging NBSP participation.

### Patient prompt systems and ordering FIT kits

- Prompting solutions in Indici, Mōhio, Dashboard and Medtech display when a patient aged 60 – 74 is eligible for the NBSP and has not completed a FIT test. FIT kits can be ordered electronically for Māori and Pacific 60 – 74 years.
- Work is underway with Indici, Mōhio, Dashboard and Medtech prompting solutions to allow GPs to identify 50 – 59-year-old Māori and Pacific patients who have not completed a FIT kit and following a conversation, to electronically order a FIT kit.



For **further information and copies of resources** on the lowered screening age for Māori and Pacific people please contact:

Temira Mataroa  
Te Whatu Ora NBSP Programme Manager  
[Temira.mataroa@waikato.health.nz](mailto:Temira.mataroa@waikato.health.nz)

**Te Whatu Ora**  
**Health New Zealand**  
Waikato