What is cancer screening?

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Australia. By the age of 85, 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women will have some type of cancer.

Cancer is caused by damage to the DNA of our cells. This damage can cause cells to grow uncontrollably. Cancer screening looks for changes in DNA that may indicate cancer.

Cancer screening for men

Age 50 to 74
- Prostate: PSA test
- Colon: Fecal occult blood test (FOBT)
- Skin: Skin checks
- Stomach: Helicobacter pylori testing
- Mouth: Oral cancer checks

Age 55 to 74
- Breast: Mammograms

Cancer screening for women

Age 20 to 74
- Breast: BreastScreen NSW
- Cervical: Cervical screening

Age 50 to 74
- Colon: ColonScreen NSW

Cancer screening for children

Age 5 to 9
- Breast: BreastScreen NSW

Age 7 to 13
- Cervical: Cervical screening

Age 12 to 16
- Colon: ColonScreen NSW

It is important to discuss the benefits and risks of cancer screening with your doctor. Cancer screening can detect cancer early, when it is more treatable. It can also help to prevent cancer.

Cancer NSW Government

Cancer Institute NSW

www.cancerscreening.gov.au/bowel


www.cancerscreening.gov.au/breast

www.cancerscreening.gov.au/colon