

Cancer Institute NSW

New screening program to reduce lung cancer risk

The Australian Government is set to launch a National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP) in July 2025.



The new screening program presents a significant opportunity to increase early diagnosis, enhance treatment options and improve survival for people with lung cancer in NSW.

This program will utilise low-dose computed tomography (CT) scans to screen for lung cancer in high-risk individuals without any symptoms.

Your patients will be eligible for the NLCSP if they:

- are aged between 50 and 70 years
- show no signs or symptoms of lung cancer, and
- have a history of at least 30 pack-years of cigarette smoking and are still smoking
- or
- have a history of at least 30 pack-years of cigarette smoking and quit in the past 10 years.

Two new Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) items have been created to provide low-dose CT (LDCT) scans under the NLCSP.

The new MBS items are for:

1. The screening LDCT scan done by the participant every 2 years
2. The interval LDCT scans for any follow-up needed during the 2-yearly screening period (as required following results of the initial LDCT screening test).

The NLCSP will be led by the Commonwealth Government, with support from states and territories. For more information visit the NLCSP website: <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/nlcsp>.

As smoking is a leading risk factor for lung cancer, smoking and vaping cessation will be a vital component of the NLCSP.

The NSW Quitline: A service to help patients quit smoking and vaping

Quitline (13 7848) is a confidential telephone information and counselling service managed by the Cancer Institute NSW to help people who smoke and/or vape to quit and stay quit.

There is strong evidence to indicate that using phone support services, such as Quitline, can increase a person's chances of quitting smoking by up to 40%.¹

How can Quitline counsellors support my patients?

Quitline counsellors are trained professionals who:

- Offer advice about strategies and resources to quit
- Listen and ask about triggers to smoke/vape and motivations to quit
- Offer counselling calls to support clients during and after their quit attempt
- Work with priority populations including:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 - People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - People who are young, pregnant, living with a mental illness, have cancer or were recently released from custodial settings.

When can my patients call Quitline?

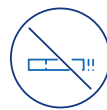
- Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm
- Saturday: 9am to 5pm.



Quitline resources for GPs

Access resources here:
[cancer.nsw.gov.au/quitline/
order-resources](https://cancer.nsw.gov.au/quitline/order-resources)

NSW statistics at a glance



Tobacco smoking is a leading cause of disease and premature death in NSW

- Around **6,700 deaths** in 2018 and more than 62,900 hospitalisations in 2018–19 **were attributed to smoking**.²
- Encouragingly, between 2014 and 2023 **smoking rates** among people aged 16 years and over **decreased from 16% to 12%**, with the decline highest among those aged 16–24 years.³



Vaping is a significant and growing health issue in NSW

- In 2023, **19% of people aged 16 years and over had used an e-cigarette** (at least once) and 8.5% currently (daily or occasionally) used e-cigarettes.³
- This is a significant increase since 2020, when **9.7% of people aged 16 years and over had ever used an e-cigarette**, and 2.1% of people aged 16 years and over were currently using e-cigarettes.³

1. Matkin W, Ordóñez-Mena JM, Hartmann-Boyce J. Telephone counselling for smoking cessation. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2019(5).
2. Centre for Population Health. Harms of tobacco smoking and second-hand smoke. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/harms-of-smoking.aspx>. Accessed 10 October 2024.
3. Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. HealthStats NSW. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health. Available at: www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au. Accessed 15 August 2024.