



South Canterbury NBSP Community Update

May 2021

We're celebrating the great news that South Canterbury's Bowel Screening Programme has already reached the Ministry of Health's national participation goal of **60%** 6 months after going live! Currently at 63% participation – our next step will be 70!



It's really positive to note that people are keen to screen and are wanting their kit to come in the mail. Our team's community presence across the region has fielded questions such as *'when will I get mine?'*, *'can I be screened now?'*, *'my husband's had his but where's mine?'*. This eagerness has seen our participation rate climb fast – so keep encouraging and talking about the benefits of screening with those around you and get those kits sent back!

We also get a lot of 'nah I'm all good, no issues down there thanks'. The purpose of the screening is to catch issues at an early stage, where there may be no symptoms or signs, and treat successfully. **Screening saves lives.** The little test kit is set to detect tiny traces of blood which may not mean cancer but could indicate polyps are present, so more checks may be needed to find out why.

Please note!

If you've had a colonoscopy in the last 5 years or have one due soon, please call **0800 924 432** to **opt out** of screening

Have you had a birthday recently and received a kit? If so, remember to post it off within the 6-month expiry timeframe. Check out the tips below for this.

Are you wondering where your kit is?

Those aged 60-74 years:

-with an *even* birthdate i.e. 24th August = invited in year 1 (Oct 2020-Oct 2021)

-with an *odd* birthdate i.e. 17th May = invited in year 2 (Oct 2021-Oct 2022)

Invites will capture all those who are about to turn 60 or just prior to a 75th birthday if haven't been previously invited, regardless of birthdate.

You can call the **0800 924 432** freephone to check timeframe & update address.

KEY FACTS for SOUTH CANTERBURY as of 4th MAY

1770 normal results returned from approx. 3400 invites
95 abnormal (positive) results
Positivity rate of 5.1%
50 colonoscopies to date; approx. 90% found & removed polyps
1 cancer found at early stage and is treatable

WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS NZ?

16 DHB's are now offering screening, with 4 still to roll out by the end of 2021.
Between 1 July 2017 and 31 March 2021, the national NBSP has seen:

- 624,300 people invited
- 14,180 positive results
- 352,400 returned kits
- 11,370 colonoscopies

**860
cancers
found**

Tips for a successful screen.

Be ready- think about your daily routines & regularity
Read and check consent form carefully
Put 1 yellow barcode on the tube
Date your form the day you do the test
Place tube into clear bag and seal well
Place this and consent form in FREEPOST envelope
Ideally post it off between Monday & Thursday

For more information, queries and resources or to book a community presentation please contact:

Your local dedicated NBSP Team based at Timaru Hospital 03 264 6623 or bowelscreening@scdhb.health.nz

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