

Hauora o Toi BOP District NBSP numbers as of 29 September 2022

FIT kits sent	FIT kits returned	Positive results	Colonoscopies	Cancer detected
10,152	4,887	219	82	5

National NBSP numbers as of 29 September 2022

FIT kits sent	FIT kits returned	Positive results	Colonoscopies	Cancer detected
1,221,520	699,368	27,478	21,821	1,606

National Bowel Screening Unit win Spirit of Service 2022 Award

The National Bowel Screening Programme was the joint winner of the Service Excellence Award at the 2022 Te Kawa Mataaho Spirit of Service Awards!

The prestigious Service Excellence Award is given out annually by the Public Service Commission for outstanding initiatives in the public sector.

With Aotearoa New Zealand having one of the highest bowel cancer rates in the world, the National Screening Unit has worked tirelessly to establish the National Bowel Screening

Programme since 2017.

The established programme is the culmination of over 20 years of mahi. This also involved the mahi of people from the Ministry of Health, healthcare providers including the former Waitemata DHB who successfully managed the bowel screening pilot for six years, the Bowel Screening Advisory Group, Whakarongorau Aotearoa, HealthShare and various expert groups and individuals who worked to achieve a safe, high quality national implementation.

The programme provides at home

test kits, a nationwide register, and have ensured all health regions in Aotearoa New Zealand are well equipped to provide quality care to those impacted by bowel cancer. This includes lifting the quality of the endoscopy services around the country.

With a focus on making bowel screening accessible to all eligible participants to achieve early detection and prevention, the team is saving lives.



Di Sarfati (Director-General, Ministry of Health), Sarah Harihari (NBSP Equity Project Manager), Deborah Woodley (Interim Director, Population Health Commissioning), Michael Dreyer (Group Manager and Chief Technology Officer National Digital Services), Cathy Whiteside (Manager, NBSP), Stephanie Chapman (Group Manager, National Screening Unit), Gary Thompson (Deputy Chair of the National Screening Unit Māori Monitoring Equity Group)

Māori and Pasifika encouraged to get screened for bowel cancer

More than 835,000 New Zealanders are eligible but only about half are taking up the free, at-home screening. Patrick Loloma Afeaki, a bowel cancer survivor, shared his story with Te Reo Irirangi O Aotearoa Radio New Zealand. Unfortunately for his wife, the outcome was not so great.

In early 2018 Patrick realised that he had blood in his bowel motions and he knew that was a symptom of bowel cancer. He immediately told his family doctor who referred him to the hospital. He was given a colonoscopy and they removed 24 polyps, one with cancer in it.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of Patrick's story.

Acknowledgement: RNZ