

# National Lung Cancer Screening Program – Victorian Lung Nodule Clinics

Information for primary care providers

## OFFICIAL

**The National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP) starts on 1 July 2025.**

**The Victorian Government is supporting implementation through a network of 12 public hospital clinics across the state with enhanced capacity to receive referrals for NLCSP participants with high-risk results requiring specialist assessment.**

**This information sheet provides an overview of the NLCSP, links to key resources and information on referrals to Victoria's lung nodule clinics.**

## National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP) overview

The National Lung Cancer Screening Program is a free, Commonwealth-funded service offering low-dose CT scans to eligible Victorians for the early detection of potential lung cancer. Eligibility for the program is for those aged 50-70 years with a significant smoking history and no symptoms.

The [National Lung Cancer Screening Program](#) website provides comprehensive information about program entry and recruitment. This includes a range of [resources for healthcare providers](#) including program guidelines, referral forms, decision making tools and conversation guides.

## Role of primary care providers

Primary care providers will play a key role in referring eligible patients to the screening program and any post screening patient follow up that is required. This includes communicating the results of the CT scan.

Participation in the NLCSP requires a referral from an authorised healthcare provider, such as a general practitioner, nurse practitioner or medical specialist. Eligible participants will be referred for a bulk-billed low-dose CT scan through public or private radiology providers. Healthcare providers are encouraged to check whether local radiology services offer free scans under the NLCSP to ensure appropriate referrals.

After screening, results are uploaded to the National Cancer Screening Register by the radiology provider and shared with the participant's requesting practitioner along with advice on next steps.

Requesting practitioners are responsible for discussing results and arranging further care.

We encourage you to read and familiarise yourself with the below resources.

## Resources for program entry and recruitment

- [GP resource guide](#)
- [Referring Practitioner Flowchart for Eligibility and CT Scan Referral](#)
- [Reducing Stigma in the NLCSP](#)
- [Providing Support for Lung Cancer Screening Participants](#)
- [Conversation starters](#)

## Resources for post screening

- [Conversation guide: Discussing results](#)
- [Understanding your results](#)
- [Understanding lung nodules and other findings](#) (factsheet)
- [Understanding lung nodules and other findings](#) (brochure)

## Role of Victoria's public lung nodule clinics

Lung nodule clinics support the specialist assessment and early management of patients with **high and very-high risk nodules** identified on a NLCSP low-dose CT scan. This may include:

- Further imaging or diagnostic testing.
- Case review at a multidisciplinary meeting including a respiratory physician, radiologist, specialist nurse, and other clinicians as required (such as a surgeon or oncologist).
- Advice to primary care providers regarding surveillance or management of patient nodules.
- If lung cancer is confirmed- referral to a cancer multidisciplinary team for treatment planning.
- Referral to other specialists or advice to primary care providers regarding assessment and management of any incidental findings.

Patients can only access the lung nodule clinics through a referral from a GP or specialist.

In line with the [NLCSP guidelines](#), monitoring and management of low and moderate-risk nodules should continue to occur in primary care (See the [Providing Support for Lung Cancer Screening Participants resource](#) for advice on managing this patient cohort). Incidental (non-lung cancer) findings will also continue to be managed through existing primary or specialist care pathways.

There are **12 public health services across Victoria with lung nodule clinics** that can receive specialist referrals for patients with high and very high-risk screening results;

- [Alfred Health](#) (including a planned partnership with Peninsula Health)
- [Austin Health](#)
- [Barwon Health](#)
- [Bendigo Health](#)
- [Eastern Health](#)
- [Grampians Health](#)
- [Latrobe Regional Health](#) (including a planned partnership with Central Gippsland Health)
- [Melbourne Health](#) (including a planned partnership with Mildura Base Hospital)
- [Monash Health](#)
- [Northern Health](#)
- [St Vincent's Hospital](#) (including a planned partnership with Goulburn Valley Health)
- [Western Health](#)

Further information on **how to refer** and the key information to provide is available from each health service and will shortly be uploaded to HealthPathways. Further information about Victorian lung nodule clinics is also available on the Department of Health website [National Lung Cancer Screening Program and Victorian Lung Nodule Clinics | health.vic.gov.au](#).