

National Screening Unit Quality Principles



1. The overall benefits of screening must outweigh the harm

- There should be regular review of the evidence which programmes are based on.
- There is transparency around significant decisions, major changes to screening programmes and serious adverse events.

2. National screening programmes are people centred

- Screening should be acceptable to individuals, whānau and the populations being screened.
- Advisory groups seek appropriate consumer representatives with experience of the condition(s) screened for and the health system.
- Screening programmes are delivered in an ethically and culturally competent manner for New Zealand.

3. National screening programmes will achieve equitable access to screening and equitable outcomes for all population groups

- Screening programmes should incorporate the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Solutions to access are focused on improving processes and adapting systems to meet the needs of individuals and under-screened populations.

4. Informed consent is a priority throughout the screening pathway

- Screening programmes should provide full information to people. This includes detail on benefits and harms of screening.
- Screening programmes must ensure that cultural and health literacy differences are addressed when providing information to support informed consent.

5. Screening programmes are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis

- Information systems should be set up to enable timely monitoring, audit and evaluation of screening programmes and providers.

6. National screening programmes are committed to continuous quality improvement in programme management and clinical service delivery

- Policy makers, providers and all those involved in screening programmes are accountable and responsible for maintaining capacity and capability in delivering screening programmes and services of the highest possible quality.