

14 July 2022

Your Official Information Act request: bowel screening

Thank you for your email of 14 June 2022, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. The total eligible population in the Lakes DHB region for the national bowel screening programme.**
- 2. A monthly breakdown of how many bowel cancer testing kits have been delivered to eligible residents since the programme rolled out in the Lakes DHB region.**
- 3. A monthly breakdown of how many bowel cancer testing kits have been completed and returned to the DHB to be tested. Could you also please break this number down by ethnicity if available.**

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

- 1. The total eligible population in the Lakes DHB region for the national bowel screening programme.**

The bowel screening programme seeks to reduce the incidence of bowel cancer for those aged between 60 -74 who live in Lakes region and are eligible for publicly funded health care in New Zealand.

Data sourced from the National Bowel Screening projection estimates 18,210 people aged 60 and 74 in the Lakes region in 2021/22.

The programme will invite about 700,000 people nationally for screening every two years.

- 2. A monthly breakdown of how many bowel cancer testing kits have been delivered to eligible residents since the programme rolled out in the Lakes DHB region.**

28,967 in total as at 1 June 2022.

European	20747
Maori	6358
Pasifika	472
Asian	1013
Others	377
Total	28967

- 3. A monthly breakdown of how many bowel cancer testing kits have been completed and returned to the DHB to be tested. Could you also please break this number down by ethnicity if available.**

16,458 returned in total

European	12,802
Maori	2,912
Pasifika	194
Asian	450
Others	100
Total	16,458

Please note the test kits are not returned to the DHB. They are returned to a laboratory in Auckland. There is a self-addressed envelope in the kit. The kits are also not bowel cancer testing kits they are screening kits. They detect blood in the faeces. If blood is found, people are referred for a colonoscopy which is the cancer detecting tool.

released under the Official Information Act