

## Bowel Screening Pilot Evaluation - Questions and Answers

Litmus and Sapere Research Group have been commissioned by the Ministry of Health to evaluate the Bowel Screening Pilot. This question and answer sheet provides information about the Bowel Screening Pilot evaluation.

<p>What is the purpose of the evaluation of the Bowel Screening Pilot?</p>	<p>The overall goal of the evaluation of the Bowel Screening Pilot is to determine:</p> <p><b><i>Whether organised bowel screening could be introduced in New Zealand in a way that is effective, safe and acceptable for participants, equitable and economically efficient.</i></b></p> <p>The overall goal breaks down into four key aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Effectiveness:</b> Is a national bowel screening programme likely to achieve the mortality reduction from bowel cancer for all population groups seen in international randomised controlled trials?</li> <li>2. <b>Safety and acceptability:</b> Can a national bowel screening programme be delivered in a manner that is safe and acceptable?</li> <li>3. <b>Equity:</b> Can a national bowel screening programme be delivered in a manner that eliminates (or does not increase) current inequalities between population groups?</li> <li>4. <b>Economic efficiency:</b> Can a national bowel screening programme be delivered in an economically efficient manner?</li> </ol>
<p>Who is doing the evaluation?</p>	<p>The evaluation is being done by <b>Litmus Limited</b>, a social research and evaluation company based in Wellington (<a href="http://www.litmus.co.nz">www.litmus.co.nz</a>).</p> <p>The cost-effectiveness component of the evaluation will be done by <b>Sapere Research Group</b> (<a href="http://www.srgexpert.com">www.srgexpert.com</a>).</p>
<p>When is the evaluation being done?</p>	<p>The evaluation started in 2011, and will continue while the Bowel Screening Pilot is running. The evaluation is scheduled to be completed in 2015/16.</p>
<p>Who will be participating in the evaluation?</p>	<p>A selection of people from the following groups will be asked to participate in the evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ people living in the Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) area</li> <li>▪ the national population living outside the Waitemata DHB area</li> <li>▪ health professionals delivering the Bowel Screening Pilot.</li> </ul>
<p>How will the Waitemata DHB public be involved in the evaluation?</p>	<p>A selection of people from the Waitemata DHB area, aged between 50 – 74 years, will be invited to participate in the evaluation, through a telephone survey and/or a face-to-face interview.</p> <p><b>Telephone survey</b></p> <p>Two telephone surveys will be held of approximately 700 people each. It does not matter whether or not people have decided to participate in the Bowel Screening Pilot to be involved in the survey.</p> <p>The purpose of the survey is to measure people's awareness, knowledge and attitudes towards bowel cancer and the Bowel Screening Pilot. The survey findings allow the evaluators to track any changes in awareness, attitudes and knowledge over time.</p>

	<p><b>Face-to-face interviews</b></p> <p>A small number of people will be asked to participate in a face-to-face interview. The purpose of these interviews is to gain an understanding of people's progression through different stages of the screening process, and to identify what helped or hindered people going through that process.</p>
How will the national population be involved in the evaluation?	<p>A <b>national telephone survey</b> will be done of approximately 700 randomly selected people. Participants must be aged between 50 - 74 years and live outside the Waitemata DHB area.</p>
How will health professionals be involved in the evaluation?	<p>Between 2011 and 2015, the Litmus team will be seeking input from <b>GPs, practice nurses, endoscopy staff and radiology staff</b> who are involved in delivering the Bowel Screening Pilot.</p> <p>The involvement of GPs and practice nurses is unique to the New Zealand Bowel Screening Pilot. There is substantial national and international interest in understanding their contribution to facilitating the screening pathway.</p> <p><b>On-line survey</b></p> <p>All GPs, practice nurses, endoscopy staff and radiology staff in the Waitemata DHB who are involved in delivering the Bowel Screening Pilot, will be invited to participate in an on-line survey.</p> <p>The survey will take ten minutes to complete. The purpose of the survey is to measure health professional's knowledge and awareness of the Bowel Screening Pilot and the impact it has on their normal services.</p> <p><b>Face-to-face interviews and group discussions</b></p> <p>Some providers will be asked to participate in a face-to-face interview or small group discussion.</p> <p>The purpose of these discussions is to gather detailed information and insights about the implementation of the Bowel Screening Pilot from those who are involved with its implementation and day-to-day operations. This will include what is working well, not so well, and key process improvements to achieve the pilot's goal and aims.</p>
What other stakeholders are involved in the evaluation?	<p>Other stakeholders in the Bowel Screening Pilot will also be invited to participate in a face-to-face interview or small group discussion. This will include people from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Coordination Centre</li> <li>▪ testing laboratory</li> <li>▪ Waitemata DHB staff involved in the management of, and communications for, the Bowel Screening Pilot.</li> </ul>
Do people have to take part?	<p>Participation in the evaluation is completely voluntary. The evaluation has been given ethical approval by the Multi-region Health and Disability Ethics Committee (reference number MEC/11/EXP/119).</p>
What if I have any questions?	<p>If you have any questions about the evaluation, please contact:</p> <p><b>Liz Smith</b>  Litmus Partner and Project Leader for the Bowel Screening Pilot evaluation  Tel +64 4 473 3885 Fax +64 4 473 3884 <a href="mailto:liz@litmus.co.nz">liz@litmus.co.nz</a></p>