

## LUNG CANCER



Lung cancer is the fifth most common cancer and a leading cause of cancer death in Australia. Since July 2025, the National Lung Cancer Screening Program has allowed eligible patients to access a free low-dose CT scan every two years.

Eligibility criteria consists of:

- being between 50-70 years of age
- show no signs or symptoms suggestive of lung cancer
- currently smoking or have quit within the last 10 years
- history of tobacco cigarette smoking of at least 30 pack years.

The National Lung Cancer Screening Program aims to achieve better health outcomes for eligible Australians by detecting lung cancer early, when the person is feeling well and symptom free.

Early detection can lead to more effective treatment options and improved outcomes for patients. Importantly, eligible patients do not need to quit smoking to participate in the program, aiming to reduce a barrier and stigma associated with cigarette smoking.

<b>eLearning modules</b>	Seven self-paced, accredited modules for healthcare workers will take approximately 3.5 hours to complete, earning 3.5 CPD points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lung Foundation Australia- National Lung Cancer Screening Program Health Workforce Education</a></li> </ul>
<b>Communications campaign</b>	'It's Good to Know' is a national campaign (TV, social media etc) encouraging vulnerable Australians, including First Nations, rural and remote communities, LGBTQ+ and CALD to get screened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lung Foundation Australia – Lung Cancer Screen Campaign Hub</a></li> </ul>
<b>PDSAs – Quality improvement</b>	Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles provide a framework to help develop, manage, and test quality improvement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please contact your Quality Improvement Consultant for assistance with identifying change ideas for your practice.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Plan Do Study Act- template</a></li> </ul>

<b>Murray HealthPathways</b>	<p>Guides best-practice assessment and management of common medical conditions, including when and where to refer patients, with guidance on what information is needed.</p>	<p>General practices are now required to have individual accounts to continue to access HealthPathways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search: Lung Cancer Screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• Stigma discussion</li> <li>• Eligibility criteria</li> <li>• Suitability for low dose CT scan</li> <li>• Functional status and co-morbidities consideration</li> <li>• Enrolling the patient to the NCSR</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking cessation advice and support</li> <li>• CALD</li> <li>• Entry and exit criteria</li> <li>• Incidental finds possibility</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Referral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radiology provider for low dose CT scan throughout catchment</li> <li>• Lung nodule clinics</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Fact sheets for patients <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printable in clinic resources to provide to your patients</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>PENCS</b>	<p>CAT 4 recipe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CAT Recipes- Identify patients eligible for lung cancer screening (B)</a></li> </ul>
<b>National Lung Cancer Screening Program</b>	<p>Available resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Lung Cancer Screening Program- Resources for the health sector- Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Requesting practitioner flow chart for eligibility and CT scan request</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">National Lung Cancer Screening Program Quality Framework</a></li> </ul>

For further information or support please contact your local Quality Improvement Consultant assigned to your practice, email: [gpsupport@murrayphn.org.au](mailto:gpsupport@murrayphn.org.au) or visit the general practice support page on our [website](#).

Document last updated 30 March 2026