

QDN feedback on the Metro North Hospital and Health Service Draft Bowel cancer screening participation plan

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) welcomes the opportunity to provide brief feedback on the Metro North Hospital and Health Service Draft Bowel cancer screening participation plan.

QDN is an organisation of, for, and with people with disability with over 2000 members and supporters. QDN operates a state-wide network of members who provide information, feedback and views from the lived experience of people with disability to inform systemic policy feedback to Government and peak bodies. QDN also provides information and referral support to people with disability. QDN's submission is reflective of the views of our members.

QDN acknowledges the development of this plan and the work Metro North Hospital and Health Service has undertaken to date to identify people with disability as a target group for bowel cancer screening and develop a plan to address this.

It is widely acknowledged that people with disability often have more complex health needs and a higher mortality rate, and face many barriers accessing appropriate health care, and a narrower margin of health, than the general population. QDN members highlight the many challenges they experience in both accessing health care and being an informed, participating consumers of health services.

QDN members have informed us of issues relating to health including: unaffordable healthcare, complex health needs, a health workforce with perceived limited knowledge of disability and inadequate systems, inaccessible health services and limited personal knowledge of how to access and navigate the health system.

QDN supports the call for improved health outcomes and health care for people with disability, particularly in relation to cancer-screening services. QDN supports work that upholds the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability, including the right to the highest attainable standard of health, without discrimination.

Information and awareness campaigns (including the information accompanying the bowel cancer screening kit) must be accessible, relevant, and engaging of all people with disability and will need to include information in alternative formats such as:

- Easy-English
- Braille, large print, audio
- Captioning
- Screen-reader accessibility
- Websites that are WCAG 2.0 compliant

It is also important to engage with consumer lead organisations such as QDN to ensure people with disability are actively included in the design, implementation and evaluation of integrated health services and preventative health campaigns. Including people with disability in campaign material is essential to alerting the public that bowel cancer is an issue affecting people with disability.

QDN believes further targeted strategies in relation to bowel cancer screening may be required for:

- People with disability from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds
- People with disability from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds
- Women with disability
- People with disability who are homeless and/or living in transient accommodation including Level 3 Supported Accommodation facilities
- People with disability who identify as LGBTQIA
- People with disability who live in long-stay health wards, group homes, institutions and prisons
- People with intellectual disability

QDN supports actions to raise awareness and understanding of health workers in relation to bowel cancer screening and the needs of people with disability. People with disability may need access to accessible clinical settings and community based health services to participate effectively in bowel cancer screening.

This may involve engagement of community outreach health care services (home nursing services) and simple referral processes to assist people to use the bowel cancer screening kits sent to their home as people may not have family, support services or a General practitioner to assist them with bowel cancer screening.

To build on the plan's success, greater integration and connected care across primary health and disability services is required. At a broader policy level it will be necessary to engage with the National Disability Insurance Agency and services people with disability engage to deliver their NDIS supports to ensure support staff are clear about their role in supporting people with bowel cancer screening.

QDN looks forward to further opportunities to engage with Metro North Hospital and Health Service on the Bowel cancer screening participation plan and we can now provide specialist knowledge and advice to plan, design, deliver and evaluate services, products, environments and policies to deliver on quality, accessibility, affordability, inclusion and innovation through [QDeNgage](#).



Thank you for the opportunity to provide this brief feedback. If you have any further questions, please call QDN on 1300 363 783.

Queenslanders with Disability Network, 10 June 2019

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