

Cancer screening information

March 2025

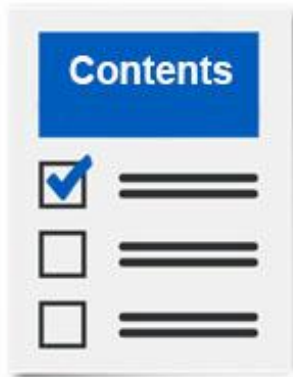
About this document



We did a **research study** to understand how the Australian government shares information about cancer screening.



A research study is when people work to understand something better.



This document will tell you

- how we did the study
- what our study found
- what our study means

What is this report



This Easy Read is a **summary** of a report called *Accessibility of Australian Government Online Cancer Screening Information for People with Intellectual Disability*.



A summary only includes the most important ideas.

We wrote this report in an easy-to-read way.

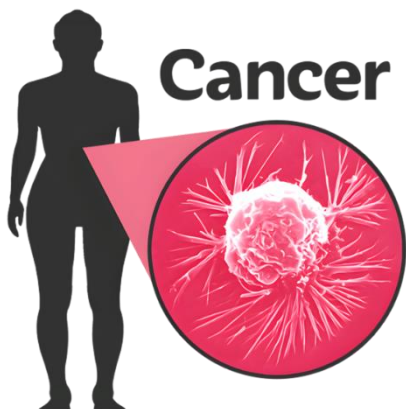
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

You can ask for help to read this report.



A friend, family member or support person can help you use this easy read.

What is in this report



In this report we talk about cancer and getting sick.

Talking about these things might upset you.



You can stop reading this report at any time.

You can come back to it.



If you get upset and need support, you can talk to someone you trust.

Help to use this report

Not bold **Bold**

We wrote some tricky words in **bold**.

That means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 20.



Where the report says we, this means the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

About us



We are **researchers**.



Researchers are people who work to understand something better.

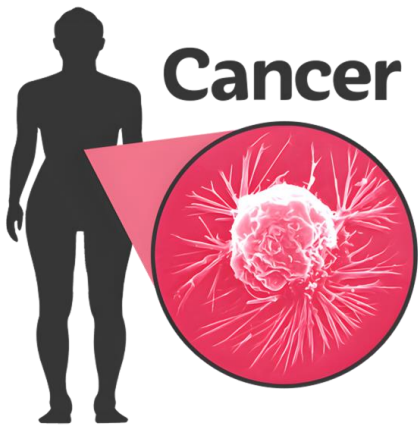
We do research about health care for people with intellectual disability.



Our team includes **researchers with intellectual disability**.

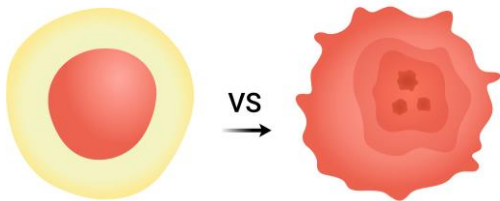
They use their lived experience to help make research better.

About cancer



Some people get a sickness called **cancer**.

Cancer is a sickness that grows from the **cells** of your body.



Your body is made up of lots of small things called cells.

Sometimes your body makes cells that are not right.

Cancer starts when cells that are not right grow out of control.

Sometimes cancer can make people so sick that they die.



About cancer screening



Cancer screening can find some cancers like

- **Breast** cancer



- **Bowel** cancer



- **Cervical** cancer



Cancer screening means testing people for signs of cancer to see if they have it.

Why cancer screening is helpful



Cancer screening can find some cancers early.



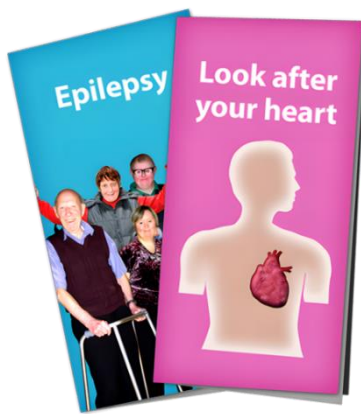
Cancer can then be treated before it causes problems.



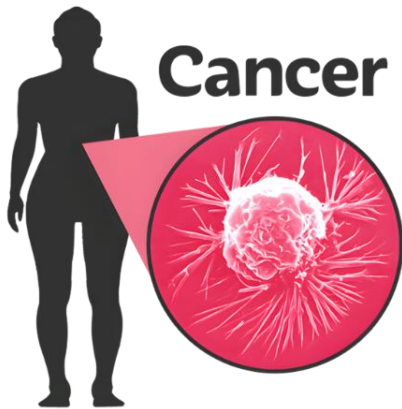
Many people with cancer get better with treatment.

The sooner doctors find cancer, the easier it is to treat.

About health information



Health information can help people to make good choices for their health.



The government provides health information about cancer screening.

Health information about cancer screening can help people to

- understand what cancer screening is
- choose if they want to have cancer screening



Why we did this study



The government shares health information about cancer screening online.

We want to know if this health information is easy to understand.



Some people with intellectual disability do not know about cancer screening.



Some people with intellectual disability do not go to cancer screening.

We think this is because health information is hard to understand.

Why we did this study

We want people with intellectual disability to

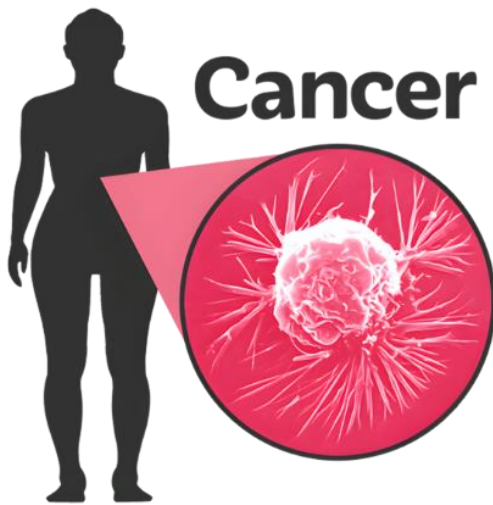


- have health information on cancer screening that is easy to understand



- choose to have cancer screening if they want to

How we did this study



We searched Australian government websites for health information on

- Bowel cancer screening
- Breast cancer screening
- Cervical cancer screening

We found that the government shares health information



- On webpages
- In videos
- As written documents

How we did this study



We spoke with researchers with intellectual disability.

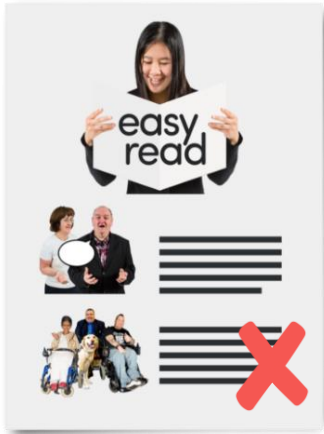
They told us what makes health information easy to understand.



We checked the health information to see if it was

- Easy to read
- Easy to understand
- Made for people with intellectual disability

What our study found



We found a few documents that were Easy Read documents.

We found that the Easy Read documents had mistakes.



We found that a lot of the health information was

- too long
- not easy to read
- not easy to understand



We found that a lot of the **webpage links** did not work.

A webpage link is text on a website that you can click on to go to another page on the website.

What our study found



We found that a lot of the videos did not have **captions**.

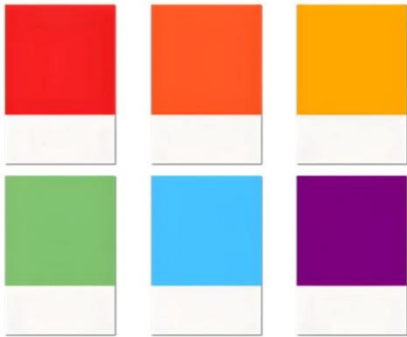
Captions are when you can read the things people are saying on the screen.



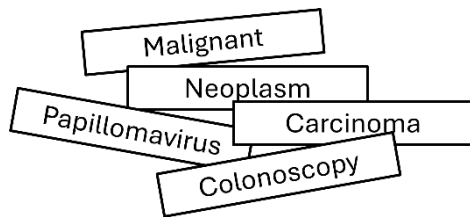
We found that a lot of the videos did not have **transcripts**.

Transcripts means written copies of the words spoken in videos.

What our study found



We found that some information used colours that made the words harder to read.



We found that some information used tricky words.

The tricky words made the information very hard to read.



These tricky words would be hard for lots of people to read.

For example, a support worker or family member might find these tricky words hard to read.

What our study means



Our results show that health information on cancer screening is not easy to understand.



This means that people with intellectual disability and their families may not understand cancer screening.



This means that people with intellectual disability may miss out on cancer screening.

What we want to change



We want people with intellectual disability to

- know about cancer screening
- make choices about cancer screening.



We want good health information about cancer screening that is

- easy to read
- easy to understand
- short and simple

What we want government to do



We need government to make **policies** that make health information better.



Policies are:

- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from



We need policies that say how health information should be shared.

We need government to think about people with intellectual disability when they share health information.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this report mean.



Research study

A research study is when people work to understand something better.



Summary

A summary only includes the most important ideas.

Not bold
Bold

Bold

Bold means letters that are thicker and darker like **this**.

Researchers



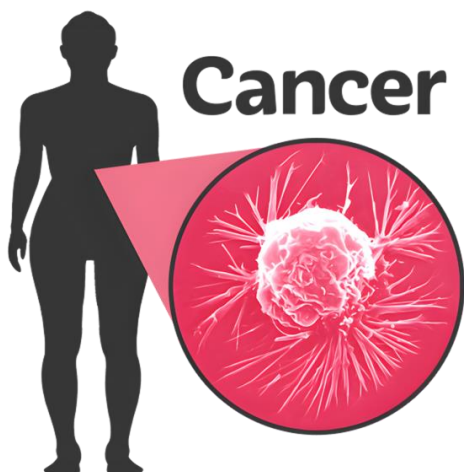
Researchers are people who work to understand something better.

Researchers with intellectual disability

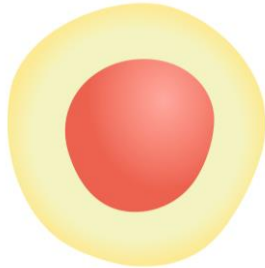


They use their lived experience to help make research better.

Cancer

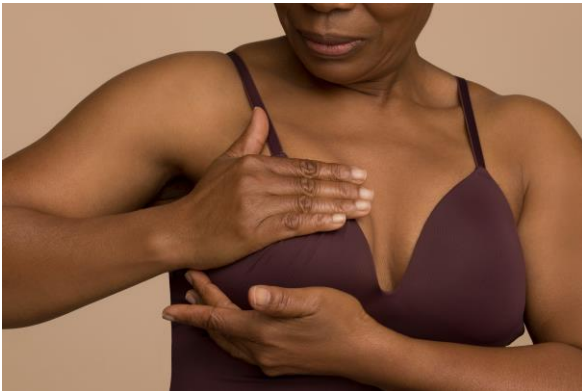


Cancer is a serious sickness you can die from.



Cells

Your body is made up of lots of small things called cells.



Breast cancer

Breast cancer is when you get cancer in your breasts.

Your breasts (boobs) are on your chest.



Bowel cancer

Breast cancer is when you get cancer in your bowel.

Your bowel connects your stomach (tummy) to your bottom.



Cervical cancer

Cervical cancer is when you get cancer in your cervix.

Your cervix is at the top of your vagina.



Cancer screening

Cancer screening means testing people for signs of cancer to see if they have it.



Health information

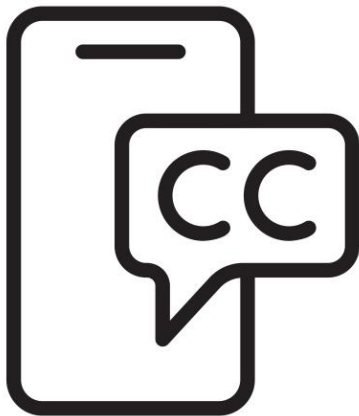
Health information is information that teaches people about their health.



Webpage links

A person who makes a webpage can add a link.

When we click on a link with our computer mouse the computer will show us a new page on the website.



Captions

Captions are when you can read the things people are saying on the screen.



Transcripts

Transcripts means written copies of the words spoken in videos.



Policies

Policies are:

- government plans for how to do things
- where rules come from

Who did this study



The people who did this study are

- Maryann Barrington
- Karen Fisher
- Ben Harris-Roxas
- Catherine Spooner
- Julian Trollor
- Janelle Weise



We want to thank these people for help with our study

- Michaela Kobor
- Susan Adrian
- Tahli Hind



Who wrote this Easy Read

Siobhan Humphreys, Susan Adrian and Maryann Barrington.



Where these people work

The National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.



No changes can be made without asking the people who wrote this sheet.