

3 Pilot Program

The Bowel Cancer Screening Pilot Program ran between November 2002 and June 2004 at three sites: parts of Melbourne and Adelaide and in Mackay, Queensland. People aged 55 to 74 years on 1 January 2003 were invited to participate. The evaluation report of the Pilot Program recommended that the frequency of screening for the NBCSP should be biennial.

In order to assess rescreening rates and outcomes of rescreening, the current phase of the NBCSP has offered all members of the Pilot population the opportunity to screen, regardless of whether or not they participated in the initial screening round and regardless of where they now live in Australia.

People involved in the Pilot are identified as either 'participants' (having participated in the initial screening round) or 'invitees' (people re-invited after not having participated in the initial screening round). In order to assess changes in screening activities over time, this report distinguishes between the two groups for participation – FOBT completion and FOBT positivity rates. Due to the small number of people who have progressed through the screening pathway, other rates will not distinguish between the two groups in this report. Distinctions will be made in future reports as numbers increase.

The figures presented in this section are primarily from Mackay and Adelaide. The NBCSP for the Pilot population did not commence in Melbourne until 14 May 2007.

Age ranges are based on a person's age as at 1 January 2003. This is the date by which age cohorts were classified in the Pilot Program and will allow direct comparison to the original Pilot rates. Age-standardised rates are standardised to the 2001 Australian population.

3.1 Participation, Pilot Program

Invitations sent to both Pilot participants to re-screen and Pilot invitees to initially screen are included in this analysis. Invitations sent by mistake to people outside the target population were excluded from this report. These include 20 people outside the eligible ages of 55 to 74 years on 1 January 2003, 503 people who opted off the NBCSP after receiving an invitation to screen and 198 people who suspended participation in the NBCSP.

The NBCSP commenced on 7 August 2006 in Queensland and 22 January 2007 in South Australia. The NBCSP for Pilot participants and invitees commenced in Victoria on 14 May 2007. Therefore, the numbers and rates presented in some tables are not able to be used for comparison of participation between Pilot sites.

In addition, the participation rates presented in Table 3.1.1a represent an under-estimate of the true screening participation rate. This is because the number of invitations in the rate denominator covers all invitations sent up to 31 July 2007. However, the number of responses in the rate numerator only covers people who have received the invitation and had time to respond. This under-estimation does not affect comparisons between rates for different groups, but it does mean that the absolute levels of participation are likely to be understated.

Summary

- There were 28,084 invitations issued to people involved in the Pilot Program to participate in the NBCSP. Of these, 503 people elected to opt off and 198 suspended participation in the Program. A further 20 invitations were sent to people outside the target age of 55–74 years as at 1 January 2003. These invitations are excluded from all analyses in this report.
- There were 27,363 invitations issued by 31 July 2007 to eligible Pilot participants and invitees of which 14,057 were to previous participants to rescreen, and 13,306 to invitees who may wish to participate in this round.
- The participation rate for previous Pilot participants was 70.0% for Mackay, 62.4% for Adelaide and 39.8% for Melbourne.
- The participation rate for Pilot invitees was 19.2% for Mackay, 15.5% for Adelaide and 6.7% for Melbourne. These rates are significantly lower than the participation rates for previous Pilot participants.
- Melbourne commenced invitations for the Pilot Program in May 2007. This means that Pilot participants and invitees had less time to respond to the invitation than people in Mackay and Adelaide, resulting in lower participation rates.
- There was little difference in rescreening rates for different age cohorts or by sex for people who participated in the Pilot Program.
- Participation rates for people who did not participate in the initial Pilot screening were slightly higher for males (12.5%) than for females (11.9%).

Table 3.1.1a: Pilot respondents, by age, sex and previous Pilot participation, all sites

	Pilot participants		Pilot invitees		All invitations	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Males						
55–59	1,236	57.3	322	12.0	1,558	32.2
60–64	945	57.8	219	13.4	1,164	35.6
65–69	905	56.8	207	12.6	1,112	34.4
70–74	671	60.0	89	12.0	760	40.8
Total	3,757	57.8	837	12.5	4,594	34.8
ASR(A)	..	57.9	..	12.5	..	35.3
95% CI	..	56.0–59.8	..	11.6–13.4	..	34.3–36.4
Females						
55–59	1,390	56.3	315	13.2	1,705	35.1
60–64	1,155	59.5	191	12.0	1,346	38.2
65–69	1,048	56.6	170	10.2	1,218	34.7
70–74	742	57.4	108	11.1	850	37.5
Total	4,335	57.4	784	11.9	5,119	36.2
ASR(A)	..	57.4	..	11.8	..	36.3
95% CI	..	55.6–59.3	..	11.0–12.7	..	35.3–37.4
Persons						
55–59	2,626	56.8	637	12.6	3,263	33.7
60–64	2,100	58.7	410	12.7	2,510	36.9
65–69	1,953	56.7	377	11.4	2,330	34.5
70–74	1,413	58.6	197	11.5	1,610	39.0
Total	8,092	57.6	1,621	12.2	9,713	35.5
ASR(A)	..	57.6	..	12.1	..	35.8
95% CI	..	56.4–58.9	..	11.5–12.8	..	35.1–36.5

Notes

1. Respondents are defined as members of the eligible population who were sent an invitation to screen and who returned a Participant Details form and/or a completed FOBT kit.
2. Rates are the number of people involved in the Pilot Program responding to the invitation to participate in the NBCSP as a percentage of the total number of people involved in the Pilot Program who were sent an invitation to participate in the NBCSP.
3. 'Pilot participants' are those people who participated in the Pilot Program. 'Pilot invitees' are those people invited to participate in the Pilot Program but did not participate. 'All invitations' are the number of invitations to re-screen in the NBCSP sent to those in the Pilot Program.
4. Age cohorts refer to the age of the participant as at 1 January 2003.
5. ASR(A) refers to the age-standardised rate. The AIHW uses the Australian 2001 standard population for age standardisation.
6. Victoria commenced the screening of Pilot participants and invitees on 14 May 2007.

Table 3.1.1b: Pilot respondents, by age, sex and previous Pilot participation, Mackay

	Pilot participants		Pilot invitees		All invitations	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Males						
55–59	507	69.9	88	18.8	595	49.9
60–64	382	71.9	65	24.3	447	55.9
65–69	302	67.9	40	19.1	342	52.3
70–74	223	69.3	13	8.8	236	50.3
Total	1,414	69.9	206	18.9	1,620	52.0
ASR(A)	..	69.9	..	18.3	..	52.1
95% CI	..	66.2–73.6	..	15.8–21.0	..	49.5–54.7
Females						
55–59	520	70.3	79	22.5	599	54.9
60–64	389	72.8	43	20.7	432	58.2
65–69	321	67.7	46	23.5	367	54.8
70–74	251	68.4	15	8.2	266	48.5
Total	1,481	70.0	183	19.5	1,664	54.5
ASR(A)	..	70.0	..	19.3	..	54.4
95% CI	..	66.4–73.8	..	16.9–22.1	..	51.9–57.1
Persons						
55–59	1,027	70.1	167	20.4	1,194	52.3
60–64	771	72.4	108	22.7	879	57.0
65–69	623	67.8	86	21.2	709	53.5
70–74	474	68.8	28	8.5	502	49.3
Total	2,895	70.0	389	19.2	3,284	53.3
ASR(A)	..	69.9	..	18.8	..	53.2
95% CI	..	67.4–72.5	..	16.9–20.8	..	51.4–55.1

Notes

1. Respondents are defined as members of the eligible population who were sent an invitation to screen and who returned a Participant Details form and/or a completed FOBT kit.
2. Rates are the number of people involved in the Pilot Program responding to the invitation to participate in the NBCSP as a percentage of the total number of people involved in the Pilot Program who were sent an invitation to participate in the NBCSP.
3. 'Pilot participants' are those people who participated in the Pilot Program. 'Pilot invitees' are those people invited to participate in the Pilot Program but did not participate. 'All invitations' are the number of invitations to re-screen in the NBCSP sent to those in the Pilot Program.
4. Age cohorts refer to the age of the participant as at 1 January 2003.
5. ASR(A) refers to the age-standardised rate. The AIHW uses the Australian 2001 standard population for age standardisation.

Table 3.1.1c: Pilot respondents, by age, sex and previous Pilot participation, Adelaide

	Pilot participants		Pilot invitees		All invitations	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Males						
55–59	461	63.1	146	15.4	607	36.1
60–64	350	64.7	98	18.1	448	41.4
65–69	389	62.9	113	19.0	502	41.4
70–74	362	61.4	71	13.2	433	38.4
Total	1,562	63.0	428	16.3	1,990	39.0
ASR(A)	..	63.1	..	16.4	..	39.1
95% CI	..	60.0–66.4	..	14.9–18.1	..	37.4–40.8
Females						
55–59	527	63.0	146	16.7	673	39.3
60–64	495	66.1	93	15.9	588	44.0
65–69	459	62.1	81	13.2	540	40.0
70–74	409	56.0	89	12.5	498	34.5
Total	1,890	61.8	409	14.7	2,299	39.4
ASR(A)	..	62.2	..	14.9	..	39.7
95% CI	..	59.0–65.4	..	13.3–16.5	..	38.0–41.5
Persons						
55–59	988	63.0	292	16.0	1,280	37.7
60–64	845	65.5	191	16.9	1,036	42.8
65–69	848	62.5	194	16.1	1,042	40.6
70–74	771	58.4	160	12.8	931	36.2
Total	3,452	62.4	837	15.5	4,289	39.2
ASR(A)	..	62.6	..	15.6	..	39.4
95% CI	..	60.5–64.7	..	14.6–16.7	..	38.2–40.6

Notes

1. Respondents are defined as members of the eligible population who were sent an invitation to screen and who returned a Participant Details form and/or a completed FOBT kit.
2. Rates are the number of people involved in the Pilot Program responding to the invitation to participate in the NBCSP as a percentage of the total number of people involved in the Pilot Program who were sent an invitation to participate in the NBCSP.
3. 'Pilot participants' are those people who participated in the Pilot Program. 'Pilot invitees' are those people invited to participate in the Pilot Program but did not participate. 'All invitations' are the number of invitations to re-screen in the NBCSP sent to those in the Pilot Program.
4. Age cohorts refer to the age of the participant as at 1 January 2003.
5. ASR(A) refers to the age-standardised rate. The AIHW uses the Australian 2001 standard population for age standardisation.

Table 3.1.1d: Pilot respondents, by age, sex and previous Pilot participation, Melbourne

	Pilot participants		Pilot invitees		All invitations	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Males						
55–59	268	38.3	88	7.0	356	18.2
60–64	213	37.9	56	6.8	269	19.4
65–69	214	40.3	54	6.5	268	19.6
70–74	86	41.5	5	8.6	91	34.3
Total	781	39.1	203	6.8	984	19.8
ASR(A)	..	39.3	..	7.1	..	22.1
95% CI	..	36.4–42.3	..	5.5–9.0	..	20.4–23.9
Females						
55–59	343	38.5	90	7.8	433	21.1
60–64	271	41.2	55	6.9	326	22.5
65–69	268	42.0	43	5.0	311	20.9
70–74	82	42.1	4	5.1	86	31.4
Total	964	40.5	192	6.7	1,156	21.9
ASR(A)	..	40.7	..	6.4	..	23.5
95% CI	..	37.8–43.7	..	4.8–8.2	..	21.8–25.3
Persons						
55–59	611	38.4	178	7.4	789	19.7
60–64	484	39.7	111	6.9	595	21.0
65–69	482	41.2	97	5.7	579	20.3
70–74	168	41.8	9	6.6	177	32.8
Total	1,745	39.8	395	6.7	2,140	20.9
ASR(A)	..	40.0	..	6.7	..	22.8
95% CI	..	38.0–42.1	..	5.7–7.8	..	21.6–24.0

Notes

1. Respondents are defined as members of the eligible population who were sent an invitation to screen and who returned a Participant Details form and/or a completed FOBT kit.
2. Rates are the number of people involved in the Pilot Program responding to the invitation to participate in the NBCSP as a percentage of the total number of people involved in the Pilot Program who were sent an invitation to participate in the NBCSP.
3. 'Pilot participants' are those people who participated in the Pilot Program. 'Pilot invitees' are those people invited to participate in the Pilot Program but did not participate. 'All invitations' are the number of invitations to re-screen in the NBCSP sent to those in the Pilot Program.
4. Age cohorts refer to the age of the participant as at 1 January 2003.
5. ASR(A) refers to the age-standardised rate. The AIHW uses the Australian 2001 standard population for age standardisation.
6. Melbourne commenced invitations for the Pilot Program on 14 May 2007.

Table 3.1.2a: Pilot respondents, by sex and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	Number	Rate (per 100 population)	Number	Rate (per 100 population)	Number	Rate (per 100 population)
Males	13	n.a.	2,472	n.a.	2,485	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Females	15	n.a.	2,602	n.a.	2,617	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Persons	28	n.a.	5,074	n.a.	5,102	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.

Notes

1. There were 4,611 respondents with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status not recorded. These are treated as missing values and are excluded from this analysis.
2. Respondents to the screening invitation are defined as members of the eligible population who were sent an invitation to screen and returned a Participant Details form and/or a completed FOBT kit.
3. Rates are the number of people responding as a percentage of the total number of the eligible population who were sent an invitation. These are unable to be calculated until the end of the first phase of the NBCSP.

- There were 28 people identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander who responded to the invitation to participate in the Pilot Program.

Table 3.1.2b: Pilot respondents, by sex and South Sea Islander status

	South Sea Islander		Non-South Sea Islander		Total	
	Number	Rate (per 100 population)	Number	Rate (per 100 population)	Number	Rate (per 100 population)
Males						
Total	3	n.a.	2,472	n.a.	2,475	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Females						
Total	9	n.a.	2,602	n.a.	2,611	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Persons						
Total	12	n.a.	5,074	n.a.	5,086	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Total	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.

Notes

1. There were 4,627 respondents with South Sea Islander status not recorded. These are treated as missing values and are excluded from this analysis.
2. Respondents to the screening invitation are defined as members of the eligible population who were sent an invitation to screen and returned a Participant Details form and/or a completed FOBT kit.
3. Rates are the number of people responding as a percentage of the total number of the eligible population who were sent an invitation. These are unable to be calculated until the end of the first phase of the NBCSP.

- There were 12 people identifying as South Sea Islander who responded to the invitation to participate in the Pilot Program.

Table 3.1.3: Pilot respondents, by age, sex and preferred correspondence language

	Preferred correspondence language					
	Language other than English		English		Total	
	Number	Rate (per 100 population)	Number	Rate (per 100 population)	Number	Rate (per 100 population)
Males						
55–59	59	n.a.	1,499	n.a.	1,558	n.a.
60–64	42	n.a.	1,122	n.a.	1,164	n.a.
65–69	75	n.a.	1,037	n.a.	1,112	n.a.
70–74	54	n.a.	706	n.a.	760	n.a.
Total	230	n.a.	4,364	n.a.	4,594	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Females						
55–59	70	n.a.	1,635	n.a.	1,705	n.a.
60–64	76	n.a.	1,270	n.a.	1,346	n.a.
65–69	52	n.a.	1,166	n.a.	1,218	n.a.
70–74	33	n.a.	817	n.a.	850	n.a.
Total	231	n.a.	4,888	n.a.	5,119	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Persons						
55–59	129	n.a.	3,134	n.a.	3,263	n.a.
60–64	118	n.a.	2,392	n.a.	2,510	n.a.
65–69	127	n.a.	2,203	n.a.	2,330	n.a.
70–74	87	n.a.	1,523	n.a.	1,610	n.a.
Total	461	n.a.	9,252	n.a.	9,713	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.

Notes

1. Preferred correspondence language is self-reported to Medicare Australia through this or other programs. Participants are assumed to prefer to correspond in English unless otherwise stated.
2. Respondents to the screening invitation are defined as members of the eligible population who were sent an invitation to screen and returned a Participant Details form and/or a completed FOBT kit.
3. Rates are the number of people responding as a percentage of the total number of the eligible population who were sent an invitation. These are unable to be calculated until the end of the first phase of the NBCSP.

- There were 461 people who prefer to correspond with Medicare Australia in a language other than English who responded to the invitation to participate in the Pilot Program.

Table 3.1.4: Pilot respondents, by age, sex and disability status

	Disability status				Total	
	Severe or profound limitation		No severe or profound limitation		Number	Rate (per 100 population)
	Number	Rate (per 100 population)	Number	Rate (per 100 population)		
Males						
55–59	103	n.a.	1,267	n.a.	1,370	n.a.
60–64	67	n.a.	968	n.a.	1,035	n.a.
65–69	98	n.a.	916	n.a.	1,014	n.a.
70–74	73	n.a.	610	n.a.	683	n.a.
Total	341	n.a.	3,761	n.a.	4,102	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Females						
55–59	72	n.a.	1,440	n.a.	1,512	n.a.
60–64	98	n.a.	1,094	n.a.	1,192	n.a.
65–69	93	n.a.	1,001	n.a.	1,094	n.a.
70–74	93	n.a.	672	n.a.	765	n.a.
Total	356	n.a.	4,207	n.a.	4,563	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
Persons						
55–59	175	n.a.	2,707	n.a.	2,882	n.a.
60–64	165	n.a.	2,062	n.a.	2,227	n.a.
65–69	191	n.a.	1,917	n.a.	2,108	n.a.
70–74	166	n.a.	1,282	n.a.	1,448	n.a.
Total	697	n.a.	7,968	n.a.	8,665	n.a.
ASR(A)	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.
95% CI	..	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	n.a.

Notes

1. There were 1,048 respondents with disability status not stated. These are treated as missing data and are excluded from this analysis.
2. A 'profound' disability status indicates that a person always needs assistance with self-care, movement and/or communications activities. A 'severe' disability status indicates that a person sometimes needs assistance with these activities.
3. Respondents to the screening invitation are defined as members of the eligible population who were sent an invitation to screen and returned a Participant Details form and/or a completed FOBT kit.
4. Rates are the number of people responding as a percentage of the total number of the eligible population who were sent an invitation.

- There were 697 people reporting severe or profound limitations who responded to the invitation to participate in the Pilot Program.

3.2 FOBT outcomes, Pilot Program

This section of the report covers all FOBT results that were returned to the Register as at 31 July 2007. Each person was initially sent one FOBT kit containing two samples to be completed and returned to the pathology laboratory for analysis. In some cases a person has returned more than one FOBT. In these cases all of their results are included. Results were excluded where the respondent was outside the age of 55 to 74 years as at 1 January 2003, or where the respondent opted off or suspended from the NBCSP.

Pathologists categorise the returned FOBT into one of two groups: correctly completed and incorrectly completed. Respondents with FOBTs that are not correctly completed are requested to complete a subsequent FOBT.

FOBT results are classified by pathologists as either positive (blood is detected in either sample), negative (blood is not detected in either sample) or inconclusive.

The classification of FOBT by return status and positivity is based only on returned kits. In analysing return status, the dependent variable is whether or not the test was correctly completed. In analysing positivity rates, only correctly completed FOBTs are included in the denominator and the dependent variable is whether or not the result was positive (that is, whether or not blood was detected in the sample).

Table 3.2.1a: Pilot FOBT completion status, all sites

	Pilot participants				Pilot invitees				All FOBTs
	FOBT correctly completed		FOBT incorrectly completed		FOBT correctly completed		FOBT incorrectly completed		
	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	
Males									
55–59	1,213	97.7	28	2.3	309	95.4	15	4.6	1,565
60–64	912	96.9	29	3.1	216	97.3	6	2.7	1,163
65–69	881	96.7	30	3.3	195	95.1	10	4.9	1,116
70–74	653	96.3	25	3.7	81	93.1	6	6.9	765
Total	3,659	97.0	112	3.0	801	95.6	37	4.4	4,609
ASR(A)	..	97.0	..	3.0	..	95.4	..	4.6	..
95% CI	..	93.9–100.2	..	2.5–3.6	..	88.5–102.6	..	3.2–6.5	..
Females									
55–59	1,355	96.9	43	3.1	294	91.6	27	8.4	1,719
60–64	1,124	95.7	50	4.3	177	92.2	15	7.8	1,366
65–69	1,010	94.9	54	5.1	152	84.4	28	15.6	1,244
70–74	720	94.6	41	5.4	96	88.1	13	11.9	870
Total	4,209	95.7	188	4.3	719	89.7	83	10.3	5,199
ASR(A)	..	95.7	..	4.3	..	89.5	..	10.5	..
95% CI	..	92.8–98.7	..	3.7–4.9	..	82.9–96.4	..	8.3–13.1	..
Persons									
55–59	2,568	97.3	71	2.7	603	93.5	42	6.5	3,284
60–64	2,036	96.3	79	3.7	393	94.9	21	5.1	2,529
65–69	1,891	95.7	84	4.3	347	90.1	38	9.9	2,360
70–74	1,373	95.4	66	4.6	177	90.3	19	9.7	1,635
Total	7,868	96.3	300	3.7	1,520	92.7	120	7.3	9,808
ASR(A)	..	96.3	..	3.7	..	92.5	..	7.5	..
95% CI	..	94.2–98.5	..	3.3–4.1	..	87.7–97.4	..	6.2–9.0	..

Notes

1. FOBT refers to an entire test kit. Completion status is determined by the pathologist performing the FOBT analysis. It indicates the status of the FOBT received by the laboratory.
2. 'Pilot participants' are those people who participated in the Pilot Program. 'Pilot invitees' are those people invited to participate in the Pilot Program but did not participate. 'All invitations' are the number of invitations to re-screen in the NBCSP sent to those in the Pilot Program.
3. A participant or invitee may complete more than one FOBT kit.
4. Rates are the number of FOBT kits received in each status category as a percentage of the total number of FOBT kits received.
5. Rates add to 100 across the row.
6. Age cohorts refer to the age of the participant as at 1 January 2003.

- There were 9,808 FOBT kits returned by 31 July 2007 of which 8,168 were from previous Pilot participants and 1,640 were from Pilot invitees who had not previously participated in bowel screening.
- The majority of kits were correctly completed. The rate of correctly completed FOBTs was higher for previous Pilot participants (96.3%) than invitees who were participating for the first time (92.5%). This difference was not statistically significant.

Table 3.2.1b: Pilot FOBT completion status, by preferred correspondence language

	Language other than English				English				All FOBTs
	FOBT correctly completed		FOBT incorrectly completed		FOBT correctly completed		FOBT incorrectly completed		
	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	
Males									
55–59	56	96.6	2	3.4	1,466	97.3	41	2.7	1,565
60–64	38	90.5	4	9.5	1,090	97.2	31	2.8	1,163
65–69	72	94.7	4	5.3	1,004	96.5	36	3.5	1,116
70–74	50	94.3	3	5.7	684	96.1	28	3.9	765
Total	216	94.3	13	5.7	4,244	96.9	136	3.1	4,609
ASR(A)	..	94.1	..	5.9	..	96.9	..	3.1	..
95% CI	..	81.4–108.2	..	3.0–10.2	..	93.9–99.8	..	2.6–3.7	..
Females									
55–59	64	90.1	7	9.9	1,585	96.2	63	3.8	1,719
60–64	70	87.5	10	12.5	1,231	95.7	55	4.3	1,366
65–69	46	90.2	5	9.8	1,116	93.5	77	6.5	1,244
70–74	30	90.9	3	9.1	786	93.9	51	6.1	870
Total	210	89.4	25	10.6	4,718	95.0	246	5.0	5,199
ASR(A)	..	89.6	..	10.4	..	95.0	..	5.0	..
95% CI	..	77.6–102.9	..	6.6–15.4	..	92.3–97.8	..	4.4–5.6	..
Persons									
55–59	120	93.0	9	7.0	3,051	96.7	104	3.3	3,284
60–64	108	88.5	14	11.5	2,321	96.4	86	3.6	2,529
65–69	118	92.9	9	7.1	2,120	94.9	113	5.1	2,360
70–74	80	93.0	6	7.0	1,470	94.9	79	5.1	1,635
Total	426	91.8	38	8.2	8,962	95.9	382	4.1	9,808
ASR(A)	..	91.8	..	8.2	..	95.9	..	4.1	..
95% CI	..	83.2–101.1	..	5.8–11.2	..	93.9–97.9	..	3.7–4.6	..

Notes

1. Preferred correspondence language is self-reported to Medicare Australia through this or other programs. Respondents are assumed to prefer to correspond in English unless otherwise indicated.
2. FOBT refers to an entire test kit.
3. A participant may complete more than one FOBT kit.
4. Rates are the number of FOBT kits received in each status category as a percentage of the total number of FOBT kits received.
5. Rates add to 100 across the row.
6. Age cohorts refer to the age of the participant as at 1 January 2003.

- The rate of correctly completed FOBTs was lower for people who indicated that they prefer to correspond with Medicare Australia in a language other than English (91.8%) than those who are assumed to prefer to correspond in English (95.9%).

Table 3.2.1c: Pilot FOBT completion status, by disability status

	Severe or profound limitation				No severe or profound limitation				All FOBTs
	FOBT correctly completed		FOBT incorrectly completed		FOBT correctly completed		FOBT incorrectly completed		
	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	Number	Rate (per 100 FOBTs)	
Males									
55–59	100	97.1	3	2.9	1,239	97.3	35	2.7	1,377
60–64	61	91.0	6	9.0	944	97.4	25	2.6	1,036
65–69	96	97.0	3	3.0	891	97.0	28	3.0	1,018
70–74	65	90.3	7	9.7	593	96.7	20	3.3	685
Total	322	94.4	19	5.6	3,667	97.1	108	2.9	4,116
ASR(A)	..	94.1	..	5.9	..	97.1	..	2.9	..
95% CI	..	83.9–105.2	..	3.5–9.3	..	94.0–100.3	..	2.4–3.5	..
Females									
55–59	69	94.5	4	5.5	1,400	96.4	53	3.6	1,526
60–64	91	85.8	15	14.2	1,063	96.1	43	3.9	1,212
65–69	85	87.6	12	12.4	964	94.1	60	5.9	1,121
70–74	91	91.0	9	9.0	645	94.0	41	6.0	786
Total	336	89.4	40	10.6	4,072	95.4	197	4.6	4,645
ASR(A)	..	90.1	..	9.9	..	95.3	..	4.7	..
95% CI	..	80.2–100.8	..	7.0–13.7	..	92.4–98.3	..	4.0–5.4	..
Persons									
55–59	169	96.0	7	4.0	2,639	96.8	88	3.2	2,903
60–64	152	87.9	21	12.1	2,007	96.7	68	3.3	2,248
65–69	181	92.3	15	7.7	1,855	95.5	88	4.5	2,139
70–74	156	90.7	16	9.3	1,238	95.3	61	4.7	1,471
Total	658	91.8	59	8.2	7,739	96.2	305	3.8	8,761
ASR(A)	..	92.0	..	8.0	..	96.2	..	3.8	..
95% CI	..	85.0–99.5	..	6.0–10.3	..	94.0–98.4	..	3.4–4.3	..

Notes

1. FOBT refers to an entire test kit.
2. A participant may complete more than one FOBT kit.
3. Rates are the number of FOBT kits received in each status category as a percentage of the total number of FOBT kits received.
4. Rates add to 100 across the row.
5. Age cohorts refer to the age of the participant as at 1 January 2003.

- The rate of correctly completed FOBTs was lower for people who report a severe or profound limitation (91.8%) than those who report no severe or profound limitation (96.2%).

Table 3.2.2a: Pilot FOBT results, participants

	FOBT positive		FOBT negative		FOBT inconclusive		All results
	Number	Rate (per 100 results)	Number	Rate (per 100 results)	Number	Rate (per 100 results)	Number
Males							
55–59	72	5.9	1,131	93.2	10	0.8	1,213
60–64	71	7.8	834	91.4	7	0.8	912
65–69	114	12.9	760	86.3	7	0.8	881
70–74	63	9.6	582	89.1	8	1.2	653
Total	320	8.7	3,307	90.4	32	0.9	3,659
ASR(A)	..	8.7	..	90.4	..	0.9	..
95% CI	..	7.8–9.7	..	87.4–93.6	..	0.6–1.2	..
Females							
55–59	82	6.1	1,267	93.5	6	0.4	1,355
60–64	82	7.3	1,027	91.4	15	1.3	1,124
65–69	90	8.9	909	90.0	11	1.1	1,010
70–74	70	9.7	642	89.2	8	1.1	720
Total	324	7.7	3,845	91.4	40	1.0	4,209
ASR(A)	..	7.7	..	91.3	..	1.0	..
95% CI	..	6.8–8.7	..	88.2–94.5	..	0.7–1.3	..
Persons							
55–59	154	6.0	2,398	93.4	16	0.6	2,568
60–64	153	7.5	1,861	91.4	22	1.1	2,036
65–69	204	10.8	1,669	88.3	18	1.0	1,891
70–74	133	9.7	1,224	89.1	16	1.2	1,373
Total	644	8.2	7,152	90.9	72	0.9	7,868
ASR(A)	..	8.2	..	90.9	..	0.9	..
95% CI	..	7.6–8.8	..	88.8–93.0	..	0.7–1.2	..

Notes

1. Rates are the number of FOBT results in each category in terms of 'positive', 'negative' and 'inconclusive' as a percentage of the total number of correctly completed FOBTs.
2. Age cohorts refer to the participant's age as at 1 January 2003.

- There were 7,868 correctly completed FOBTs recorded for the period 7 August 2006 to 31 July 2007 for previous Pilot participants. Of these, 644 (8.2%) were positive and 72 (0.9%) were inconclusive.
- The percentage of positive results was 8.7% for males and 7.7% for females.
- The percentage of positive results was lowest in the 55–59 year age cohort (6.0%) and highest for people in the 65–69 year age cohort (10.8%).

Table 3.2.2b: Pilot FOBT results, invitees

	FOBT positive		FOBT negative		FOBT inconclusive		All results
	Number	Rate (per 100 results)	Number	Rate (per 100 results)	Number	Rate (per 100 results)	Number
Males							
55–59	39	12.6	267	86.4	3	1.0	309
60–64	28	13.0	185	85.6	3	1.4	216
65–69	30	15.4	165	84.6	0	0.0	195
70–74	7	8.6	74	91.4	0	0.0	81
Total	104	13.0	691	86.3	6	0.7	801
ASR(A)	..	12.5	..	86.8	..	0.7	..
95% CI	..	10.1–15.3	..	80.1–93.9	..	0.2–1.5	..
Females							
55–59	16	5.4	275	93.5	3	1.0	294
60–64	9	5.1	167	94.4	1	0.6	177
65–69	17	11.2	134	88.2	1	0.7	152
70–74	8	8.3	87	90.6	1	1.0	96
Total	50	7.0	663	92.2	6	0.8	719
ASR(A)	..	7.2	..	92.0	..	0.8	..
95% CI	..	4.8–10.1	..	85.3–99.1	..	0.4–1.6	..
Persons							
55–59	55	9.1	542	89.9	6	1.0	603
60–64	37	9.4	352	89.6	4	1.0	393
65–69	47	13.5	299	86.2	1	0.3	347
70–74	15	8.5	161	91.0	1	0.6	177
Total	154	10.1	1,354	89.1	12	0.8	1,520
ASR(A)	..	10.0	..	89.2	..	0.8	..
95% CI	..	8.5–11.8	..	84.3–94.3	..	0.4–1.3	..

Notes

1. Rates are the number of FOBT results in each category in terms of 'positive', 'negative' and 'inconclusive' as a percentage of the total number of correctly completed FOBTs.
2. Age cohorts refer to the participant's age as at 1 January 2003.

- There were 1,520 correctly completed FOBTs recorded for the period 7 August 2006 to 31 July 2007 for previous Pilot invitees. Of these, 154 (10.1%) were positive and 12 (0.8%) were inconclusive.
- The percentage of positive results was 13.0% for males and 7.0% for females.
- The percentage of positive results was lowest in the 70–74 year age cohort (8.5%) and highest for people in the 65–69 year age cohort (13.5%).

Table 3.2.3a: Pilot FOBT positivity rates, participants

	Number of positive results	Rate (per 100 valid results)	Total number of valid results
Males			
55–59	72	6.0	1,203
60–64	71	7.8	905
65–69	114	13.0	874
70–74	63	9.8	645
Total	320	8.8	3,627
ASR(A)	..	8.8	..
95% CI	..	7.8–9.8	..
Females			
55–59	82	6.1	1,349
60–64	82	7.4	1,109
65–69	90	9.0	999
70–74	70	9.8	712
Total	324	7.8	4,169
ASR(A)	..	7.8	..
95% CI	..	6.9–8.8	..
Persons			
55–59	154	6.0	2,552
60–64	153	7.6	2,014
65–69	204	10.9	1,873
70–74	133	9.8	1,357
Total	644	8.3	7,796
ASR(A)	..	8.3	..
95% CI	..	7.6–8.9	..

Notes

1. Rates are the number of FOBT positive results as a percentage of the total number of valid results.
2. A valid result is either positive or negative. Inconclusive results are excluded.
3. Age cohorts refer to the participant's age as at 1 January 2003.

- The overall positivity rate for Pilot participants was 8.3%. The lowest positivity rate was in the 55–59 year age cohort (6.0%) and the highest was in the 65–69 year age cohort (10.9%).
- Positivity rates were 8.8% for males compared with 7.8% for females.

Table 3.2.3b: Pilot FOBT positivity rates, invitees

	Number of positive results	Rate (per 100 valid results)	Total number of valid results
Males			
55–59	39	12.7	306
60–64	28	13.1	213
65–69	30	15.4	195
70–74	7	8.6	81
Total	104	13.1	795
ASR(A)	..	12.6	..
95% CI	..	10.2–15.4	..
Females			
55–59	16	5.5	291
60–64	9	5.1	176
65–69	17	11.3	151
70–74	8	8.4	95
Total	50	7.0	713
ASR(A)	..	7.2	..
95% CI	..	4.9–10.1	..
Persons			
55–59	55	9.2	597
60–64	37	9.5	389
65–69	47	13.6	346
70–74	15	8.5	176
Total	154	10.2	1,508
ASR(A)	..	10.1	..
95% CI	..	8.5–11.9	..

Notes

1. Rates are the number of FOBT positive results as a percentage of the total number of valid results.
2. A valid result is either positive or negative. Inconclusive results are excluded.
3. Age cohorts refer to the participant's age as at 1 January 2003.

- The overall positivity rate for Pilot invitees was 10.2%. The lowest positivity rate was in the 70–74 year age cohort (8.5%) and the highest was in the 65–69 year age cohort (13.6%).
- The positivity rate for males was 13.1% compared with 7.0% for females. This difference was statistically significant.

3.3 GP and other primary health care practitioner visits, Pilot Program

Only primary health care practitioner consultations recorded in the Register at 31 July 2007 are included in this section.

Table 3.3.1: Primary health care consultations recorded following a positive FOBT result, by age, sex and Pilot site

	Mackay		Adelaide		Melbourne		All sites	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Males								
Total	86	56.2	47	28.0	22	21.4	155	36.6
ASR(A)	..	55.9	..	27.8	..	20.7	..	36.7
95% CI	..	44.5–69.3	..	20.0–37.5	..	12.2–32.3	..	31.0–43.2
Females								
Total	65	58.6	63	40.4	12	11.2	140	37.4
ASR(A)	..	57.9	..	41.5	..	11.9	..	37.7
95% CI	..	46.6–71.5	..	33.6–51.0	..	3.8–24.3	..	32.0–44.2
Persons								
55–59	39	50.0	28	38.9	10	16.9	77	36.8
60–64	34	58.6	23	32.4	11	18.0	68	35.8
65–69	42	56.8	34	33.3	11	14.7	87	34.7
70–74	36	66.7	25	31.6	2	13.3	63	42.6
Total	151	57.2	110	34.0	34	16.2	295	37.0
ASR(A)	..	57.1	..	34.5	..	16.0	..	37.3
95% CI	..	48.2–67.1	..	28.1–41.9	..	10.5–23.2	..	33.0–41.9

Notes

1. Percentages are the number of primary health care consultations recorded following a positive FOBT as a percentage of the total number of positive FOBT results.
2. Data for age groups by sex are suppressed due to small cell values.
3. Age cohorts refer to the participant's age as at 1 January 2003.
4. Melbourne commenced the Pilot Program on 14 May 2007.

- There were 295 primary health care consultations following a positive FOBT result recorded by the Register for the period 7 August 2006 to 31 July 2007. In Mackay this represented 57.2% of the number of positive FOBTs, but only 34.0% in Adelaide and 16.2% in Melbourne due to reporting time lags.

Table 3.3.2: Referrals for colonoscopy or other examination following a positive FOBT result

	Referral for colonoscopy		Referral for other examination		No referral		All recorded GP visits
	Number	Rate (per 100 GP visits)	Number	Rate (per 100 GP visits)	Number	Rate (per 100 GP visits)	Number
Males							
Total	131	84.5	8	5.2	16	10.3	155
ASR(A)	..	85.0	..	5.3	..	9.7	..
95% CI	..	70.6–101.4	..	2.2–10.6	..	5.4–15.9	..
Females							
Total	124	88.6	5	3.6	11	7.9	140
ASR(A)	..	89.1	..	3.3	..	7.7	..
95% CI	..	74.7–105.5	..	0.4–9.0	..	3.5–14.2	..
Persons							
55–59	70	90.9	1	1.3	6	7.8	77
60–64	60	88.2	4	5.9	4	5.9	68
65–69	75	86.2	3	3.4	9	10.3	87
70–74	50	79.4	5	7.9	8	12.7	63
Total	255	86.4	13	4.4	27	9.2	295
ASR(A)	..	86.9	..	4.3	..	8.8	..
95% CI	..	76.3–98.4	..	2.3–7.4	..	5.8–12.9	..

Notes

1. Rates are the number of consultations following a positive FOBT who received/not received a referral for either colonoscopy or other examination as a percentage of the total number of consultations recorded following a positive FOBT result.
2. Data for age groups by sex are suppressed due to small cell values.
3. Age cohorts refer to the participant's age as at 1 January 2003.

- Of the 295 primary health care consultations recorded following a positive FOBT result, 255 (86.4%) resulted in referral for colonoscopy, 13 (4.4%) in referral for other examination and 27 (9.2%) in no referral. Reasons for non-referral for colonoscopy by a practitioner may include previous diagnosis of bowel cancer; limited life expectancy of the patient; the patient having had a colonoscopy within the previous 18 months; patient declines a colonoscopy; or patient has a significant co-morbidity or other medical condition precluding them from undergoing a colonoscopy.

3.4 Colonoscopy, Pilot Program

Only Colonoscopy Report forms recorded in the Register at 31 July 2007 are included in this section.

Table 3.4.1: Colonoscopies recorded following a positive FOBT result, by age, sex and Pilot site

	Mackay		Adelaide		Melbourne		All sites	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Males								
Total	41	26.8	42	25.0	6	5.8	89	21.0
ASR(A)	..	27.3	..	24.3	..	4.3	..	21.0
95% CI	..	19.4–37.1	..	17.1–33.5	..	1.6–9.5	..	16.7–26.0
Females								
Total	30	27.0	31	19.9	1	0.9	62	16.6
ASR(A)	..	26.9	..	20.1	..	1.0	..	16.3
95% CI	..	19.2–37.0	..	12.9–29.4	..	–0.8–9.1	..	12.0–21.4
Persons								
55–59	19	24.4	15	20.8	0	0.0	34	16.3
60–64	17	29.3	14	19.7	5	8.2	36	18.9
65–69	21	28.4	27	26.5	2	2.7	50	19.9
70–74	14	25.9	17	21.5	0	0.0	31	20.9
Total	71	26.9	73	22.5	7	3.3	151	18.9
ASR(A)	..	26.8	..	21.9	..	2.7	..	18.7
95% CI	..	20.9–33.9	..	17.0–27.8	..	1.1–5.6	..	15.8–22.0

Notes

1. Percentages of colonoscopy follow-up are the number of colonoscopies recorded following a positive FOBT as a percentage of the total number of positive FOBT results.
2. Data for age groups by sex are suppressed due to small cell values.
3. Age cohorts refer to the participant's age as at 1 January 2003.
4. Melbourne commenced the Pilot Program on 14 May 2007.

- There were 151 colonoscopies recorded following a positive FOBT result between 7 August 2006 and 31 July 2007 as part of the Pilot Program. This represented 26.9% of the number of positive FOBT results recorded for Mackay and 22.5% for Adelaide.

3.5 Overall outcomes, Pilot Program

This section presents the overall outcomes from the Pilot Program as at 31 July 2007 at a participant level based on people who returned a positive FOBT and who proceeded to colonoscopy. This section differs from the previous sections that covered FOBT, consultation and colonoscopy level data.

Outcomes at key pathway points for the Pilot Program are summarised in Figure 3.5.1. Current screening outcomes for all people invited to participate in the Pilot Program are tabulated by Pilot site in Table 3.5.1 and by previous Pilot participation in Table 3.5.2.

For participants who returned more than one FOBT, the results were counted according to the following order of precedence: a positive result was selected over any other result, and a negative result was selected over an inconclusive result.

A person who has had a colonoscopy is classified as having confirmed cancer, suspected cancer, adenoma or neither cancer nor adenoma. For those people with more than one polyp or cancer found at colonoscopy the most serious result was counted.

Data for colonoscopy outcomes are derived from information recorded on both the Colonoscopy Report form and the Histopathology Report form. As reporting by clinicians to the NBCSP is not mandatory, a person may have a Colonoscopy Report form, a Histopathology Report form or both recorded in the Register. Outcomes are classified as follows:

- Confirmed cancers are those cancers confirmed by histopathology with or without a corresponding Colonoscopy Report form. Confirmed cancers are given a higher priority than suspected cancer.
- Suspected cancers are abnormalities detected at colonoscopy that the colonoscopist suspects to be cancer but are not yet confirmed by histopathology.
- Where a person has a confirmed or suspected cancer, this is given higher priority than adenomas. Adenoma classifications are described in Appendix B.
- Polyps awaiting histopathology are those people with polyps detected at colonoscopy that have not yet had an associated Histopathology Report form recorded.
- People recorded as having no cancer or adenoma are those that had no polyps or suspected cancers detected at colonoscopy, or had polyps detected at colonoscopy that were classified as non-adenomous by histopathology.

Tables 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 are interim tables only, as virtually all cancers must ultimately be confirmed by pathology. Due to time lags in the pathway, positive predictive value is not able to be calculated until the end of the first phase of the NBCSP when all data have had sufficient time to be reported and recorded in the Register.

Data presented in Table 3.5.1 were greatly affected by the late commencement of the Pilot Program in Melbourne, and therefore should be interpreted with caution.

Summary

- There were 28,084 invitations to screen in the NBCSP sent to people involved in the Pilot Program. Of these, 701 people opted off or suspended participation in the NBCSP for various reasons including having been previously diagnosed with bowel cancer. There were 20 invitations sent to people outside the target age.
- Of the 27,363 invitations sent to eligible Pilot participants and invitees since 7 August 2006, there were 9,538 people (34.9%) who participated by returning a completed FOBT by 31 July 2007.
- Of those people who returned FOBT kits, 798 (8.4%) had a positive result.
- Of the 798 people with a positive result, 633 (79.3%) were not recorded as having had a colonoscopy.
- Of the 165 people with positive FOBT results who underwent a colonoscopy and have results recorded in the Register, there were 5 suspected and 1 confirmed cancers and 37 confirmed adenomas.
- There are 62 people with polyps detected at colonoscopy with histopathology details not yet recorded in the Register.

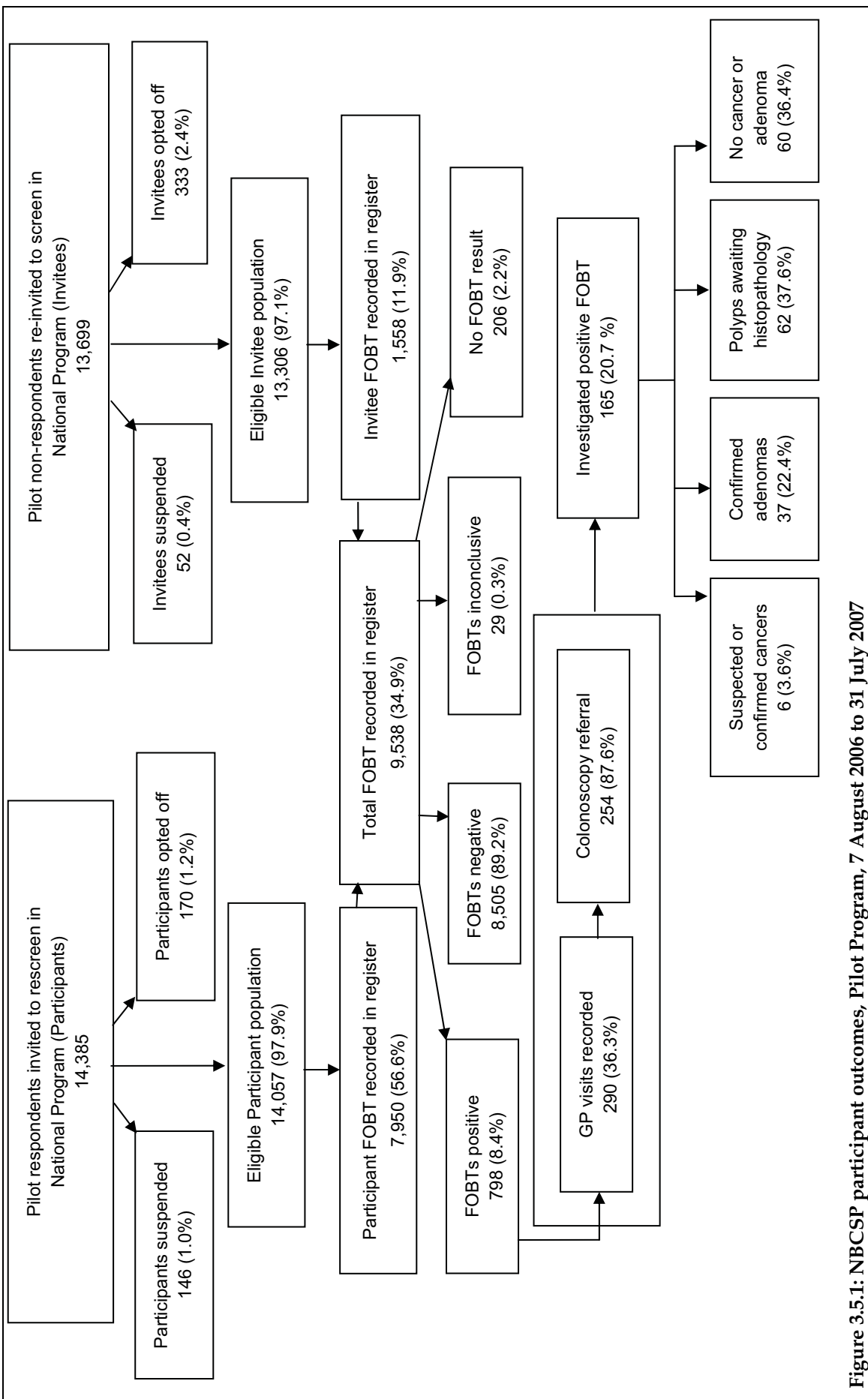


Figure 3.5.1: NBCSP participant outcomes, Pilot Program, 7 August 2006 to 31 July 2007

Table 3.5.1: Preliminary overall participant summary outcomes, by Pilot site, Pilot Program, 7 August 2006 to 31 July 2007

Site	FOBT positive										
	Invitations issued ^(a)	Number screened ^(b)	Total positive FOBT	Colonoscopy not done or not recorded	No cancer or adenoma ^(c)	Polyps awaiting histopathology ^(d)	Confirmed diminutive adenoma ^(e)	Confirmed small adenoma ^(e)	Confirmed advanced adenoma ^(e)	Suspected cancer ^(f)	Confirmed cancer ^(g)
Mackay	6,167	3,244	264	182	29	17	6	6	22	1	1
Adelaide	10,948	4,162	324	249	28	41	0	0	2	4	0
Melbourne	10,248	2,132	210	202	3	4	1	0	0	0	0
All sites	27,363	9,538	798	633	60	62	7	6	24	5	1

(a) 'Invitations issued' is the number of eligible people who were issued an invitation to screen in the NBCSP.

(b) 'Number screened' is the number of people who have completed an FOBT kit and results were forwarded to the Register.

(c) No cancers were suspected at colonoscopy or confirmed non-cancerous by histopathology; no polyps identified at colonoscopy, or polyps confirmed as non-adenomas at histopathology.

(d) Polyps detected at colonoscopy and sent to histopathology for analysis. No Histopathology Report received by Register.

(e) Confirmed adenoma figures are based on a combination of the colonoscopy and histopathology forms for a person received by the Register.

(f) Cancer suspected at colonoscopy but not yet confirmed by histopathology.

(g) Cancer confirmed by histopathology.

Note: The Pilot Program commenced in Melbourne on 14 May 2007.

Table 3.5.2: Preliminary overall participant summary outcomes by previous Pilot participation status, Pilot Program, 7 August 2006 to 31 July 2007

Status	Invitations issued ^(a)	Number screened ^(b)	Total positive FOBT	Colonoscopy not done or not recorded	No cancer or adenoma ^(c)	Polyps awaiting histo-pathology ^(d)	FOBT positive				
							Confirmed diminutive adenoma ^(e)	Confirmed small adenoma ^(e)	Confirmed advanced adenoma ^(e)	Suspected cancer ^(f)	Confirmed cancer ^(g)
Participant ^(h)	14,057	7,950	644	510	51	48	7	6	18	3	1
Invitee ⁽ⁱ⁾	13,306	1,588	154	123	9	14	0	0	6	2	0
Total	27,363	9,538	798	633	60	62	7	6	24	5	1

(a) 'Invitations issued' is the number of eligible people who were issued an invitation to screen in the NBCSP.

(b) 'Number screened' is the number of people who have completed an FOBT kit and results were forwarded to the Register.

(c) No cancers were suspected at colonoscopy or confirmed non-cancerous by histopathology; no polyps identified at colonoscopy, or polyps confirmed as non-adenomatous at histopathology.

(d) Polyps detected at colonoscopy and sent to histopathology for analysis. No Histopathology Report received by Register.

(e) Confirmed adenoma figures are based on a combination of the colonoscopy and histopathology forms for a person received by the Register.

(f) Cancer suspected at colonoscopy but not yet confirmed by histopathology.

(g) Cancer confirmed by histopathology.

(h) 'Participant' refers to participants in the Pilot Program who were invited to rescreen in the NBCSP

(i) 'Invitee' refers to invitees from the Pilot Program who did not participate, and were reinvited to screen in the NBCSP.

- There were 7,950 participants from the Pilot Program who have re-screened in the NBCSP between 7 August 2006 and 31 July 2007, representing an overall crude response rate of 56.6% compared with 1,588 invitees from the Pilot Program representing an overall crude response rate of 11.9%.
- Positive FOBT results were returned for 8.1% of Pilot participants re-screening in the NBCSP compared with 9.7% for Pilot invitees undergoing initial screening in the NBCSP.