Accessing Genetic Testing in Australia

Genetic testing can give you important health information. Obtaining a genetic test in Australia can be complicated. Depending on your personal circumstances, genetic testing can be accessed through different pathways. Here we try to simplify the process for you.

In Australia, clinicians use your family history and other factors to determine the eligibility for a publicly-funded genetic test. There's a very high threshold to qualify for a publicly-funded genetic test, so many people are not eligible and therefore can't find out their genetic risk.

A new analysis from Invitae, a leading medical genetics company, reveals that **up to two-thirds of Australian breast cancer patients with hereditary gene variants** (such as BRCA, PALB2, Lynch Syndrome and more) would not qualify for genetic testing due to the nation's eligibility criteria and potential wait times and would be unable to access what can be life-changing knowledge.[1]

Pink Hope's mission is to empower people to be able to access a genetic test at the earliest possible point whether you are considering taking a test proactively to better understand your risk or if you have cancer yourself and are looking for answers or more personalised treatments.

We are here to help you.

INVITAE

pink hope

pinkhope.org.au

Pathway for Patients

eligible for publicly funded genetic testing

Patients who have had cancer and / or have 2 of more close relatives who have had cancer may be eligible for a publicly funded diagnostic genetic test

Discuss your options with your local GP or reach out to your local public genetic health service or a private genetic health specialist*. Options can be found here

Ask for a referral to a genetic service from your GP

IF you are eligible for a publicly funded genetic test attend pre-test genetic counselling at a family cancer clinic to learn about the implications for you and your family

If you decide to go ahead with a test, sign a consent form, and provide a sample for genetic testing *(blood, buccal or saliva)*

You may decide that genetic testing is not for you and may want to defer your decision for the future. That's ok.

It is such a personal decision.

Your results will be sent to your clinician. Attend a post-test genetic counselling session to learn what the results mean for you

Discuss your results in full with your clinician

who are ineligible for publicly funded genetic testing OR want to consider proactive genetic testing

Consider proactive genetic testing IF:

- You are worried about your family history of cancer but are ineligible for a publicly funded genetic test
- You have no family history, have never had cancer or heart disease but are interested to learn more about your risks and taking steps to be proactive about your health
- You are planning a pregnancy and would like to learn if you and your partner are both carriers of the same condition, meaning your future child could be at risk

Consider medical-grade genetic testing through a private provider in Australia.

I have a strong family history, but am not eligible for a publicly funded genetic test. Don't give up! Remember 1 in 6 healthy adults are at increased risk for a serious health condition due to their genetics—and probably don't even know it.[2]

Visit

www.hgsa.org.au/asgc/find-a-genetic-counsellor

www.invitae.com/australia

to learn about options for proactive genetic testing

Cancer Services

Public Genetic Testing

www.hgsa.org.au/resources/new-south-wales

www.genetics.edu.au/genetic-services/cancer-genetics-clinics

Private Genetic Testing

www.hgsa.org.au/asgc/find-a-genetic-counsellor

www.invitae.com/australia

www.eugenelabs.com

References: 1. Invitae, data on file 2.Haverfield EV et al. Physician-directed genetic screening to evaluate personal risk for medically actionable disorders: a large multicenter cohort study. BMC Med. 2021 Aug 18;19(1):199. *Invitae's study was a retrospective analysis of Australian guidelines applied to a US-based study population. Prospective studies are needed in the Australian population to evaluate the real-world efficacy of the guidelines.