

Accessing Genetic Testing in Australia Pathway for Patients

those who are **eligible** for publicly funded genetic testing

those who are **ineligible** for publicly funded genetic testing

OR those considering **proactive 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

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

Talk to your GP about your family history and potential cancer risks. Your GP will refer you to a public genetic health service or a private genetic specialist for further assessment

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

If you are eligible for a publicly funded genetic test, attend pre-test genetic counselling at a public genetic health service 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 a personal decision.

'I have a strong family history, but am not eligible for a publicly funded genetic test.' Anyone can consider private genetic testing if they choose. 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.'

Consider [accessing genetic counselling](#) or private genetic services to learn your options for proactive genetic testing

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

Find a Genetic Service

HGSA Directory

Health Centre for Genetics Education

Discuss your results in full with your clinician