

## US study on cancer screening access and what it means for Australia USyd CEC response

Professor Karen Canfell (AC), head of the University of Sydney's [Cancer Elimination Collaboration](#), said it was important to understand that cancer screening in the US is different from how we define and deliver it in Australia.

“The US has a number of targeted early detection initiatives to encourage people to test for early-stage cancers or increased risk, as well as screening recommendations which are formulated by various agencies,” Professor Canfell said. “However, there are no organised national screening programs fully funded by government, as we have in Australia.

“So we are careful about making comparisons between the two countries about cancer screening.

“Although we have national programs to screen for bowel, cervical, breast and lung cancers, there are currently no systems to routinely report participation rates by sexual orientation or gender identity.

“However, the available data indicate that it is likely that screening participation is lower in gender and sexually diverse populations, for a range of reasons, such as fear of discrimination, social stigma and a lack of targeted information in health communications.

“We have recently seen targeted campaign in Australia to address sexuality- and gender-based barriers to cervical and bowel cancer screening, and targeted communications from state and territory BreastScreen services.

“The evidence suggests we need to do more to reduce disparities in cancer screening access, including where sexuality or gender identity might be barriers.

“Everyone who is eligible for a cancer screening program in Australia needs to know that the screening test could save their life – and that there are guidelines in place to help ensure diversity among the screened population is supported.”

Links to some data and background sources:

[LGBTQ+ cervical screening projects | Cancer Institute NSW](#)

[Private Lives 3, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, Our work, LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing, La Trobe University](#)

[Full article: Cervical screening among LGBTQ people: how affirming services may aid in achieving cervical cancer elimination targets](#)

[National Cervical Screening Program – Cervical screening for trans and gender diverse people](#)

[National Cervical Screening Program – Cervical screening for trans and gender diverse people](#)

[Profile & Statistics LGBTQ+ - Cancer Screening Hub](#)

[ACON-Formative-Research-Cancer-Screening-Behaviours-2021-Final-Report.pdf](#)

<https://www.breastscreen.org.au/news/screen-for-life-campaign-stakeholder-kit/>

<https://www.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au/community-support/trans-and-gender-diverse-people/>

<https://www.breastscreen.org.au/community-engagement/lgbtiq-people/>

<https://www.breastscreen.qld.gov.au/should-i-screen/who-can-have-a-breast-screen>

<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/breastscreen-australia-program/health-professionals/managing-breast-screening-participants-with-special-needs-or-conditions?language=en>