



NEW ZEALAND

BRIDGING THE GAP

Advancing Prostate Cancer Care in New Zealand

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Zealand has a well-developed prostate cancer care system with structured screening recommendations, comprehensive diagnostic services, and advanced treatment options available across much of the country. However, disparities persist—particularly between urban and rural communities, and between Māori and non-Māori populations. Out-of-pocket costs for certain treatments, variable screening uptake, and survivorship support gaps still impact outcomes.

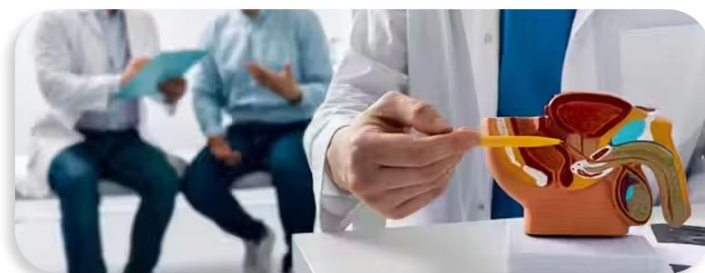
This policy brief reviews the current landscape and identifies key steps to further strengthen New Zealand's **Level 3 – Advanced** prostate cancer maturity toward full equity and optimized patient experience.

INTRODUCTION

Building on Strong Foundations While Addressing Inequities

Prostate cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in New Zealand men. The country benefits from a robust healthcare infrastructure, publicly funded treatments, and specialist oncology centers with advanced technology. Yet challenges remain in ensuring that all population groups—especially Māori men—benefit equally from these resources.

Efforts to address inequities through culturally tailored screening programs and targeted awareness campaigns are ongoing, but require continued investment and national coordination to achieve comprehensive equity.





PROSTATE CANCER IN NEW ZEALAND

Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	No population-wide PSA screening program, but clear guidelines encourage informed decision-making for men aged 50–70 (45+ for high-risk groups). High awareness among GPs; PSA & DRE widely available.	Accessible diagnostic services and strong primary care network.	Expand culturally tailored outreach to increase screening participation among Māori and rural populations.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Access to advanced biomarkers, MRI, and genetic testing available in most major centers.	Strong integration of imaging and lab services in cancer care pathways.	Subsidize next-generation biomarker testing to ensure affordability for all patients.
Treatment Access	Wide access to surgery, radiotherapy, and systemic therapies, including hormone therapy and newer targeted treatments, through the public health system.	Highly trained oncology workforce and advanced technology in main hospitals.	Improve service reach in rural areas through tele-oncology and mobile specialist clinics.
Clinical Guidelines	National guidelines align with international best practices and are regularly updated.	Well-established multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach in major cancer centers.	Enhance monitoring and auditing to ensure consistent application across all regions.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Palliative care services are well developed, but survivorship care plans are not consistently provided.	Strong community-based palliative care network.	Implement standardized survivorship care planning and expand psychosocial support services nationwide.

CONCLUSION & Call to Action

New Zealand's prostate cancer care system demonstrates strong clinical capacity, comprehensive treatment options, and robust national guidelines. However, addressing persistent inequities in access and outcomes remains a priority.



KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1 Enhance Targeted Screening Outreach:** Increase awareness and uptake among Māori men and rural populations through culturally relevant programs.
- 2 Broaden Biomarker Access:** Ensure advanced testing is publicly funded and available nationwide.
- 3 Strengthen Rural Access:** Expand telehealth and mobile services to reduce geographic disparities.
- 4 Standardize Survivorship Support:** Integrate survivorship care plans into all prostate cancer treatment pathways.
- 5 Monitor and Audit Equity Outcomes:** Track participation, diagnosis stage, and survival data by ethnicity and region to guide targeted interventions.



CONCLUSION

With a **Level 3 – Advanced** maturity, New Zealand offers high-quality, evidence-based prostate cancer care, but equity gaps must be closed to achieve a truly inclusive system. By expanding targeted outreach, improving access to advanced diagnostics, and embedding survivorship care into all patient journeys, New Zealand can progress toward a fully equitable and patient-centered prostate cancer model. Sustained commitment to cultural competence, rural service delivery, and continuous quality improvement will be key to achieving this goal.