

Primary Screening

Introduction

The following is a position statement on primary screening prepared by Population Health for Waikato District Health Board (Waikato DHB).

Waikato District Health Board's position

The Waikato DHB supports health promotion that enables women to access screening services through the provision of information, education and accessible enrolment into screening programmes

The Waikato DHB supports services that utilise community development principles in working with community groups, iwi, hapū and whānau in accessing screening services for women in the region, and services that engage in local, regional and national data management that utilise data to reduce inequalities in health.

The Waikato DHB gives its support to and funds the refugee and new migrant screening programme as a strategy for reducing health inequalities faced by refugees and new migrants.

The Waikato DHB recognises screening as an effective intervention to target and reduce health inequalities.

Refugee and new migrant screening

While the refugee and new migrant screening programme is not an organised screening programme mandated by the national screening unit, this programme offers refugees who have come directly to the Waikato DHB region through the New Zealand immigration family reunification quota ballot, general health screening to improve personal and public health soon after arrival.

This service provides professional health interpreters and includes arranging urgent medical treatment and referrals to other services or specialists as required.

The refugee and new migrant screening programme is undertaken by the Waikato DHB to contribute to reducing health inequalities faced by these new migrantsⁱ.

Reducing inequalities

Screening is an effective way of targeting and reducing health inequalities. The Waikato DHB is committed to reducing health inequalitiesⁱⁱ. Providing population based screening minimises the financial barriers that can prevent people from accessing health services. Programmes such as antenatal HIV screening, newborn metabolic screening, newborn hearing screening, and refugee and new migrant screening are available to everyone.

ⁱ Waikato District Health Board. (2008). Refugee/New Migrant Screening. Retrieved May 28th, 2009, from the 'Waikato District Health Board' website <http://www.waikatodhb.govt.nz/page/pageid/2145839766>

ⁱⁱ Waikato District Health Board. (2005). District Strategic Plan. Retrieved June 8th 2009 from: <http://www.waikatodhb.govt.nz/file/fileid/7089>

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