

# GOOD NEWS!

Lung cancer screening  
is not recommended for you.  
Find out why.



LungScreenWA

The information in this brochure is based on your answers to the previous LungScreen lung cancer risk questionnaire.

## What is lung cancer screening? –

Thank you for participating in the LungScreen WA Project by completing the questionnaire.

Research in America has shown that screening people who have the highest chance of developing lung cancer can prevent deaths.

Lung cancer screening involves a CT scan of the lungs. Sometimes, more tests are required. The CT scan can find lung cancer before it has spread and treatment with surgery is offered to cure it.

Lung cancer screening has many harms including false alarms, over-diagnosis and increased exposure to radiation.

**LUNG CANCER SCREENING DOES NOT PREVENT LUNG CANCER.**

Lung cancer screening is not for everyone. Lung cancer screening only benefits people who have the highest chance of developing lung cancer. A few current and former smokers will be eligible for lung cancer screening, but most will not be.

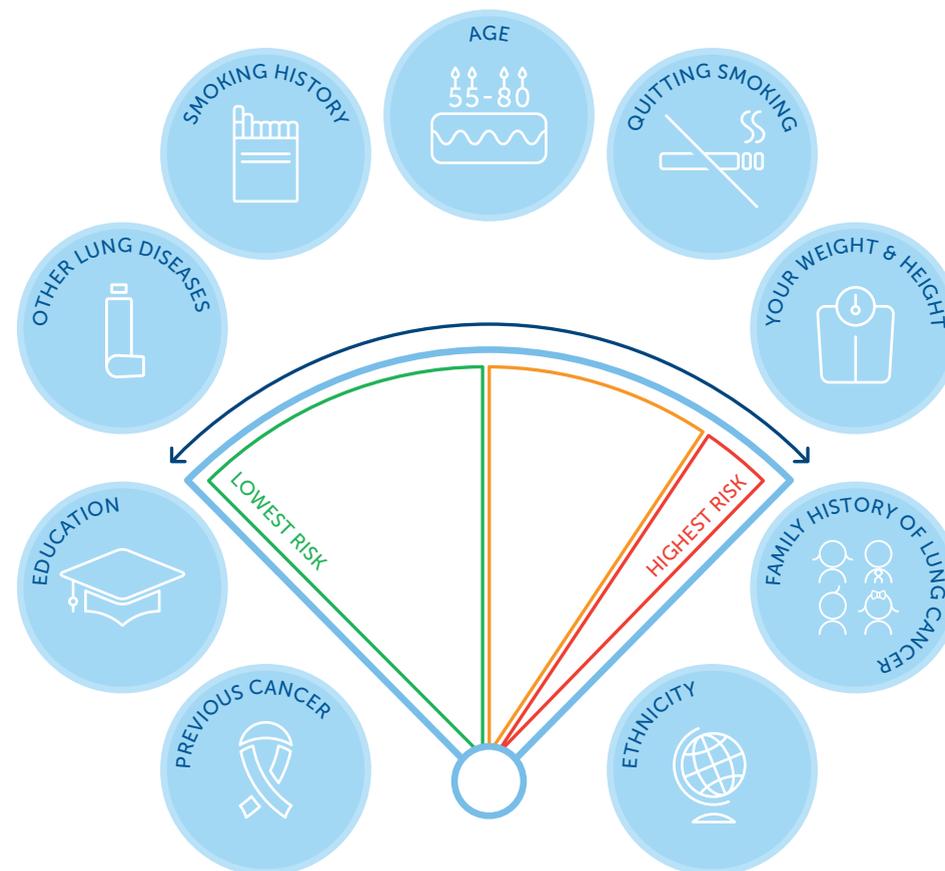
## Why do we screen for lung cancer? –

To save lives from lung cancer.

Some people may have other reasons to want screening such as “piece of mind” or reassurance. Unfortunately, “false alarms” are very common. These can lead to stress, worry or anxiety.

From your doctor’s point of view, the only reason to recommend screening is if it may save your life from lung cancer. If screening cannot save your life from lung cancer, you may experience harm from screening but no benefit.

What is lung cancer risk? – Your lung cancer risk is an estimate of your chance of developing lung cancer in the future.

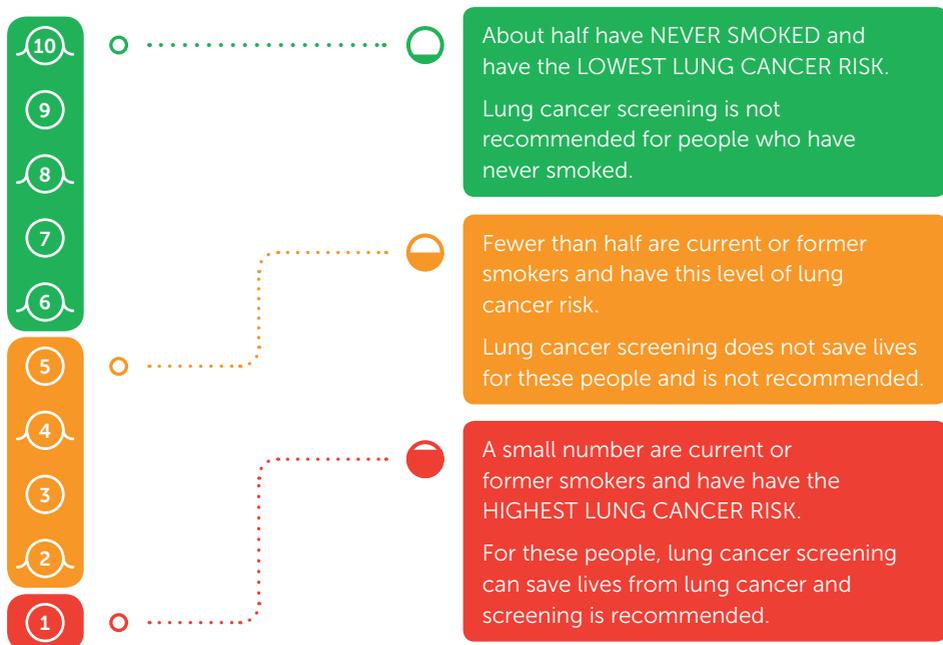


Lung cancer screening is only recommended for people with the **HIGHEST LUNG CANCER RISK.**

## How many people are eligible? –

Only the people with the highest lung cancer risk.

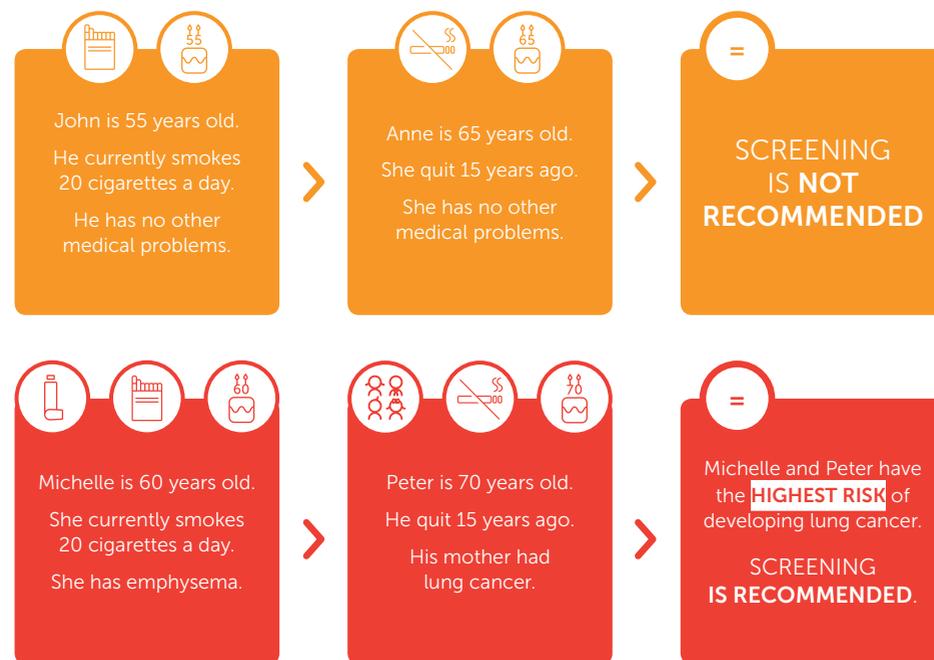
If there are 10 people aged 55-80 years old only 1 would be eligible for screening. –



## Who has a high risk? –

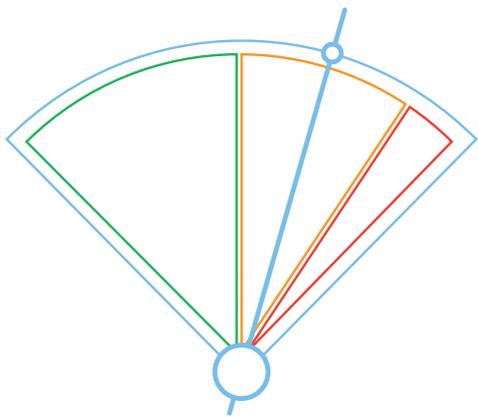
Everyone's lung cancer risk is different. Here are some examples.

All of these people have smoked 20 cigarettes every day for 30 years.



## What is my lung cancer risk? –

Based on your risk factors, the chance of you developing lung cancer in the next 6 years is about 0.5% or –



IF THERE WERE  
**1000 PEOPLE**  
WITH THE SAME  
LUNG CANCER  
RISK AS YOU,  
**ONLY 5** WOULD  
DEVELOP LUNG  
CANCER IN THE  
NEXT **6 YEARS**

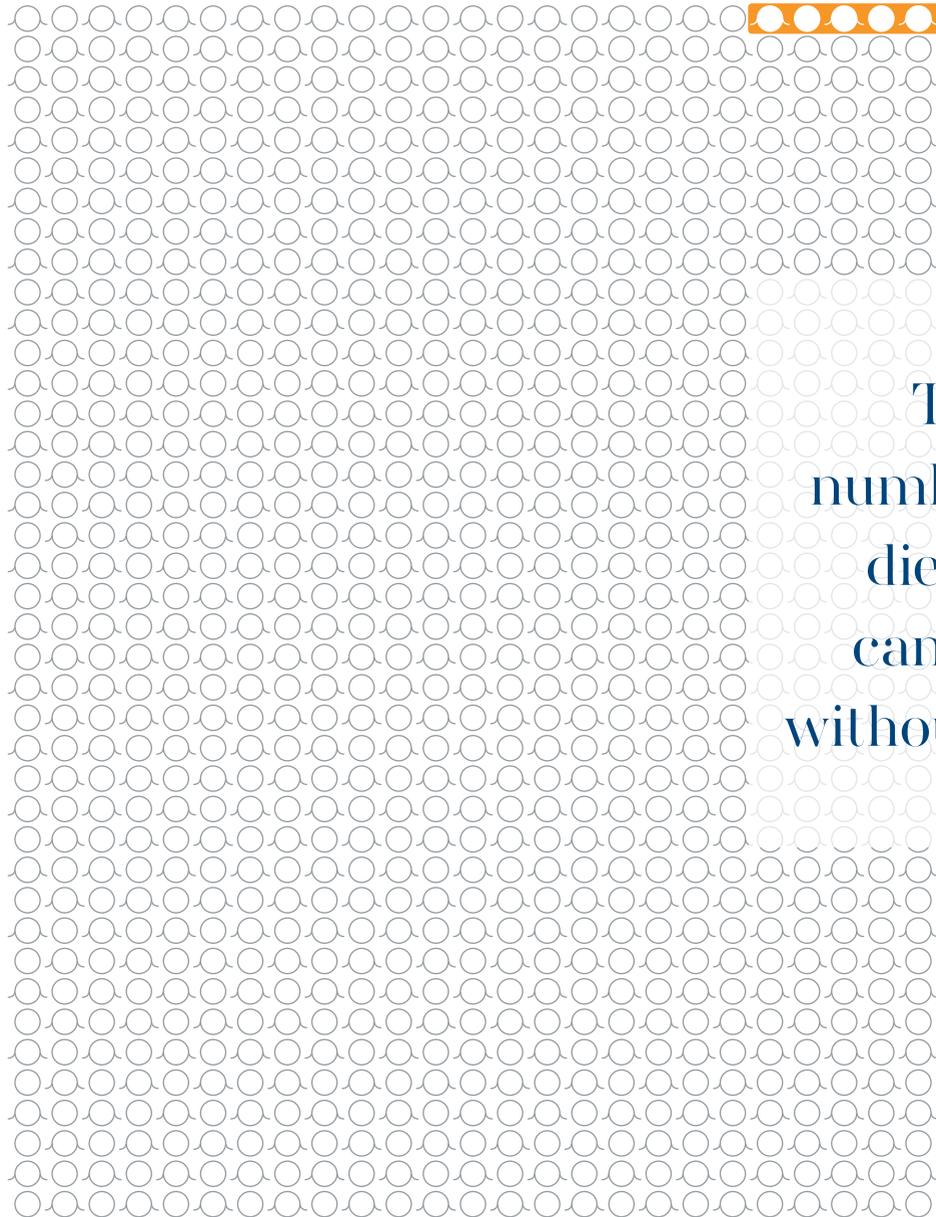
## GOOD NEWS!

You do not have the  
highest risk of lung cancer.

## Why is lung cancer screening not recommended for me?

Research has shown that if 1000 People with the same lung cancer risk as you –

5 PEOPLE WILL DIE FROM LUNG CANCER **WITH SCREENING** –



– Each circle represents **ONE PERSON** who has lung cancer screening.

5 PEOPLE WILL DIE FROM LUNG CANCER **WITHOUT SCREENING** –



The same  
number of people  
die from lung  
cancer with or  
without screening \*

Lung cancer screening does not save lives when people with the same lung cancer risk as you are screened.

\* AFTER 3 YEARS OF SCREENING AND 6 YEARS OF FOLLOW UP

## Does that mean I won't develop lung cancer? –

Unfortunately No.

Anyone can develop lung cancer. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that you will not develop lung cancer in the future.

Lung cancer screening does not prevent people from developing lung cancer.

## What are the symptoms of lung cancer? –

Remember lung cancer can develop at any time, even if your chance of developing lung cancer is too low for screening to provide benefit.

Contact your local doctor if you develop any of the following "warning" signs –

01. A new cough that doesn't go away;
02. A change in a long term cough;
03. Coughing up blood, even if it is a small amount;
04. Developing shortness of breath or chest pain;
05. Losing weight without trying.

## Will my lung cancer risk change with time? –

Yes.

As people get older the risk of developing lung cancer increases.

You should consider your lung cancer risk, and eligibility for lung cancer screening, every year until you are 80 years old.

## What else can I do to prevent lung cancer? –

Quit Smoking.

If you currently smoke, the best way to improve your health and reduce your chance of having lung cancer is to quit.

Quitting is better than lung cancer screening to prevent you from dying from lung cancer.

Quitting smoking is hard, but there is support available to help you. Contact the Quit line on **13 78 48**, [www.quitnow.gov.au](http://www.quitnow.gov.au) or your local doctor.

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LungScreenWA

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you need any more information about lung cancer screening call – **1800 768 655**.

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### LUNGSCREEN WA

C/O DEPARTMENT OF  
RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

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