

Why People Don't Screen & How we Respond

Kind, Clear, Culturally Safe

Concern/Barrier

What you can say

"I'm scared."

"Many feel this way - you're not alone."

"That area is tapu/sacred."

"You're in control at all times & you will be supported by a trusted health professional." –
Cervical/Breast

"You're provided with a gown and a private space to sit when you have your mammogram" - *Breast*

"You can self-test" – *Cervical/Bowel*

"I'm busy." - Can include access issues such as transport, time, childcare.

"Let's find a time and place that works for you."

"I'm fine, I feel healthy."

"Cancer doesn't always have obvious symptoms. Early detection, through screening, is your best protection."

I'm embarrassed/ whakama."

"You're not alone - many feel that way, I can support you through the process."

"I had a smear before, it was awful."

"This is different now - most people do a self-swab. You can do it yourself in a private place" - *Cervical*

"Mammograms hurt."

"Talk to the mammographer, there are ways they can ensure it is more comfortable for you." -
Breast

"It's dirty."

"Taking your sample is clean and only needs a very small bit of tiko/poo on the stick provided." -
Bowel

"My friend /whānau said it's not good for you" "I read online/social media that mammograms cause breast cancer"

"Perhaps the information you've heard is not entirely accurate, shall we find the correct information together?"