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# **Monitoring of self-collection in the National Cervical Screening Program:**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report utilises NCSR data to monitor the uptake of self-collection post eligibility expansion in July 2022, by demographic characteristics and HPV positivity, and includes follow-up for HPV positive results within 6 months and beyond.
- The present report provides an update on quarterly uptake of self-collection by State and Territory, age group, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), and Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) remoteness. It also includes the uptake of self-collection in people aged 30-74 years who were never and under screened, and information on those "switching" to self-collection.

### Key findings include:

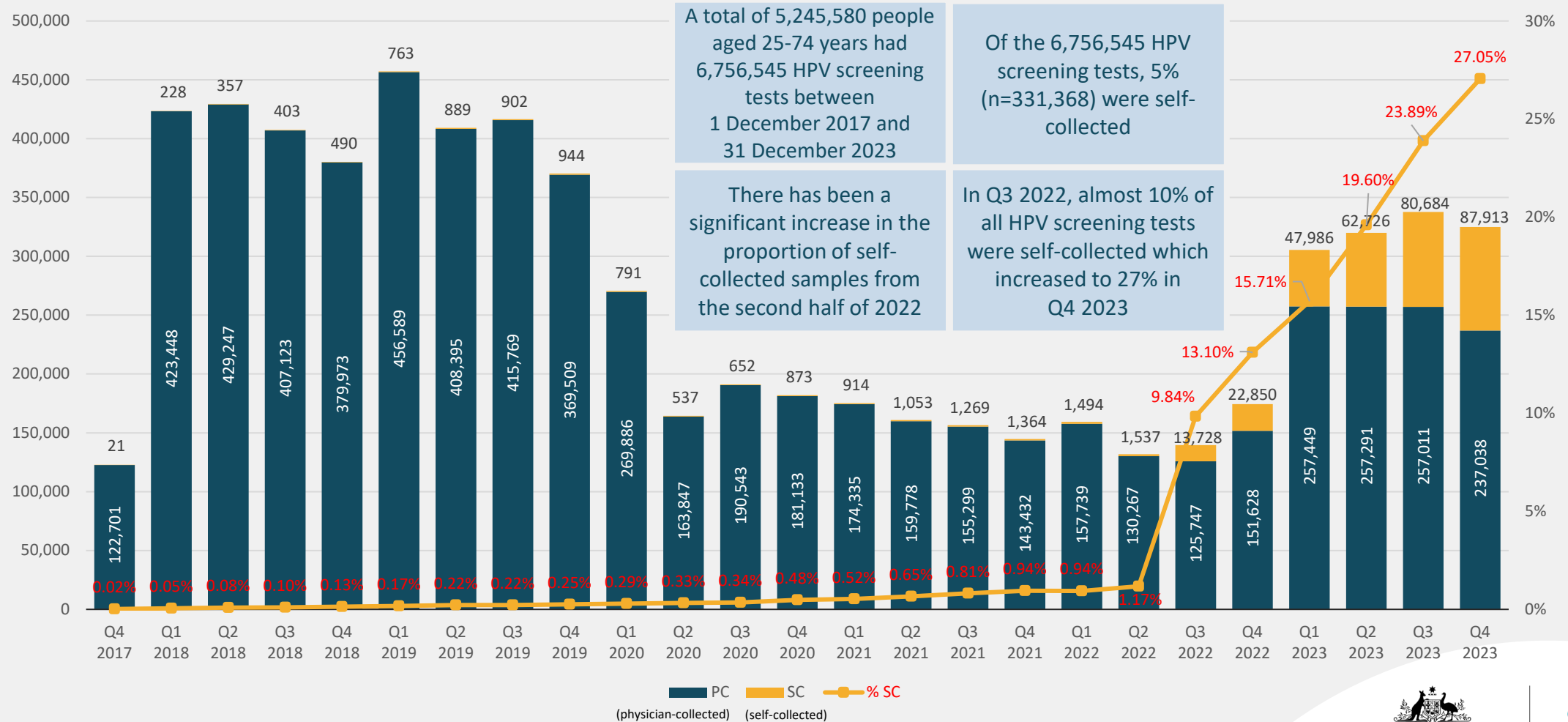
- There has been a consistent increase in the self-collect uptake post change in policy from 10% in Q3 of 2022 to 27% in Q4 of 2023. While this increase was seen across all age groups, States, quintiles and remoteness areas, it was highest in 70–74-year-olds (34%), for the Northern Territory (47%), most disadvantaged quintiles (Q1= 28% and Q2= 29%) and in very remote areas (51%).
- The uptake increased in never and under screened people aged 30-74 years post policy expansion; for never screened the uptake increased from 13% in Q3 of 2022 to 33% in Q4 of 2023 and for under screened it increased from 14% in Q3 of 2022 to 40% in Q4 of 2023 increasing the reach in these hard-to-reach groups.
- Around 19% of screening tests performed during 2023 were from people who transitioned or “switched” from clinician-collected to self-collected. This was a significant increase from 4% in 2022.
- The consistent increase in self-collection uptake after self-collection expansion especially in older women and people who are under screened indicates that self-collection is overcoming barriers and improving access to screening in the traditionally hard to reach groups.



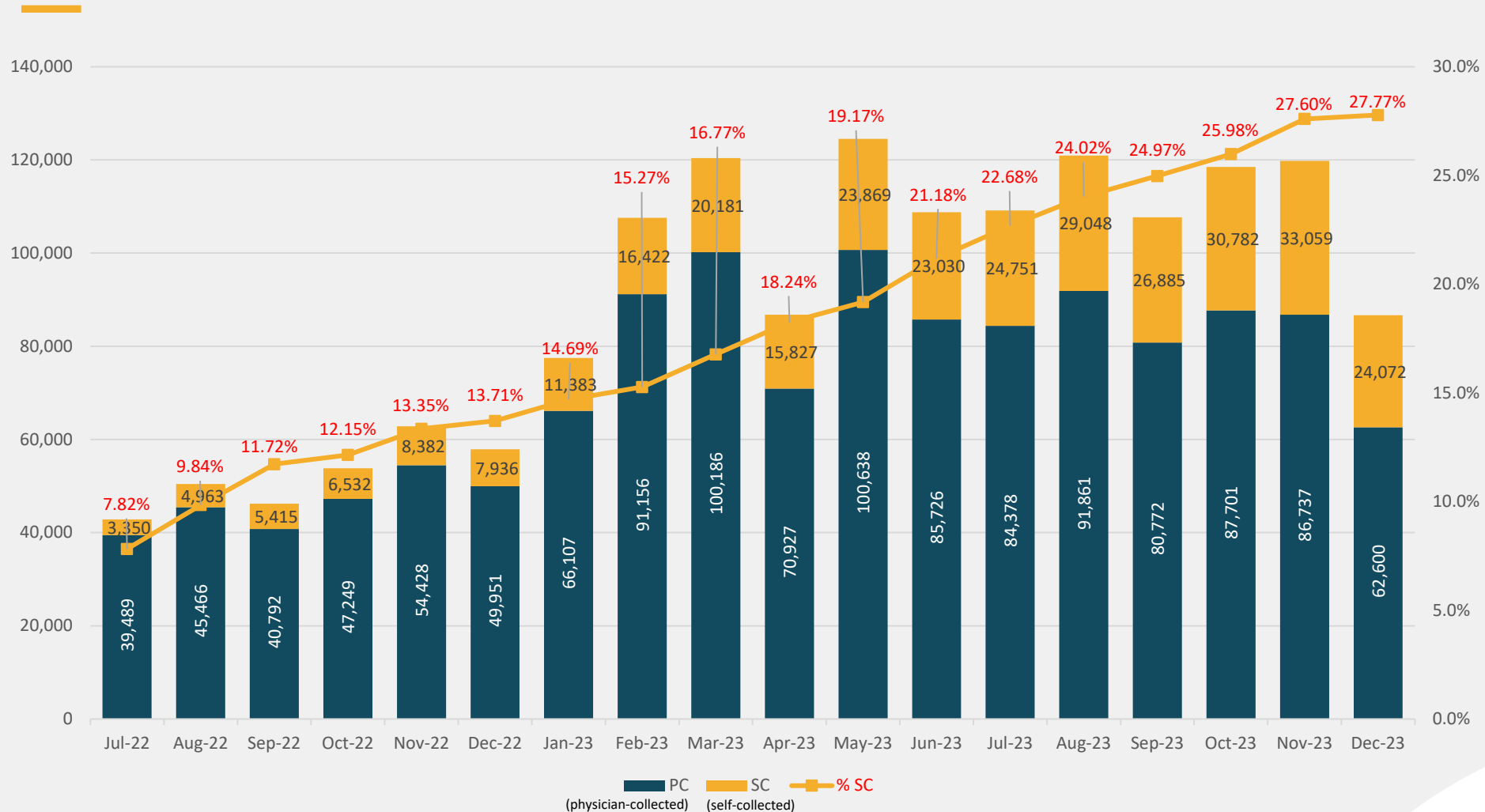
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# TOTAL COUNT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT IN EACH QUARTER

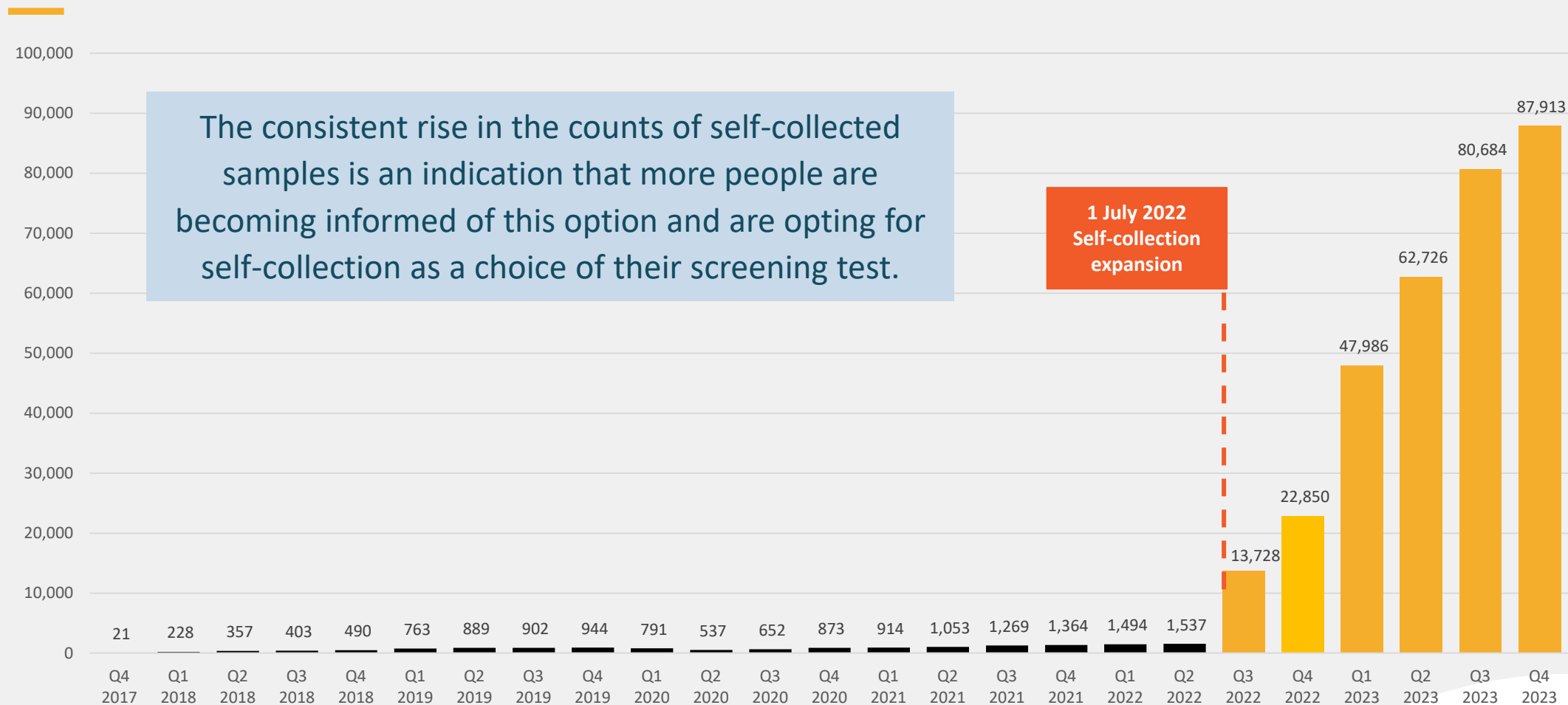


# TOTAL COUNT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT IN EACH MONTH POST POLICY CHANGE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2022

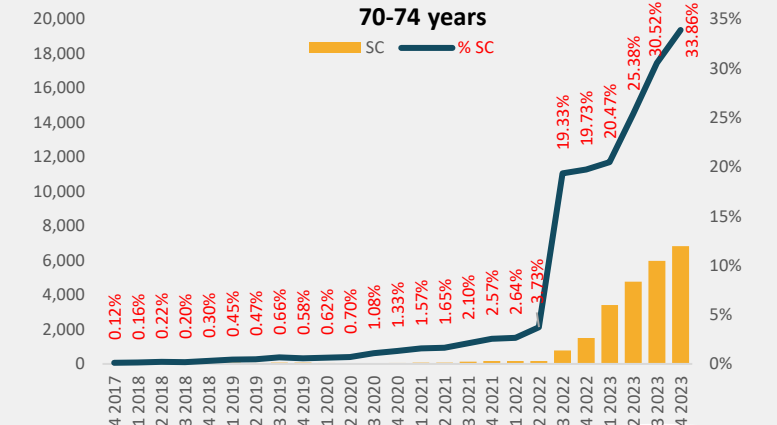
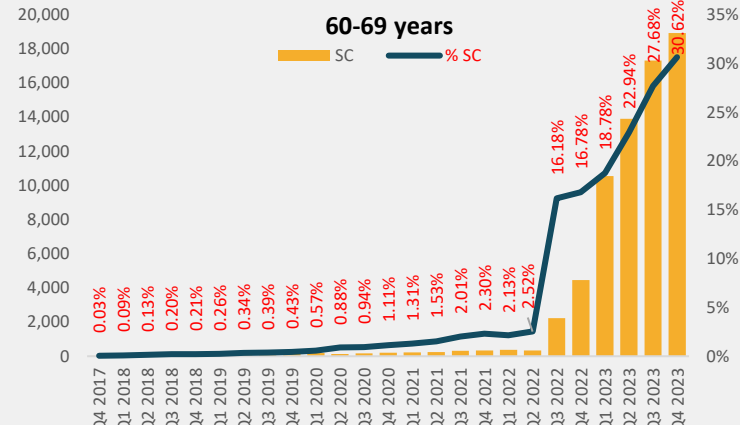
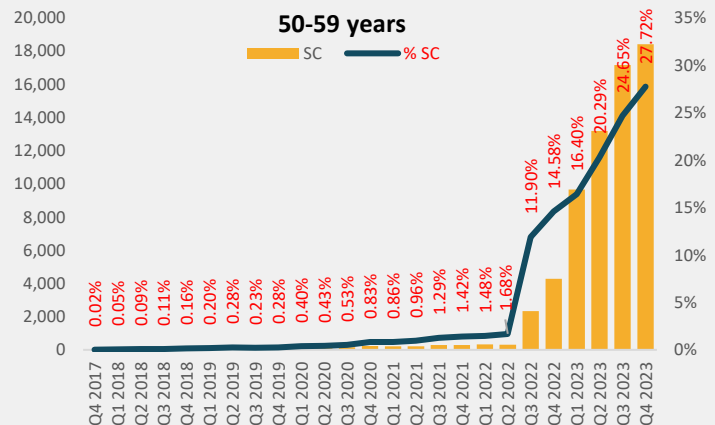
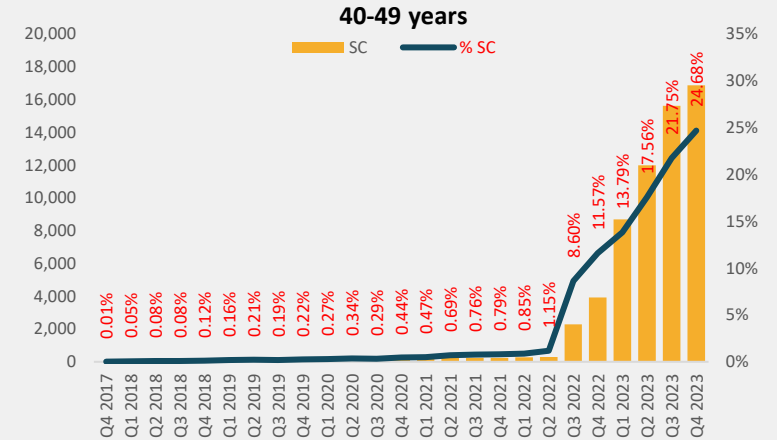
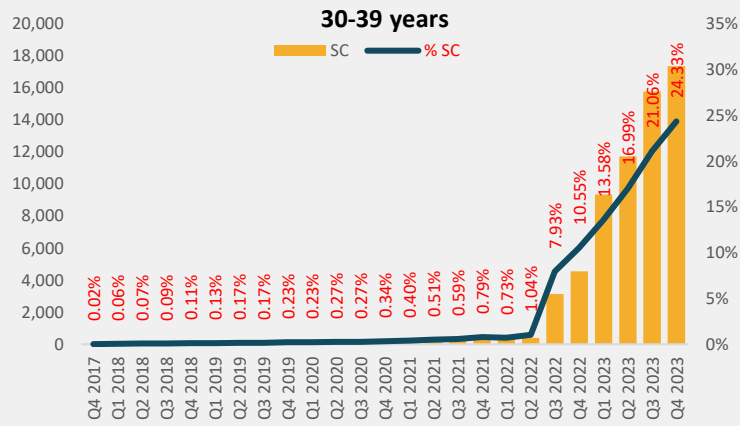
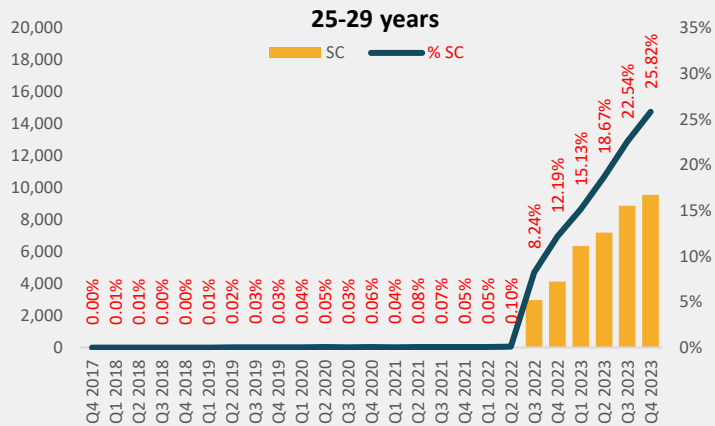


There has been a consistent increase in the proportion of self-collect uptake by month since 1 July 2022

# TOTAL COUNT OF SELF-COLLECTED HPV SCREENING TESTS IN EACH QUARTER



# COUNT OF SELF-COLLECT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT IN EACH QUARTER BY AGE GROUP



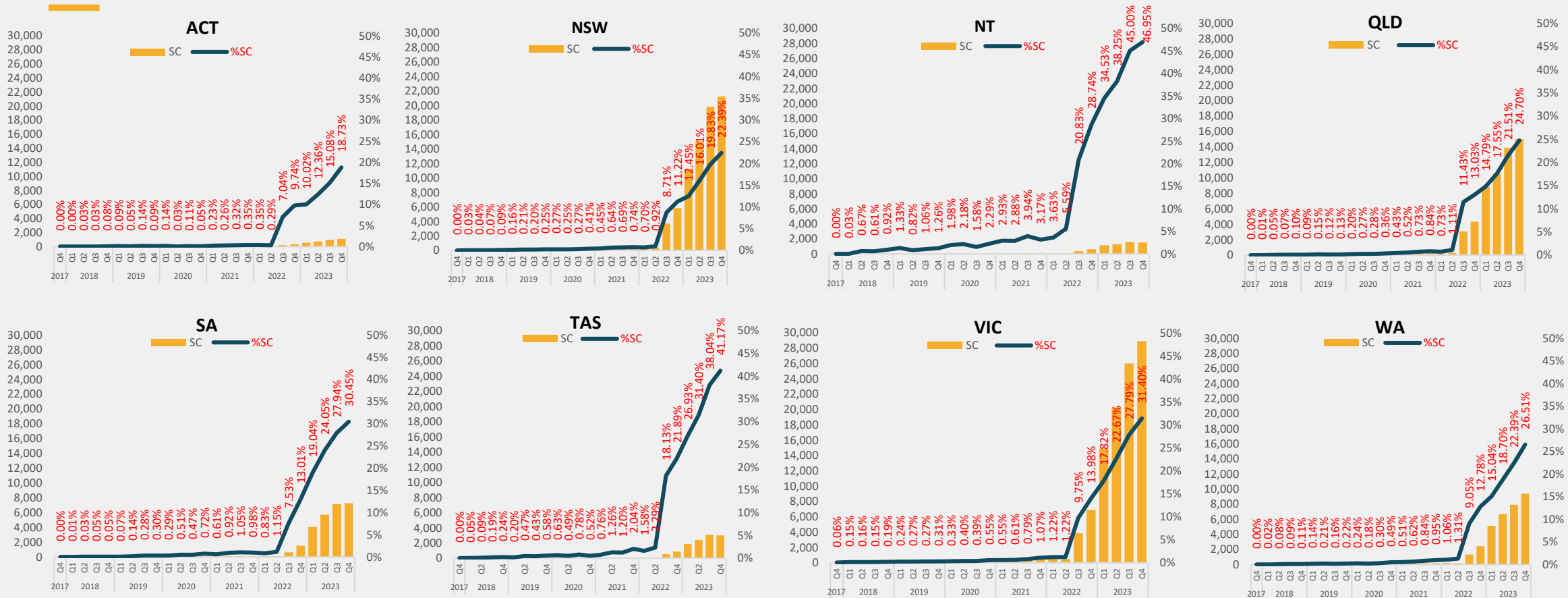
Self-collect uptake increased across all age groups with a higher uptake in older age groups



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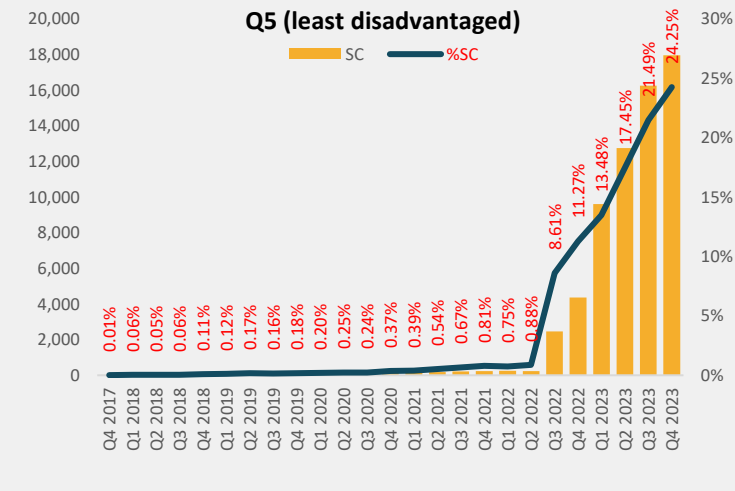
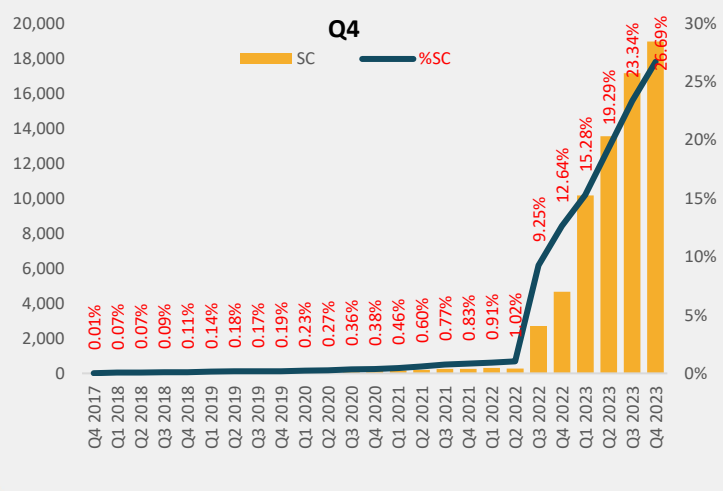
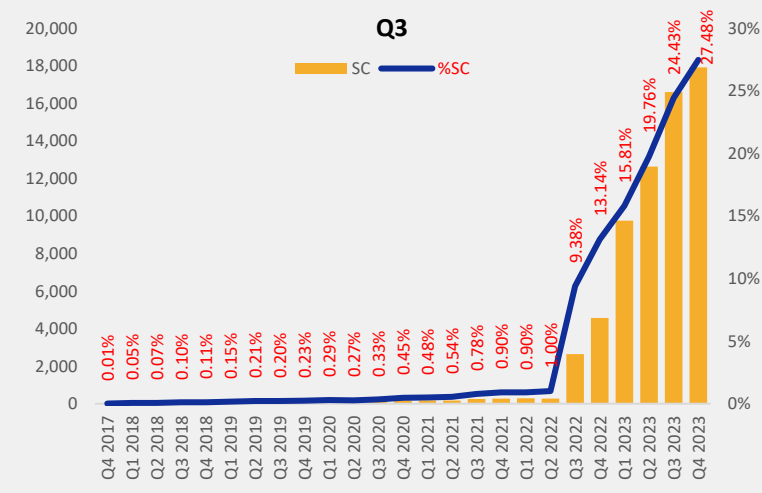
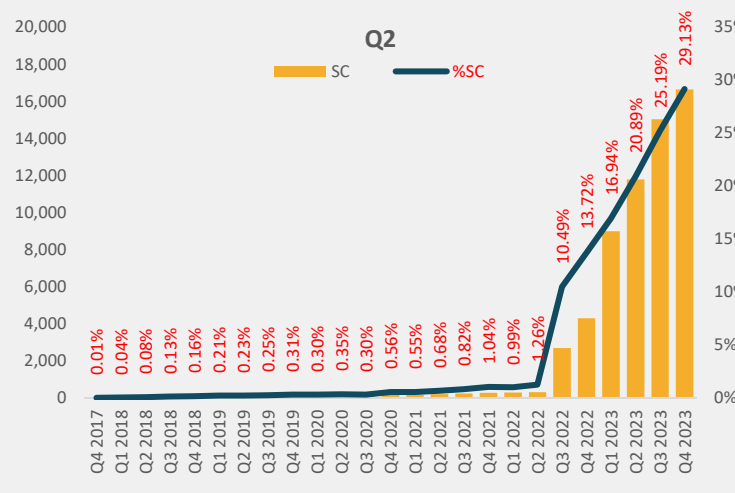
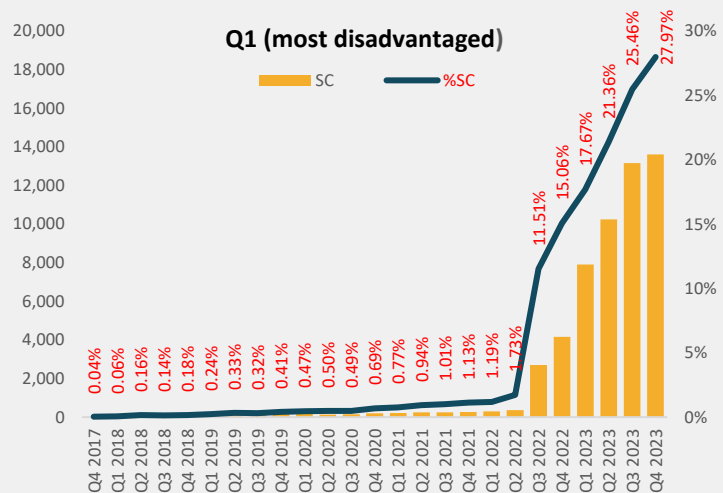


# COUNT OF SELF-COLLECT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT IN EACH QUARTER BY STATE



Self-collect uptake increased across all States & Territories with the highest uptake in the Northern Territory where almost 47% of all screening tests were self-collected in Q4 2023.

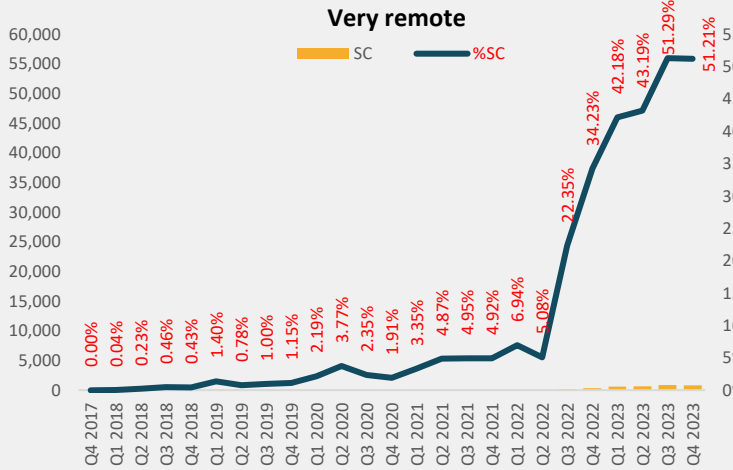
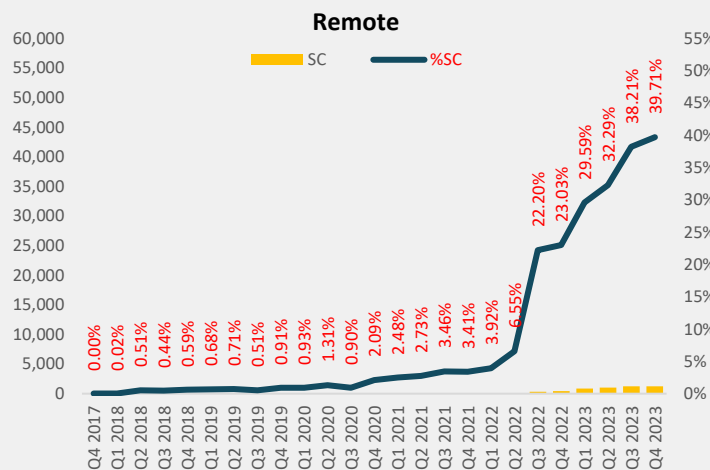
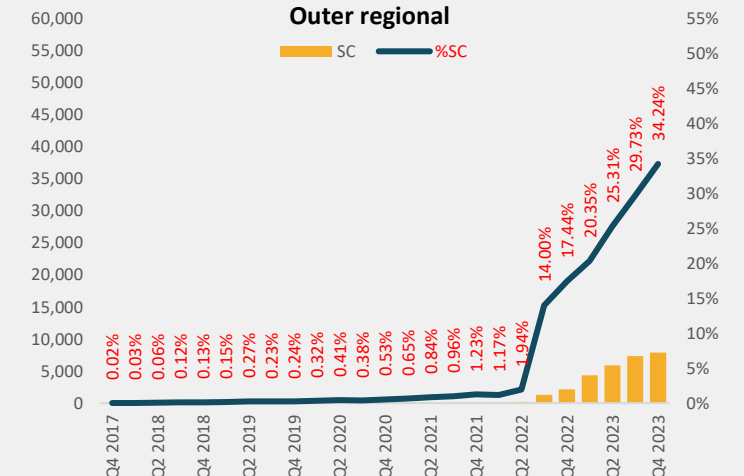
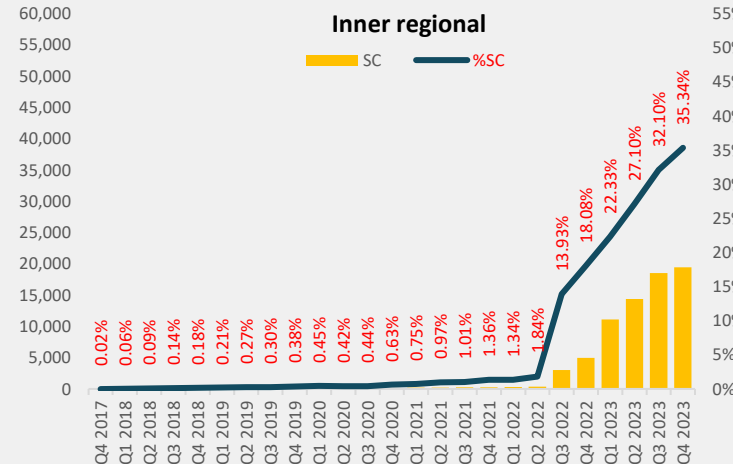
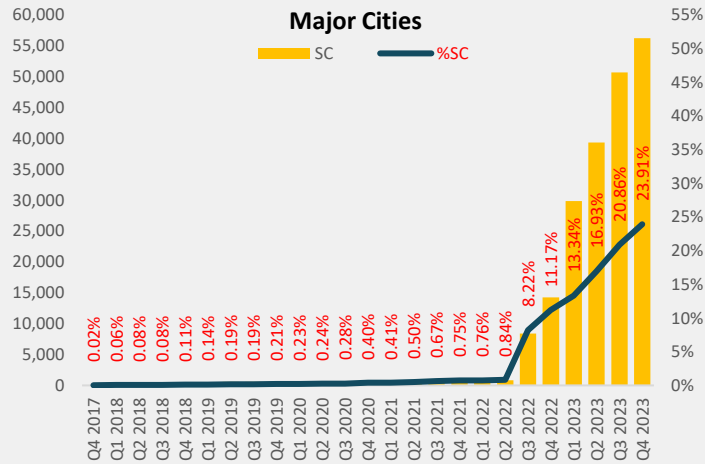
# COUNT OF SELF-COLLECT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT IN EACH QUARTER BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDEXES FOR AREAS (SEIFA) QUINTILES



- Self-collect uptake increased across all SEIFA quintiles with the highest uptake Q4 2023 in Quintile 2.
- The uptake decreased with increasing SEIFA quintiles

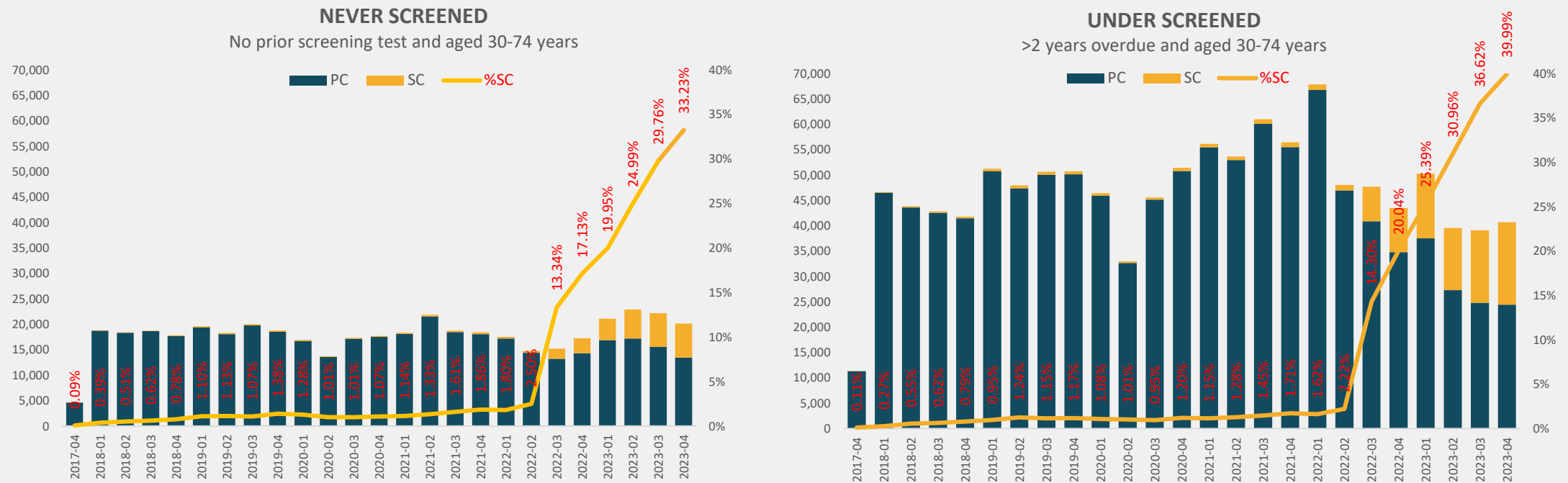


# COUNT OF SELF-COLLECT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT IN EACH QUARTER BY ACCESSIBILITY/REMOTENESS INDEX OF AUSTRALIA (ARIA) REMOTENESS



- Self-collect uptake increased across all remoteness areas with the highest uptake in very remote areas (stabilising at 51%).
- The self-collect uptake was also high in remote areas and increased from 38% in Q3 of 2023 to almost 40% in Q4 2023.

# COUNT OF SELF-COLLECT AND % OF ALL HPV SCREENING TESTS REPORTED AS SELF-COLLECT IN EACH QUARTER IN NEVER AND UNDER SCREENED PEOPLE AGED 30-74 YEARS



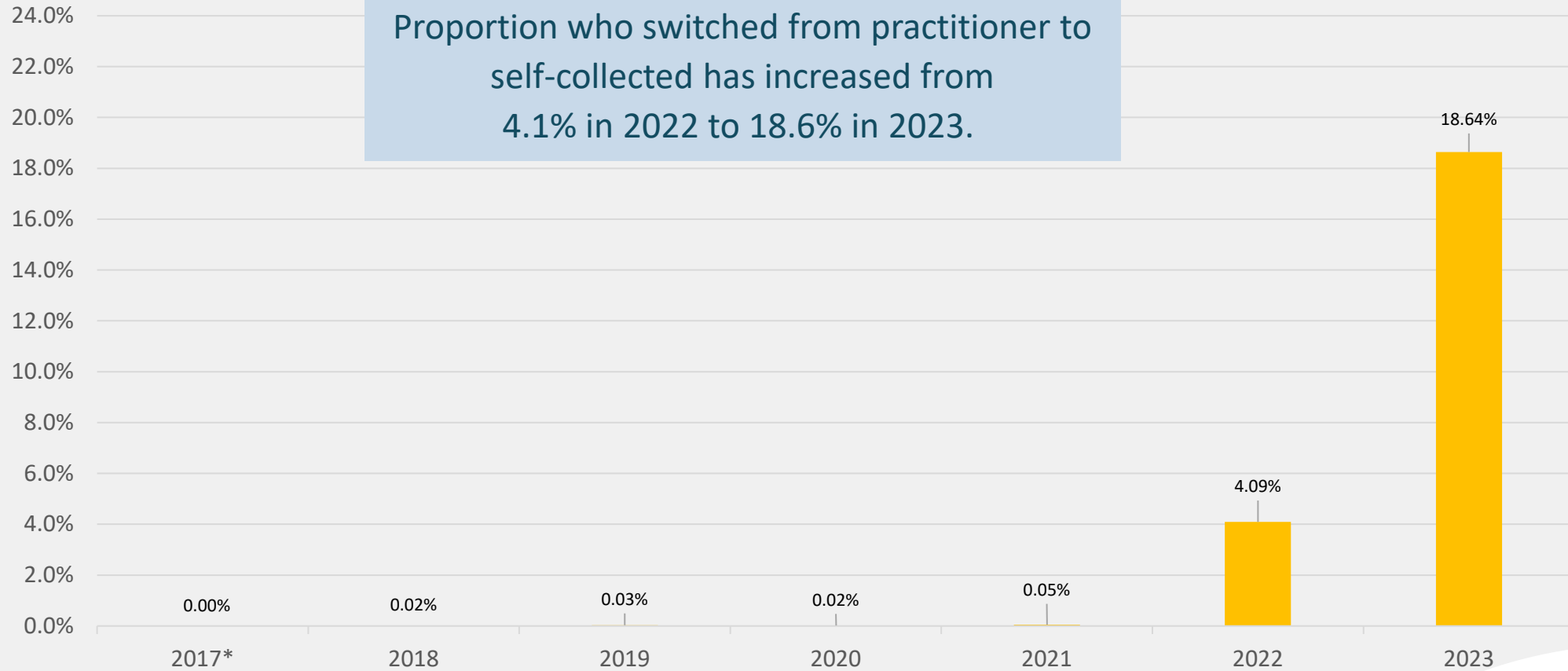
- For people aged 30-74 years the proportion of self-collected tests increased for both the never and under groups after the policy change in July 2022
- The self-collect uptake was higher in under screened people compared to people with no prior screening test in the register



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# PROPORTION OF HPV SCREENING TESTS WHERE PEOPLE SWITCHED FROM PRACTITIONER TO SELF-COLLECTION



2017\* includes Dec 2017



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## BACKGROUND

- National Cervical Screening Program transitioned from 2-yearly Pap testing for people aged 18 to 69 years to 5-yearly HPV testing for people aged 25 to 74 years on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017
- 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 to 30 June 2022: Self-collection for HPV testing was restricted to people
  - aged 30 years and above with no prior screening history in the register (never screened)
  - aged 30 years and above who were more than two years overdue (under screened)
- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 onwards: Self-collection for HPV testing was made available to all people who were eligible to screen



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## METHODS

- All cervical screening tests between **1 December 2017** and **31 December 2023** where the reason for HPV test was primary screening or follow-up and the participant's age at the time of the test was 25-74 years; data was extracted from the register on **22 January 2024**.
- A participant was counted more than once in the reporting period if they happened to have more than one screening HPV test.
- The total time period was divided into quarters in each calendar year and the total number of screening tests and proportions of those tests that were completed using self-collection was reported for each quarter in a calendar year except Q4 2017 that had data for December 2017 only.
- Screening history categories were defined based on the time between the date of the HPV screening test and the date the person was due for that test (referred to here as the due date). Where a person has had no prior screening test (HPV or Pap), they were classified as never screened at their first HPV screening test.
- Furthermore, data was restricted to screening tests from people who have had at least two tests with the most recent test reported in the year it was performed and the proportion of those tests where a switch was made from clinician (previous test) to self-collection (most recent test).



## MEASURES

- Count of HPV screening tests and the proportion that self-collected for each quarter in a year:
  - Age Group
  - STATE
  - Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) quintiles (Q1 most disadvantaged)
  - Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) remoteness
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Status
  - Never and under screened aged 30-74 years
- HPV test device and HPV test medium most used for self-collected samples
- Proportion of HPV screening tests in each calendar year where a switch was made to self-collect



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