



Australian Government

**NATIONAL
BOWELCANCER**
SCREENING PROGRAM

Promoting the Program in General Practice



BECAUSE IT CAN
DETECT BOWEL CANCER BEFORE
SYMPTOMS APPEAR

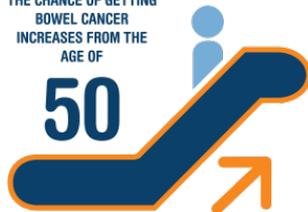
The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program saves lives – but it needs the support of general practices. The evidence is clear that a recommendation from a primary healthcare provider is an important motivator for participation in bowel cancer screening.

Key Statistics

- People who screen through the Program have a lower risk of dying from bowel cancer and are more likely to have less-advanced bowel cancers diagnosed.
- Of those screened through the Program who have had a colonoscopy following a positive result:
 - 1 in 32 have had a confirmed or suspected cancer
 - 1 in 7 have had an adenoma detected.
- Participation is around 41%, at this rate the Program is expected to save over 59,000 lives by 2040; if it can increase to 60% over 83,800 lives could be saved.
- The Program is expanding and by 2020 all Australians aged 50-74 years will be invited every two years – around 4 million people each year.
- Australia has one of the highest rates of bowel cancer in the world—around 17,000 people are diagnosed each year. If found early 9 out of 10 cases of bowel cancer can be successfully treated.

THE CHANCE OF GETTING
BOWEL CANCER
INCREASES FROM THE
AGE OF

50



NHMRC Guidelines recommend immunochemical faecal occult blood (iFOBT) testing every two years, starting at age 50 years and continuing to age 74 years for those at average risk of bowel cancer and without symptoms.

By 2020 people aged

50-74



WILL BE SENT
A FREE KIT IN THE MAIL
EVERY TWO YEARS

The Program mails eligible 50 -74 year olds bowel screening kits to complete at home. Check when an individual will receive a kit at www.cancerscreening.gov.au/eligibility

How can general practices support bowel screening?



Display brochures, flyers and posters in your practice –you can order them from the [Program website](#).



Do a patient audit – identify which patients in your practice are aged 49 to 74 years, and set reminders to discuss screening with them.



Know the test – be familiar with the iFOBT kit used in the Program so you can explain it to patients. Demo kits can be ordered from NBCSP@health.gov.au or an instruction sheet is available on the Program website.



Understand the Program – online training modules and videos for GPs, Nurses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers are available on the [Program website](#).



Talk to patients aged 50 – 74 years about bowel cancer screening and encourage them to do the test. Around 95-98% of the population are at near-average risk of developing bowel cancer and should be screened via an iFOBT, rather than colonoscopy.



Send a letter to 49 year olds to encourage participation when they turn 50 – a template letter is available on the [Program website](#).



Report to the Register – submit a *GP Assessment Form* for participants with a positive result and indicate whether a patient referred for colonoscopy is a Program participant. Electronic forms are on the [Program website](#) and referral stickers can be ordered from the Program Info Line.

Program Website – www.cancerscreening.gov.au/bowel

Program Info Line – 1800 118 168

Email: NBCSP@health.gov.au