

THE BOTTOM LINE

August 2007

A publication from the Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program

Welcome to the second issue of 'The Bottom Line'. The purpose of this publication is to keep you up to date with progress in the implementation of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) in Queensland.

Across Australia

The NBCSP has now commenced in all states within Australia. As at 31 May 2006, approximately 300,000 invitations had been sent out across the country, with approximately 90,000 people (30%) having accepted the invitation to be screened. Of those, 5,100 (5.7%) received a positive test result and at least 44 adenomas and 29 cancers have so far been detected.

Across the State

The Program has now commenced in all Queensland catchments, with invitations beginning in Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and the Sunshine Coast catchments on 14 May 2007. Invitations remain on hold in remote areas of Cairns and Townsville catchments while issues surrounding the delivery of the invitation kits in remote Indigenous communities are being addressed nationally.

Implementation Data

At 30 June 2007, 60,421 FOBT invitations had been sent to eligible Queenslanders. There has been a rapid increase in weekly mailing limits in recent times, with invitations now being sent at the rate of approximately 3,000 per week. In June alone, 12,520 invitations were sent. Also in June, 3,626 participants returned their FOBT kits, with 3,207 negative results and 296 positive results recorded (109 participants recorded no result or inconclusive). The overall participation rate as at the end of June 2007 in Queensland was 31%. To date, approximately 127 colonoscopies have been completed as part of the Program at designated Queensland Health facilities. The total picture of how many colonoscopies have been completed as part of the Program including those performed in private facilities is unknown as there is significant under-reporting to the National Register.

Designated Queensland Health facilities

To assist in providing an organised and coordinated approach to the provision of assessment colonoscopies for the Program in public facilities, the following Queensland Health facilities have been identified.

CATCHMENT	DESIGNATED FACILITY
Brisbane North	The Prince Charles Hospital
Brisbane South	Logan Hospital Princess Alexandra Hospital
Bundaberg *	Maryborough Hospital (Bundaberg Hospitals TBA)
Cairns	Cairns Base Hospital Thursday Island Hospital Innisfail Hospital Atherton Hospital
Gold Coast	Gold Coast Hospital – Southport Gold Coast Hospital - Robina
Mackay	Mackay Base Hospital Proserpine Hospital
Rockhampton *	Hospitals TBA
Sunshine Coast *	Nambour Hospital Gympie Hospital

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Toowoomba	Toowoomba Hospital Warwick Health Services Dalby Health Services Roma Hospital
Townsville	Townsville Base Hospital Ayr Hospital Charters Towers Hospital
West Moreton *	Ipswich Hospital

Authorised providers in each of these facilities have been identified. Contract negotiations have commenced in a number of catchments marked above with an asterix (*) for private sector authorised providers to provide services for public patients. Public sector referrals in these catchments should still be made to the GE Nurse Coordinator for that catchment, as the pre-assessment workup of these patients will be undertaken by the GE Nurse Coordinator (see over page).

Reminder

GE Nurse Coordinators QBCSP are available to provide support for people undergoing assessment colonoscopies through Queensland Health facilities. The GE Nurse Coordinator QBCSP will manage referrals for assessment colonoscopies to designated Queensland Health facilities and assist participants through the assessment colonoscopy pathway, to the stage of referral for treatment or re-screening. The GE Nurse Coordinator QBCSP will also act as a safety net for participants with a positive FOBT result who have not had their appropriate follow up care. To contact your local GE Nurse Coordinator QBCSP phone 1300 766 927 (9.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday).

What's New!

- **QBCSP Print Campaign**

To coincide with Bowel Cancer Awareness Week, the QBCSP ran a small scale print campaign during the month of June to promote the Program and encourage participation of those who are eligible for the Program. The advertisements generated over 400 calls to the 1300 number and approximately 3,500 hits to the state based website throughout June. While a number of enquiries were from people ineligible for the Program, overall the response to the Program was positive. The campaign will continue to run periodically over the next 12 months throughout the state to promote ongoing awareness of the Program.

- **Electronic GP Forms**

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program's (NBCSP) GP Assessment Form, which is used to register referral of Program patients for assessment colonoscopy following a positive FOBT, is now available online through the Provider Directory System on the Medicare Australia website. The on-line version will allow GPs to submit new NBCSP forms electronically, access previously submitted (read only) forms and view payment status for submitted forms. Paper-based forms to the Register will also continue to be accepted through the free fax number at 1800 115 062 or using the reply-paid stickers provided in the GP Information kits. Information regarding access to the Form will be disseminated to GPs through the Department of Health and Ageing. Alternatively, GPs can contact the National Register Information Manager in Queensland on (07) 3004 5316.

- **General Practice Education / Workshops**

General practice workshops are currently being implemented in a number of catchments in collaboration with Cancer Council Queensland and Divisions of GPs to provide information on the role of general practice within the Program as well as an update on the National Health and Medical Research Council's *Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention, Early Detection and Management of Colorectal Cancer*. For more information regarding upcoming GP education within each catchment, contact your local GE Nurse Coordinator on 1300 766 927.

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New staff

A number of temporary and permanent appointments have been made to QBCSP GE Nurse Coordinator and Health Promotion Officer positions in Queensland. Currently, Program staff in each catchment are as follows.

CATCHMENT	GE NURSE COORDINATOR	HEALTH PROMOTION OFFICER
Brisbane North	Gillian Schofield	Michelle Hogan
Brisbane South	Charlie Vaughan Esther Dromell	Andrea Morgan
Bundaberg	Kim West	Recruitment underway
Cairns	Debra Whittaker	Naomi Goldsworthy
Gold Coast	Jenny Harvey	Nicole Brancato
Mackay	Robyn Nikolsky	Ronda Duncan
Rockhampton	Fiona Peterson	Recruitment underway
Sunshine Coast	Lea Wiggins	Recruitment underway
Toowoomba	Denise Iseppi	Emma Dalglish
Townsville	Helen McManimm	Sonja Main
West Moreton	Kim Williamson	Amy Orlandi

Local Program staff can be contacted by phoning 1300 766 927 (9.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday).

Bowel Cancer Awareness Week

Program staff were in full flight for Bowel Cancer Awareness Week which took place 4 to 8 June. Events were held across the state to promote awareness of bowel cancer, bowel cancer screening and the National Program. Some of the highlights of the week included a “Bowls for Bowels” event at a Brisbane North bowls club, articles in local newspapers, participation in “Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea”, numerous shopping centre, hospital and library displays and even attendance at the Moreton Bay Seafood Festival! Overall, Health Promotion Officers have been receiving positive feedback from the community about the Program.



Feedback

We value the input of our key stakeholders. Should you have any feedback regarding the Program in Queensland, please contact: bowelcancerscreening@health.qld.gov.au.

Need to know more?

Visit our website at www.health.qld.gov.au/bowelcancer or phone the Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program on 1300 766 927.



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