

THE BOTTOM LINE ...

March 2007

A publication from the Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program

Welcome to the first 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 in Queensland.

Across Australia

All states have now committed to the implementation of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, with invitations due to commence in Tasmania and the Northern Territory in March 2007. As at 19 January 2007, approximately 100,000 invitations had been sent out in Queensland, NSW and the ACT, with approximately 29,400 FOBT samples completed and received by the contracted pathology laboratory. Of these, 1,824 tested positive for faecal occult blood (6.20% positivity rate). The current return rate of 29% is not a good indicator of trends in participation, given only 10% of Program invitations have been sent to date.

Across the State

Implementation Schedules

The Program continues to be implemented progressively across Queensland, with invitations currently being distributed in the Mackay, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, and Gold Coast catchments. Amendments have been made to the implementation schedules to address logistical and capacity issues prior to Program commencement. Invitations to eligible participants in the remaining catchments will now commence as follows:

19 March 2007	Cairns and Townsville Urban Areas
02 April 2007	West Moreton
14 May 2007	Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Rockhampton

Implementation Data

As at the end of January 2007, 11,948 people in the Mackay, Brisbane North, Brisbane South and Gold Coast catchments had been invited to participate in the Program. Just under 1,000 people had returned a completed test by the end of January 2007. At this stage, it is too early to draw inferences from this return rate, particularly given the recent commencement of the Program in Brisbane North and Brisbane South catchments prior to Christmas. It is anticipated that as this is a new population-screening program, participation will start off slowly and rise over

time as awareness of the Program increases. Currently the national positivity rate is 6.2%, which is within the Queensland estimate of 8%.

Designated Queensland Health facilities providing Assessment Colonoscopies for the Program

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 –

Mackay catchment:	Mackay Base Hospital, Proserpine Hospital
Brisbane North catchment:	The Prince Charles Hospital
Brisbane South catchment:	Logan Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital
Gold Coast catchment:	Gold Coast Hospital

Designated providers in each of these facilities are also being identified. Discussions are underway in remaining catchments to identify designated Queensland Health facilities.

The assessment process for the statewide tender to identify designated providers in the private sector which was released in December 2006 is currently underway.

Please note! The previously-used term 'preferred provider' has now been replaced by the term 'designated provider'.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recruitment Strategies

A Bowel Cancer Screening Education Kit is currently being developed to assist in educating Aboriginal Health Workers about the Program and bowel cancer screening. John Brady, Aboriginal Health Worker for Inala Community Health Centre, and Liela Murison, Program Coordinator, Women's Cancer Prevention and Support for Townsville Hospital, are working with the QBCSP team to assist in developing the kit, along with conducting focus groups with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For further information regarding this strategy, please contact Sarah Holmes on 07 3234 0769.

What's New!

- A 2-hour RACGP-accredited general practice workshop has been jointly developed by the Queensland Cancer Fund, Queensland Divisions of General Practice and Queensland Health for implementation at the local catchment level. Divisions of General Practice across Queensland will be contacted shortly to plan for implementation of these workshops at a catchment level.

- A new poster has been developed to promote the Program to the eligible general public. The poster has been developed for display in general practices, local community organizations, and community venues (eg community health centres, libraries etc). For copies of the poster, contact 07 3234 0769.



- Multilingual information for the Program has now been posted on the National website (www.cancerscreening.gov.au). Information is available in 15 different languages and includes a translated version of materials including the invitee letters, the Bowel Cancer Screening Program booklet and the Participant Details Form.

Attention General Practitioners and Specialists!

Some difficulties in the distribution by the Australian Government of Program Information Kits for GPs and specialists have been reported. General practitioners and specialists in Mackay, Brisbane North, Brisbane South and the Gold Coast who have not yet received their kits from the Australian Government are encouraged to contact the **National Helpline on 1800 118 868** to order their kit. Forms and information sheets contained in the kits can also be downloaded through the National website: www.cancerscreening.gov.au.

New Arrivals! QBCSP welcomes new staff

Four GE Nurse Coordinators QBCSP are based in the following catchments: Robyn Nikolsky, Mackay; Gillian Schofield (acting), Brisbane North; Charlie Vaughan (acting), Brisbane South; and Jenny Harvey (acting), Gold Coast. Ms Cheryl Gorey and Ms Michelle Hogan have been appointed to permanent positions of Health Promotion Officer QBCSP in Mackay and Brisbane North catchments respectively. Ronda Duncan is now acting in the role of Health Promotion Officer in Mackay while Cheryl Gorey is on a secondment.

A joint advertising process is being coordinated for the GE Nurse Coordinator and Health Promotion Officer positions to fill permanent positions in catchments where the Program has commenced. Negotiations with Health Service Districts to create positions in the remaining catchments is continuing in line with the QBCSP Implementation Schedule.

Remember...

GE Nurse Coordinators QBCSP are available to provide support for people undergoing assessment colonoscopies through Queensland Health facilities. To contact your local GE Nurse Coordinator QBCSP phone 1300 766 927 (local call).

Medicare Australia employs QLD Information Manager

Medicare Australia has engaged 8 state-based Information Managers to assist with Program awareness and data transfer to the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program Register. Please contact Alicia Smith, Queensland Information Manager on 07 3004 5316 with any queries about the National Program, the role of the Register, data transfer, or to provide any feedback to Medicare Australia about the Program.

Endoscopy Services Information System Solution (ESISS) Project

This project to develop a Queensland Health-wide Endoscopy Services Information System Solution (ESISS) is now well into the Planning and Definition Phase of the Information Division project management process. Approval will be sought in July 2007 to release a Request for Tender to purchase such a system. The Project Steering Committee is meeting monthly and will be endorsing a Business Requirements Specification shortly. For further information on the project please contact Project Manager Coppelia Rose on 07 3240 7881 or Coppelia_Rose@health.qld.gov.au.

Colonoscopy Training Survey

The Colonoscopy Training Project aims to describe colonoscopy training throughout Australia and identify any gaps in training that need to be addressed. The project has been endorsed nationally and the QBCSP is leading the project on behalf of national stakeholders in the NBCSP, jurisdictions, and associated professional bodies. Following comprehensive consultation and feedback from national stakeholders, surveys for both trainers and trainees are now being professionally developed and formatted and will be distributed Australia-wide in the next couple of weeks. QBCSP will be analysing the results and writing a report for the Quality Working Group of the NBCSP.

Bowel Movements ☺

The QBCSP State Coordination Unit is moving from Floor 12 Forestry House to Floor 8 Queensland Health Building. Telephone numbers for most team members will remain unchanged.

Feedback

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

Need to know more?

Visit our website at www.health.qld.gov.au/bowelcancer or phone the National Helpline on 1800 118 868.

