

Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program

Fraser Coast and Wide Bay Health Services

Bowel Cancer

- In Australia one in 17 men and one in 26 women will develop bowel cancer before the age of 75
- Every year about 12900 new cases of bowel cancer are diagnosed and 4100 people die for the disease.
- This makes bowel cancer the second most common cause of cancer related deaths after lung cancer
- Good news is that bowel cancer is one of the most curable cancers if found early. If the cancer is detected early the chance of survival for at least 5 years after diagnosis is 90%.
- Early detection offers the best hope of reducing the number of Australians who die each year from bowel cancer

QLD Bowel Cancer Screening Program (QBCSP)

- The QBCSP, which is part of the national initiative, has been progressively running in Qld since August 2006.
- Under the program Qld men and women turning 50, 55 or 65 between January 2008 and December 2010 are being sent a kit in the mail known as a faecal occult blood test or FOBT.
- These tests are automatically sent by the Australian Government to eligible people's current Medicare register addresses.
- The FOBT is a simple test which involves taking a small sample from two bowel motions which you then send to a contracted pathology lab for testing.
- The tests look for tiny amounts of blood in the bowel motion.
- If blood is found, people are then advised to see a GP for referral for further investigations such as a colonoscopy to determine the cause of the bleeding.
- QH is supporting those people who receive a positive FOBT result and go on to have a colonoscopy at a QH facility.
- The department has appointed specialist gastroenterology nurse coordinators to arrange these assessments, a part of the program specially funded by the state government.

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