



## **BOWEL CANCER AND YOU**



### **The facts about bowel cancer**

Bowel cancer is the most common internal cancer affecting Australians, with about 13,000 new cases diagnosed each year.

The lifetime risk of developing cancer in the bowel is 1 in 24, with men more likely to develop this disease.

Around 4,500 deaths from bowel cancer will occur in Australia each year, which is more than double the national road toll.

More than 75% of people who develop bowel cancer do not have a family history of bowel cancer.

90% of bowel cancers can be treated successfully if detected early.

### **A simple home test**

Rotary Bowelscan uses faecal occult blood test (FOBT) screening kits. The test discovers blood passed from the bowel that's ***invisible to the naked eye***, which can be an early warning of cancer. Conducted annually, it provides a very good chance of early detection and a high probability of successful treatment.

## **How the program works**

You buy a test kit from a participating pharmacy during Bowelscan Month – March every year - for just \$8. You take the kit home, take some samples according to the instructions and drop the kit into the collection bin at the pharmacy by 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Your kit is sent to Bowelscan's generous supporters Hobart Pathology, North West Pathology - Burnie and Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service - Launceston who perform the laboratory tests. Bowelscan's Medical Coordinator then notifies you of the result, and also notifies your general practitioner if the test is positive. Confidentiality is maintained at all times.

## **Danger begins at 40**

Your risk of bowel cancer jumps significantly from the age of 40, and doubles every five years until 60 (when the risk starts to increase even faster).

## **Please don't wait for symptoms**

Remember, Bowelscan is for people who are not showing any signs of bowel cancer. If you have any direct family history of bowel cancer, any blood showing in bowel motions, or any recent changes in bowel habits, you should talk to your general practitioner right away.

Waiting to see symptoms is waiting too long.

***Bowelscan is a Rotary community service program, and no profit is made by either Rotary or participating pharmacies. Bowelscan is an awareness program, not a medical service. Licensed general practitioners and pathologists provide all medical services.***



**For further information on this Rotary Community Service program contact:**

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