

Let's Talk

Cancer Prevention and
Living with Cancer

e-bulletin
issue 2 | 2017

Throughout this eBulletin we use the term *Aboriginal Western Australians* to include people of Torres Strait Islander descent.

Welcome to the second edition of 'Let's Talk' for 2017! 'Let's Talk' is published quarterly for Aboriginal health professionals and those working with Aboriginal communities who are proudly leading the way to a cancer-free future in WA. It has up-to-date information on Aboriginal cancer education and research programs, Aboriginal cancer events, cancer issues, trends and cancer support services available in Western Australia.

Upcoming changes to Australia's National Cervical Screening Program

What changes are coming to cervical screening?

Based on an intensive review of the evidence the following changes will be implemented on 1 December 2017:

- A five-yearly Cervical Screening Test will replace the two-yearly Pap smear
- The screening age range will become 25-74 years
- A self-collection option will be available for a select group of women 30 years of age or over, who have either never-screened or are overdue for cervical screening by two years or longer

Cervical screening until 1 December 2017

To minimise their risk of cervical cancer, it is important that women continue to screen, or attend follow-up, when due. Regular screening is still the best way to prevent cervical cancer, which currently is with a Pap smear.

The WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program's (WACCPP) 'Cervical Screening Flipchart Resource'

A new flipchart resource has been developed by the WACCPP to support health care providers to discuss the importance of cervical screening with Aboriginal women. The resource has been developed in consultation with members of the Aboriginal Women's Reference Group, a partnership initiative between the WACCPP and BreastScreen WA.

The resource will be pilot tested during May by 20 health care professionals from across WA. The feedback from facilitators and participants of this pilot test will contribute to development of the final product.

The flipchart resource will be available by December 2017 for providers to use in the renewed National Cervical Screening Program. For more information contact the WACCPP at cervicalscreening@health.wa.gov.au

Stay up to date on the Renewal implementation in WA

Visit the [WACCPP's Renewal webpage](#) to access resources and learn about available and upcoming educational opportunities
[Subscribe to the WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program's Community Cervix Announcement newsletter](#)

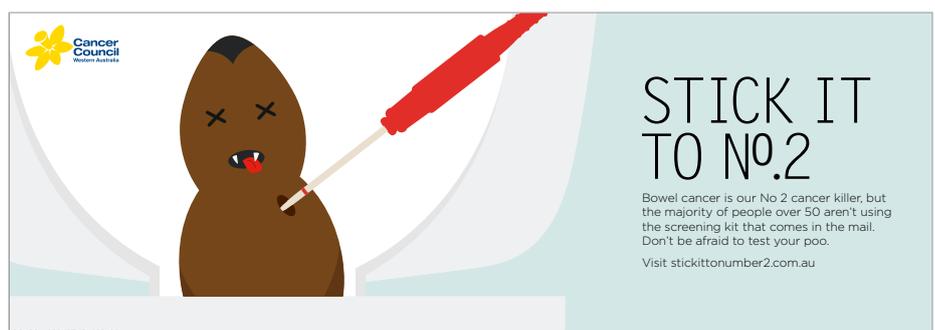
New Bowel Screening Campaign – Stick It To Number 2

Cancer Council WA is hoping a new campaign which launched on Sunday 14 May will encourage people 50 and older to use their home screening kits and reduce their risk of bowel cancer. Currently only 41% of people in Western Australia who receive the free kit in the mail use it, but in some areas like the Kimberley this can be as low as 23%. A recent survey found that the main barriers stopping many Western Australians from using their free screening kit is embarrassment and uncertainty about how to do the test.

The campaign uses scary 'poo villains' to drive home the message that testing your poo using the screening kit is not as scary as it seems.

The campaign will run online until late July 2017.

For more information visit www.stickittonumber2.com.au





Update on the National Indigenous Bowel Screening Pilot

The National Indigenous Bowel Screening Pilot was planned to commence in mid-2017 supported by the new National Cancer Screening Register. Unfortunately, the Register will not be ready in time for the proposed commencement date of the pilot. Menzies School of Health Research is currently working with the Department of Health to revise and reschedule the timelines around the pilot. More information will be provided by Menzies when the revised implementation dates for the pilot have been finalised. For more information please contact Shannon Wagner, Bowel Cancer Screening Coordinator on 9212 4388 or email swagner@cancerwa.asn.au

Leadership Group established to help close “the cancer gap”

Cancer Australia announced the recent establishment of its Leadership Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control to drive a shared agenda to improve cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Chaired by Professor Jacinta Elston, Associate Dean, Education and Strategy, Generalist Medical Training program at James Cook University, the Leadership Group brings together experts from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous backgrounds, across the fields of research, health and policy.

“Reflecting its mandate to drive a shared agenda in Indigenous cancer control, the Leadership Group will champion cross-sector collaboration across the seven nationally-agreed evidence-based priorities outlined in Cancer Australia’s [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Framework](#), and leverage opportunities to improve cancer outcomes at system, service and community levels,” said Dr Helen Zorbas, CEO of Cancer Australia.

Minister for Indigenous Health Ken Wyatt welcomed the initiative as a key step to addressing the ever increasing cancer rates in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Minister Wyatt wished to applaud Cancer Australia for the development of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Framework to lead improvements in cancer outcomes specifically in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Framework identifies seven identified priority areas which, based on the evidence, will have the greatest impact in addressing the disparities and improving cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These are:

- improving knowledge and attitudes about cancer
- focusing prevention activities
- increasing participation in screening and immunisation
- ensuring early diagnosis
- delivering optimal and culturally appropriate treatment and care
- involving, informing and supporting families and carers
- strengthening the capacity of cancer-related services to meet the needs of Indigenous people.

“The latest national data shows a widening gap in cancer mortality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians,” said Dr Zorbas. “This is an issue of increasing concern.”

“One of the Leadership Group’s first objectives will be the development of a reporting plan, informed by reliable data and evidence, to measure progress against the national cancer priorities outlined in the Framework,” Dr Zorbas said.

Member biographies for the Leadership Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control can be found [Here](#)



Cancer Australia was established by the Australian Government in 2006 to benefit all Australians affected by cancer, and their families and carers. Cancer Australia aims to reduce the impact of cancer, address disparities and improve outcomes for people affected by cancer by leading and coordinating national, evidence-based interventions across the continuum of care.



New Aboriginal Cancer Resources

Cancer Council NSW and Menzies School of Health Research in conjunction with a Clinical Advisory Group and an Indigenous Consultation Group have recently produced new detailed fact sheets about cancer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Fact sheet topics include:

- How Can I Help? This fact sheet provides information on how to support family or friends with cancer.
- Help Getting To Treatment. This fact sheet provides tips for getting to and from cancer treatment using your own car or using community transport.
- Help With Money. This fact sheet provides tips for help with money while undergoing cancer treatment.

You can download copies of these fact sheets and others at: www.cancerwa.asn.au/resources/publications/aboriginal/



How can I help?

New radio show set to offer special comfort to hospital patients

Aboriginal health workers know too well that most people aren't big fans of hospitals. Spending any amount of time in a hospital bed can be scary, boring, annoying, or depressing – sometimes all at the same time. Long stays are especially difficult, especially if you're from out of town, leaving some people with no visits or contact from loved ones.



Many patients get bored and choosing meals may be the only highlight of the day. But imagine if patients could order a song with a special message for loved ones and get it served up on a radio station for everyone to hear.

Noongar Radio's new program Hospital Hotline kicked off with a special LIVE TO AIR launch from Fiona Stanley Hospital on 2 May 2017 and will continue with regular weekly programs from 10am to 11am each Tuesday on 100.9fm, digital and streamed via noongarradio.com.

It is anticipated that Hospital Hotline will be widely accepted and broadcast throughout Western Australia on other community radio stations to broaden caring connections to more families who are apart from distance.

Noongar Radio prides itself on putting community first and keeping strong connections to family, homelands and culture. Hospital Hotline is a prime example of Noongar Radio leading the way!

Spread the word to cancer patients throughout Western Australia!



Submit an article

We invite past course participants of the Cancer Council WA Aboriginal Cancer Education Course and health services / organisation / departments working with Aboriginal Western Australians to submit contributions for publication in this bulletin. Articles and events that pertain to cancer control and support are most welcome.

If anyone would like to submit an article for the next bulletin, please refer to our [Contribution Guidelines](#) and email ldebusch@cancerwa.asn.au by Friday 21 August 2017.

Our next edition is due in September 2017!