

Let's Talk

Cancer Prevention and
Living with Cancer

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

Welcome to the Christmas Edition '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.

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Introducing Cancer Council WA's Aboriginal Projects Coordinator



We would like to introduce Jodie Campbell, our new Aboriginal Projects Coordinator at Cancer Council Western Australia, working in the Education and Research Division.

Hi all, my name is Jodie Campbell, I am a proud Aboriginal woman from the Northern Territory, with family links from the Central deserts up to the Tiwi Islands. I have lived in Perth for the past 3 years (this time around) and I have 3 children. I have always worked in the Aboriginal health arena in various capacities, most recently, as a counsellor. I joined the team at the Cancer Council WA back in October and look forward to further developing the role, collaborating with community stakeholders and working with you all. Enjoy the festivities of Christmas and New Year!

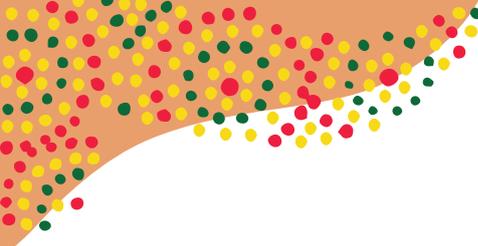
Bowel cancer can develop without any symptoms...

Using humour can make it easier to talk about a difficult subject. Now there's a new online training module to address concerns of Indigenous Health Workers about bowel screening.

This interactive online training module has just been released to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers to talk with their patients about bowel screening. The module, Bowel Screening, no shame – just a part of life, is one component in a broader initiative to encourage more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 to 74 to take part in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP).

Bowel cancer can develop with no obvious signs or symptoms, but if picked up early, around 90% of cases can be treated successfully. Regular bowel screening can pick up changes in the bowel even before they become cancerous.

The participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the NBCSP is low, with just 23.5% of those in the eligible age range taking part.



Menzies School of Health Research has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health to consult, develop, prepare and deliver a national pilot of an alternative option for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access the NBCSP

To view the pilot website follow link: www.indigenousbowelscreen.com.au/community

If you would like to view the webinar click on the link:

www.indigenousbowelscreen.com.au/webinar-encourage-patients-bowel-screening-test

Would you be interested in learning more about palliative care and how to care for your patients towards end of life?

The Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA) offer free 2 day placements set within specialist palliative care settings in the metropolitan and regional areas of WA.

Completing a placement involves spending time at a palliative care service with a specialist palliative care mentor, who will share their knowledge and provide you with an insight into what palliative care is and how it is delivered.

PEPA also host palliative care workshops and if your service would like us to run a workshop in your workplace please contact pepa@cancerwa.asn.au. Our next workshop;

Carnarvon Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation on Wednesday 17 January 2018.

For more information on placements or workshop please call **08 9382 9372** or email pepa@cancerwa.asn.au



Implementing the renewed National Cervical Screening Program

1 December 2017 marked the implementation of the renewed National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP). Significant changes have occurred, with a shift to a primary oncogenic HPV test with partial genotyping, a change in the test interval and screening age ranges, and an option for self-collection. A range of resources are available for you to help understand these changes.

Resources for the renewed NCSP for healthcare providers and women are available to order and download from www.cancerscreening.gov.au/cervical/resources

NPS Medicine Wise online training is available to assist healthcare providers to understand the new test and clinical pathways. This training is recognised as continuing professional development hours with RACGP, ACRRM, ACN, ACM and APNA. Visit learn.nps.org.au

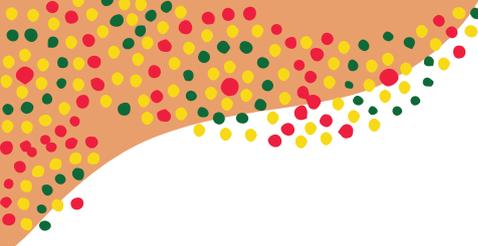
Cancer Council Australia developed the clinical management recommendations for the renewed NSCP: *Guidelines for the management of screen-detected abnormalities, screening in specific populations and investigation of abnormal vaginal bleeding* (2016 Guidelines). These are available from wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Cervical_cancer/Screening

The new WA Cervical Screening HealthPathway can be accessed at wa.healthpathways.org.au (search for cervical screening)

Online information from the WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program can be accessed at ww2.health.wa.gov.au/renewal (health professionals) or healthywa.wa.gov.au/cervicalscreening (consumers).

For online tools and resources to promote the renewed NCSP in your practice visit ww2.health.wa.gov.au/renewalresources

For more information contact the WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program on **9323 6788** or at cervicalscreening@health.wa.gov.au



Useful links

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a few new reports and resources this month that might be of interest:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 report: Australian Capital Territory

Download report: [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 report: Australian Capital Territory](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 report: Northern Territory

Download report: [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 report: Northern Territory](#)

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare also released a new data tool: *Indigenous health check (MBS 715) data tool*. All Indigenous people are eligible for an annual Indigenous-specific health check: item 715 on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). This tool shows numbers and usage rates of the checks at national, state and territory and Primary Health Network levels. Charts can be customised to show different time periods and, where possible, disaggregations by age and sex.

Download data tool: [Indigenous health check \(MBS 715\) data tool](#)



Season's Greetings!

We wish you all a safe and joyous festive season with family and friends!

Christmas & New Year Office Closures

With the exception of the Cancer Council shop, Crawford and Milroy Lodges and Cancer Nurses on 13 11 20, our offices will close from:

12pm Friday 22 December 2017 to 8.30am Tuesday 2 January 2018.



Submit an article

We invite past course participants of the Cancer Council WA Aboriginal Cancer Education Course and health services and organisation, government 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 eBulletin, *please refer to our* [Contribution Guidelines](#) and email jcampbell@cancerwa.asn.au

Our next edition is due in March 2018!