

DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME UNDERWAY

The Federal government National Bowel Cancer Screening Programme is now well underway with all Australians turning 55 and 65 years of age this year being sent a faecal occult blood test (FOBT) kit in the mail to look for small amounts of blood in the stool which could be an indication of bowel cancer.

Participants who have a positive FOBT result will usually need to be referred for further testing involving colonoscopy. The Victorian Department of Health Services recently selected The Alfred Hospital as the *preferred* designated provider for colonoscopy with St Vincent's Hospital, Austin Hospital and Monash Medical Centre also chosen as designated providers.

Subjects with a positive faecal occult blood test are given category 1 status and their booking is scheduled within 30 days of receipt of the referral.

Bookings for colonoscopy for National Bowel Cancer Screening participants can be made at The Alfred by ringing the Alfred Endoscopy Booking Office on 9076 0358 or 9076 0237.

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