

Question on Notice
No. 599
Asked on 12 September 2012

MR STEVENS asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Bowel Cancer Screening Program (QBCSP)— Has the Federal Government indicated its support to continue the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program to support the QBCSP?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Mermaid Beach for his question.

The Federal Government announced in the 2012/13 budget that it will provide \$49.7 million over four years to expand the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program to increase the frequency of screening available to Australians aged between 50 and 74 years.

The Program currently offers screening to all Australians turning 50, 55 and 65 years of age. From 2013, screening will be available for people turning 60 years of age, and from 2015 screening will also be available for people turning 70 years of age.

Two yearly screening will be progressively phased in, commencing in 2017-18 starting with Australians aged 72 years. When fully implemented in 2034, the program will provide all Australians aged between 50 and 74 years the opportunity to undergo bowel cancer screening using a Federal Government-provided Faecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) every two years.

Bowel cancer is the most common cancer in men and women combined, and it has a major impact on individuals, their families and the health system. In 2007, there were 2,801 new cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed in Queensland. 92.5% of these were diagnosed in people aged 50 years and over.

This Program has already demonstrated significant benefits in relation to the prevention and early detection of bowel cancer in Queensland.

Queensland Health will continue to provide access to timely, high quality colonoscopy services for participants of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program with a positive screening test result.