

Bowel Cancer Screening Project

Expression of Interest (EOI) and Guidelines

1. Overview

We're excited to announce a unique opportunity for general practices in the Gold Coast to join The Bowel Cancer Screening Project aimed at increasing bowel cancer screening rates!

Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) is one of four Primary Health Networks to partner with [The Daffodil Centre](#) (a joint venture between Cancer Council NSW and the University of Sydney) to conduct this research project.

This study, led by The Daffodil Centre is a pilot clinical trial aiming to:

- increase the involvement of general practice teams in promoting the [National Bowel Cancer Screening Program \(NBCSP\)](#) and
- ensuring patients undergo bowel cancer screening in line with clinical guidelines.

Bowel cancer was estimated to be the second leading cause of cancer death in Australia in 2023 ([AIHW, 2024](#)) and about 3,000 people in Queensland are diagnosed with bowel cancer every year ([Cancer Council](#)).

The NBCSP reduces illness and death from bowel cancer by detecting the early signs of the disease using a free, simple test that can be done at home. If found early, over 90% of bowel cancers can be successfully treated.

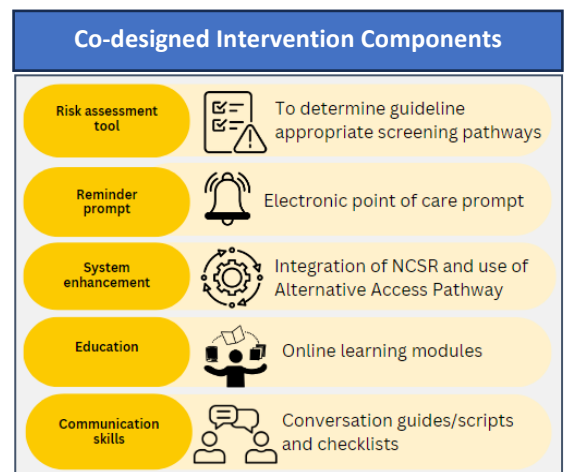
84,000 lives could be saved by 2040 if participation increases in the NBCSP to 60%. ([Lancet Public Health, 2017](#)) Your practice could be a part of reducing this burden and increasing participation!

Project duration: September 2024 to May 2025.

What does the intervention involve?

- The intervention arm will implement a multi-component intervention over a 4-month period to improve participation in the NBCSP.
- The intervention was developed through an ongoing co-design process with GPs and practice staff in Australia.
- We estimate that GPs and practice staff will spend up to two hours per fortnight on project related activities over the 9-month period.

The study has ethics approval from the University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee (2023/HE000496).



2. Target patient population and general practice eligibility

The target patient population for this project includes people who are eligible to complete the bowel cancer screening test as part of the NBCSP:

- are between the ages 45 and 74,
- have a Medicare card and entitlement type of either Australian citizen, permanent migrant or register as a Department of Veteran Affairs customer,
- have an Australian mailing address.

General practice eligibility criteria:

- Must be a general practice within the Gold Coast region.
- Commit to the trial period of September 2024 – May 2025.
- Interest in bowel cancer screening.
- At least two GPs (2 FTE) willing to participate.
- Nominated Practice Champion who is willing and able to liaise with the Clinical Trial Coordinator (CTC).
- Use of Best Practice or MedicalDirector as the Clinical Information System (CIS).
- Primary Sense (population management and clinical audit tool) installed and shares de-identified data with GCPHN. Practice cannot share a server with another practice.
- Windows 10 or higher, i5/i7 16GB processing or willing to upgrade.
- 1000 or more active patients and sees minimum of 35 adult patients per day.

3. Benefits of participating

- **Improve Patient Outcomes:** Early detection of bowel cancer can lead to successful treatment in over 90% of cases. By promoting and facilitating screening, your practice can play a crucial role in improving patient outcomes and saving lives.
- **Contribute to Research:** Your participation will contribute to a pilot clinical trial conducted by The Daffodil Centre, providing valuable insights into effective strategies for promoting bowel cancer screening.
- **Professional Development:** Enhance your team's professional growth with resources such as quality improvement toolkits and online education modules. General practice teams may also be eligible for RACGP, APNA or AAPM continuing professional development hours/points.
- **Enhance Practice Capabilities:** The project offers an opportunity to enhance your practice's capabilities in promoting bowel cancer screening and managing patient care.
- **Dedicated support:** Practices will have access to a Clinical Trial Coordinator from GCPHN with extensive QI experience in Primary Health Care to provide support to all participating practices throughout the project.

4. Project Requirements

Participating practices will be required to complete the following activities:

- Executed Practice Variation Agreement returned to GCPHN (Schedule added for this project).
- Practice questionnaires. These can be completed by one staff member on behalf of the general practice.

Your practice may be invited to take part in various activities over the trial duration, including but not limited to:

- access to a risk assessment decision support tool,
- set-up of electronic reminder prompts at point of care in CIS,
- tailored support to use the National Cancer Screening Register Healthcare Provider Portal and Alternative access to iFOBT kits,
- access to educational resources.

5. Timeline

Milestone:	Due dates:
EOI released	11 July 2024
Deadline for EOI application submission	26 Aug 2024
Deadline for EOI application submission	26 Aug 2024
Executed practice variation agreement	28 Aug 2024
Project initiation	2 Sept 2024
Consent to participate in project	2 Sept 2024
Project finalisation	30 May 2025

6. How to apply

[Please complete the EOI application here.](#)



Applications close: **5.00pm on 26th August 2024**

EOI applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received, up until the EOI closing date of 26 August 2024. GCPHN reserves the right to close the EOI earlier if a suitable number of applications are submitted.

Please direct any questions relating to this project through to Michelle Everington, Clinical Trial Coordinator (CTC) on 5612 5478 or via email michellee@gcphn.com.au.

7. About Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN)

GCPHN is an independent, not-for-profit company, one of 31 Primary Health Networks established by the Australian Government on July 1, 2015, to identify the health needs of local communities and fund and improve primary health services, to keep people well and out of hospital. We work closely with public, private and non-government

organisations in the primary healthcare sector and across the acute care sector to improve the health and well-being of the Gold Coast.

GCPHN's vision is to ***“Build on world class health system for the Gold Coast”***.

Our strategic goals include:

- **Improve coordination of care** to ensure patients receive the right care, at the right place, at the right time and by the right person.
- **Increase efficiency and effectiveness** of medical services particularly for those at risk of poor health outcomes.
- **Engaging with stakeholders to improve our health system.** Actively engage and advocate for general practice and other stakeholders to facilitate improvement in our local health systems.
- **Being an accountable organisation.** Operate as a high performing, efficient and accountable organisation.

8. Privacy Policy and Information Management

GCPHN collects personal information for the purpose of assisting its activities and functions in the primary health care sector. If your contact details are collected, they may be used to forward information and notifications from GCPHN. In some circumstances we may provide information to our funding agency (Department of Health and Aged Care) or to service providers that enter legal contracts with us which are bound by confidentiality. A link to GCPHN Privacy policy can be found [here](#).

Please find [here](#) the guiding principles that encompass the intent of the Gold Coast Primary Health Network's (GCPHN) Information Management Policy Framework (IMPF).