

Bowel cancer tests suspended

Due to the flooding in Queensland, the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) suspended sending invitations and test kits to Queenslanders in early January.

Patients whose test kits were destroyed or lost in the floods can request a replacement by calling the NBCSP Information Line - 1800 188 868.

Patients who have completed an FOBT and have not received the result can call the FOBT Hotline on 1300 738 365 to find out the result.

Test results are still being mailed to all areas.

Communications re-started on 6 February with invitations to participate in screening sent to men and women turned 50, 55 or 65 between 2008 and 2010.

The last invitations for this phase expected to be sent by 27 March.

Colonoscopy referral procedures for the Queensland program in remain unchanged.

The program will aim to provide assessment colonoscopies for participants who receive a positive FOBT and are referred to a Queensland Health designated facility within a timely manner.

For more information about the NBCSPs response to the floods visit www.cancerscreening.gov.au or phone the NBCSP Information Line 1800 188 868.

For local information regarding the Program, phone 1300 766 927.



Acknowledging community spirit

Keperra Family Practice and Skin Cancer Clinic hosted a morning tea in December to thank local community Elder, Uncle George Couchy for his staunch support of the practice's efforts to establish a weekly Indigenous health clinic. Uncle George donates his time to support health initiatives in north-west Brisbane's Indigenous communities and is a board member of the North West Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Association (NWAICA).

Photo | Uncle George Couchy (3rd from left) was joined by (from left) Dr Danielle O'Sullivan-Fox, Dr Ko Matsuda, Dr Trish Baker, Practice Manager Sue Williams, Ms Ann Donaghy from the Enoggera Respite Centre, GPpartners' Nancy Collins, Dr Anna Cheriyan, NWAICA Manager Mr Moroni Pugh and medical student Katie Artiss-Kemp at a morning tea in his honour.

CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

GPpartners has compiled a list of cultural awareness training for practice teams needing to complete an accredited course under the terms of the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive. This list, available on our website (www.gpartners.com.au → GP Support → Indigenous Health), includes two, fully subsidised **'Forming Culturally Responsive Practice'** courses GPpartners is running with Marumali Consultations. These courses are available only to practices located within the GPpartners catchment that are registered with the PIP scheme.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is set to release an online course through *gplearning* in March, which will be free to practice teams.

PATIENTS TO RE-REGISTER FOR 2011 PIP

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who registered for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive for 2010 will need to re-register for 2011. Registration with the scheme for patients is valid only for one calendar year. Patients will need to complete a new consent and registration form for 2011 regardless of when they joined last year. Registration forms must be forwarded to Medicare Australia. Future re-registrations can begin from 1 November each year.

CLOSING THE GAP GP KITS

GPpartners' Closing the Gap team has collated a kit of resources for practices interested Indigenous health. The kits contain health and wellbeing issues relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, cultural competency resources, patient identification info, and details on government initiatives including the PBS Co-payment measure and PIP.



For assistance: Nancy Collins, Closing the Gap Coordinator or your GPpartners Practice Liaison Officer, phone 07 3630 7300.