

Cancer register boosts fight against bowel and cervical cancers

The new National Cancer Register will boost the detection and timely treatment of bowel and cervical cancers, significantly reducing the number of deaths from these diseases, the Consumers Health Forum says.

“We welcome the national legislation which, by centralising information from all of the states and territories, will mean a much bigger data base to more effectively track these two lethal diseases,” the CEO of the Consumers Health Forum, Leanne Wells, said.

“These two cancers cause thousands of deaths in Australia each year, yet both respond well to treatment if the cancer is diagnosed early.

“The benefit of the national register is that being able to collect and collate cases on a national scale will over time empower efforts to combat these cancers, combined with the benefit of screening programs for national bowel and cervical cancer.

“We support the comments by the Health Minister, Sussan Ley, that the Government will back privacy protections. She has said the operator of the register, Telstra Health, will comply with a strict services agreement to operate the register in accordance with data security requirements,” Ms Wells said.

Contact: Mark Metherell, 0429 111 986

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“It is vital that the register is founded on a firm privacy and security basis given that the plan is for it to integrate with the My Health Record system, Health Department data and with the ability to be expanded to support other cancer-screening programs in the future.”

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Contact: Mark Metherell, 0429 111 986

Consumers shaping health

PO Box 73
Deakin West ACT 2603

Ph: (02) 6273 6555
Fax: (02) 6273 5888

www.chf.org.au