

MEDIA RELEASE



11 June 2008

Bowel cancer call-in to cut rearguard action

Every other day one Tasmanian man or woman dies of bowel cancer – and it is mostly unnecessary, according to the Cancer Council Tasmania.

With over 300 cases diagnosed each year, bowel cancer is one of the most common cancers among Tasmanians, killing more than 170 a year.

Now Tasmanians confronting or concerned about bowel cancer can dial an expert for personal advice in the Cancer Council Tasmania's first bowel cancer call-in.

On Thursday June 12 a panel of cancer experts will answer questions on the Cancer Council Helpline 13 11 20 between 6pm and 9pm for the price of a local call.

Cancer Council Tasmania Clinical Liaison Officer Dr Rob Brodribb says bowel cancer is largely avoidable and is highly curable if caught early enough.

"Early diagnosis means less surgery and other treatment, and more successful treatment outcomes," Dr Brodribb says.

"Unfortunately, at the moment fewer than 40 per cent of bowel cancers are detected early," he says.

"Our call-in will give people up-to-date and accurate information on bowel cancer free-of-charge in the privacy of their home."

The bowel cancer call-in team consists of a surgeon, radiation oncologist, other oncologists and specialists as well as bowel cancer survivors and Cancer Council staff.

"This confidential call-in is especially valuable for rural and regional Tasmanians who can access specialists unavailable in their local areas," Dr Brodribb says.

The Cancer Council is boosting bowel cancer support by expanding existing support groups and setting up others around Tasmania. For more information call 13 11 20 or visit www.cancertas.org.au

**For comment please call Dr Rob Brodribb on 0408 127 499
ENDS**