

Colonoscopy in Australia

Colonoscopy is a vital tool to prevent and detect bowel cancer, that should be used alongside bowel cancer screening for eligible people. Some people will need a repeat colonoscopy.

Timing for a repeat colonoscopy will depend on a person's risk and previous results. National data suggest that while some people are having repeat colonoscopies more often than necessary, others are missing out.

National data



967,604
colonoscopies
hospital admissions data
2023-24

Source: [AIHW](#)

Bowel cancer is the

4th

most common cancer in Australia



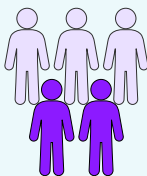
Source: [AIHW](#)

Bowel cancer prevention

Only

2 in 5 people

of those invited, participated in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program in 2022-23

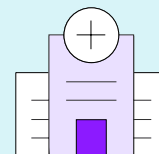


Source: [AIHW](#)

When found early

OVER 90%

of bowel cancers can be successfully treated



Source: [Cancer Council](#)

The health burden

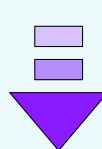
Bowel cancer cost the health system

1.7
billion
in 2022-23



Source: [AIHW](#)

Bowel cancer deaths are decreasing



35 in 2000
19 in 2024

per 100K people

Source: [AIHW](#)

Repeat colonoscopy – before 3 years *

National rate

8%

DECREASE
2013-14 to 2023-24

*MBS-subsidised repeat colonoscopy

Source: [ACSQHC](#)

Remoteness

Major cities

510 ▼ 6%

Remote areas

116 ▼ 17%
Rate per 100K people, 2023-24
% change in 10 years to 2023-24

Socioeconomic disadvantage

Least disadvantaged

609 ▲ 2%

Most disadvantaged

334 ▼ 26%
Rate per 100K people, 2023-24
% change in 10 years to 2023-24

5 steps to reduce bowel cancer risk

1 Choose prevention

Maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle

2 See your GP

If you have symptoms or are concerned

3 Get screened

Do bowel cancer screening (poo test) if you are 45 to 74 years old

4 Have a colonoscopy

If recommended by your doctor

5 Get the results

To know follow-up requirements