



## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Project ID: 51791**

**Project title: Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer Guideline Prioritisation**

**Dr Tanya Millard (Chief Investigator)**

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You are invited to take part in this study which has been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the chief researcher via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

### **What does the research involve?**

From April 2026, The Australian Living Evidence Collaboration (ALEC) and Bowel Cancer Australia will start developing new clinical practice guidelines for Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer (EOCRC).

To inform the development of these guidelines, we are inviting health care professionals, researchers, policy makers and people with lived experience of Early-Onset Bowel Cancer to complete a brief online prioritisation survey. The aim of this survey is to identify the priority topics that we should address in the clinical guidelines to best support clinicians providing care to people with EOCRC. We are especially interested the areas that have the highest uncertainty and cause the most angst for clinicians and are the most important for people with lived experience.

This prioritisation survey asks respondents to think about the diagnosis and management of Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer. Key focus areas include:

- topics that pose the largest clinical uncertainty;
- topics that are likely to have the greatest impact on patient outcomes; and
- topics where evidence is emerging or the context is changing, requiring new or different guidance.

The **online survey** takes around 5-10 minutes to complete and participation is voluntary, anonymous, and very much appreciated. Your collective responses will help us shape the order of clinical guideline topics developed over the months ahead.

### **Source of funding**

This project is funded by Bowel Cancer Australia.

## **Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

Choosing to complete the survey will be considered informed consent. As this project involves the submission of an anonymous survey, it will not be possible to withdraw data once you have submitted your responses. There are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this study.

## **Possible benefits and risks to participants**

There are no foreseeable risks of harm from participating in this research.

## **Confidentiality and data storage**

The surveys are anonymous. Only the Chief Investigator (Dr Tanya Millard) will have access to raw survey data. Any potentially identifying information provided will be de-identified / removed. Data will be kept on secure Monash computers or drives for 5 years after the project is complete and then destroyed. Qualtrics (the survey platform) may use your data to train their AI model.

## **Results**

A summary of results (including no identifying information) will be presented to the ALEC team and will be published in a peer reviewed journal and at conferences. You can request to be sent a non-identifiable report of the findings at the end of the project by emailing the CI Tanya Millard [tanya.millard@monash.edu](mailto:tanya.millard@monash.edu)

## **Complaints**

If you have a complaint concerning how this research (project number: 51791) is conducted, please contact:

Executive Officer  
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)

Office of Research Ethics and Integrity  
Room 116, Administration Building B (3D)  
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus  
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