



## **NZSG Statement on Population Screening for Bowel Cancer**

**1 November 2012**

The New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology (NZSG) acknowledges that Bowel or Colorectal Cancer (CRC) is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in New Zealand.

The NZSG supports the aims of the current work programme of the National Bowel Cancer Working Group and the Ministry of Health, that is, early diagnosis and timely quality treatment of bowel cancer for all New Zealanders.

The NZSG supports the current bowel screening pilot which offers an immunochemical faecal occult blood test every two years to all people aged 50-74 years residing in the Waitemata DHB catchment area. The pilot is scheduled to run for four years.

Randomised controlled trials have already documented that biennial screening using guaiac faecal occult blood tests results in a significant reduction in mortality from colorectal cancer and consequently the NZSG would encourage the introduction of population screening for bowel cancer as soon as it is deemed to be feasible.

The NZSG acknowledges that new screening tests for bowel cancer are emerging and their appropriateness for use in NZ should be considered in a timely manner.

*Date for review: 1 November 2014*