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MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Filling gaps in bowel cancer detection: Queensland gastroenterologist awarded prestigious national Fellowship

Providing better outcomes in bowel cancer detection is the goal of Dr David Hewett, who has just received a NICS Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and co-sponsored by the Queensland Health Clinical Practice Improvement Centre.

Dr Hewett, a gastroenterologist from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Queensland, will use the NICS-QLD Health Fellowship to undertake a two-year implementation project to improve the quality of colonoscopies.

"Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of death from cancer in Australia" explains Dr Hewett.

"Early detection is critical and a colonoscopy is the least invasive means of both examining the bowel and removing precancerous polyps but the quality of colonoscopy performance varies. Through my NICS Fellowship, based at the Queensland Health Skills Development Centre, I'll provide training to both private and public colonoscopists to address this variance and improve patient care."

NHMRC Chief Executive Officer, Professor Warwick Anderson has welcomed this opportunity: "We congratulate Dr Hewett and look forward to working with him and Queensland Health to improve bowel cancer detection."

Dr Hewett will join nine other health professionals from Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia as 2008 NICS Fellows.

Release ends.

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For more information about the other NICS Fellows and the NICS Leadership Program :
www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics

Note to editors

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research. As part of the NHMRC, the National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) works to improve health care by getting health and medical research into practice. .../2

The NICS Leadership program, which was launched in 2003, directly contributes to closing evidence-practice gaps by supporting health professionals to undertake practical projects that aim to improve health outcomes for people by getting high quality evidence into everyday clinical practice in particular health settings.

The two-year, part-time Fellowships are open to early- to mid-career health professionals across the health care spectrum, including doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, paramedics, health care managers, and policy makers.

The Fellowships provide an annual stipend as well as professional development opportunities, training programs in evidence implementation, mentorship, and opportunities to network with and learn from world-class experts who come to Australia as part of NICS' Visiting Experts program.

Applications for NICS Fellowships 2009 open at the end of May 2008.

Queensland Health

The Centre for Clinical Practice Improvement (CPIC) is part of Queensland Health's Reform and Development Division. The CPIC is dedicated to improving patient outcomes in high impact areas by supporting and working with clinicians and health service managers to better understand issues related to their clinical services and how these may be addressed.

www.health.qld.gov.au/cpic/