



Television icon Daryl Somers wants to give bowel cancer the ‘gong’.

Daryl Somers OAM is a triple award-winning Gold Logie recipient, who is best known as an Australian television personality and musician. The son of a dairy farmer and a cabaret singer, Daryl rose to national fame as the host of the long-running comedy-variety television program *Hey Hey It's Saturday*.

Daryl is an Ambassador for Let's Beat Bowel Cancer and is committed to promoting the message that screening for bowel cancer does save lives. Recently, we asked him a few questions about why the Let's Beat Bowel Cancer message is so important to him...

Q. What made you decide to become a Let's Beat Bowel Cancer Ambassador?

A. There was a bit of a history of bowel cancer in the family, plus I have a great admiration for the Patron and Founder of Let's Beat Bowel Cancer, Professor Adrian Polglase, and his passion to create awareness of the cause.

Q. What have you learned about bowel cancer as a result of taking on this role?

A. As cancers go, it is the second biggest cancer-killer of Australians after lung cancer, yet if detected early 90% of cases can be cured. Also, that screening every 1 to 2 years can reduce the chance of dying from bowel cancer by up to 33%.

Q. Screening for bowel cancer is especially important for people who have a family history of bowel cancer. Which type of bowel screening test do you use?

A. Because there is known bowel cancer in my family, my doctor recommends that I have a screening test called a colonoscopy every couple of years, which I do. I encourage anyone who has a family history like me to speak to their doctor about the right bowel screening test for them and to make sure they get screened.

Q. What do you hope to achieve by being an Ambassador for Let's Beat Bowel Cancer Ambassador?

A: To make people aware of how common bowel cancer is in Australia (1 in 12 people affected by age 85) and how easily this disease can be prevented by getting screened regularly.