

RHY welcomes Australian Government's \$10m for National Bowel Cancer Screening Education

- \$10 million investment by the Australian Government **for** advertising and mass media in 2019 to raise awareness and boost participation in the life saving National Bowel Cancer Screening Program
- RHY is developing a **CSIRO technology to be a** simple, **low cost** and effective blood test for the early detection of bowel cancer

23 January 2019, Melbourne: Medical diagnostics pioneer Rhythm Biosciences Limited (ASX:RHY) welcomes the Australian government's announcement by Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, to invest \$10 million on an education campaign for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

Australia has the second highest incidence of bowel cancer in the world. Bowel cancer often has no early symptoms, which makes early detection and treatment important to improve survival and relieve the burdens on families and the community. Globally bowel cancer kills over 850,000 people per year.

Commenting on the Minister's announcement, Rhythm Bioscience's CEO, Glenn Gilbert, said "it is imperative that we increase participation in screening as around 90 per cent of bowel cancers can be cured if detected early. However, in Australia only 40 per cent of eligible people undertake screening. Boosting participation is also our focus here at Rhythm so we are encouraged to hear Minister Hunt's commitment to improve awareness and participation."

Rhythm Biosciences is developing a simple, low cost blood test for the early detection of bowel cancer for the global mass market. The test has the capability to be the new standard in the screening, surveillance and diagnosis of bowel cancer globally. The company expects to commence its pivotal clinical trial (Study 7) in 2019 with the first patients to be enrolled in the coming months.

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About Rhythm Biosciences

ASX-listed Rhythm Biosciences is developing and commercialising a screening and diagnostic tool for the early detection of colorectal cancer, the third biggest cause of cancer-related deaths globally.

Rhythm's lead product, ColoSTAT[®], is intended to be a simple, affordable, minimally invasive and effective blood test. It is expected to be comparable to, if not better than the current standard of care, the faecal immunochemical test (FIT), at a lower cost. ColoSTAT[®] also provides an alternative for those who choose not to or are unable to be assessed using standard screening programs.

ColoSTAT[®] is designed to be used easily by laboratories without the need for additional operator training or additional infrastructure.

ColoSTAT[®] has the potential to play an important role in reducing the morbidity and mortality rates and healthcare costs associated with colorectal cancer. Over 850,000 people die from colorectal cancer each year.