## Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 19 September 2013

## \$150K boost to workplace bowel screening to save more lives

A unique workplace screening program which aims to save lives through the early detection of bowel cancer will be available to more organisations across the country thanks to a new \$150,000 sponsorship announced today.

The three-year partnership will see Beach Energy support The Jodi Lee Foundation's Corporate Bowel Screening Program, which will allow the Program to extend to more businesses nationally, including regional areas.

Screening more people through the Program will help to reduce the number of deaths from bowel cancer each year, currently almost 5,000, while raising awareness of the second largest cancer killer in Australia.

The success of The Jodi Lee Foundation's Corporate Bowel Screening Program has seen more than 700 people take the simple, at-home bowel screening test, with just over 10 per cent of participants receiving a positive test result.

The Jodi Lee Foundation's Founder and CEO, Nick Lee said the sponsorship deal would go a long way in helping the Foundation reach people far and wide and raise awareness of the need to screen for bowel cancer.

"The Jodi Lee Foundation aims to distribute 3,500 screening tests in the next twelve months through its Corporate Bowel Screening Program, thanks to Beach Energy's sponsorship," he said.

"We've seen many success stories come from bowel screening tests, including Beach Energy employee Tom Hedditch, who received a positive result, despite only being 28 years old and extremely fit and healthy.

"As a result, Tom had a colonoscopy which found up to 100 polyps in his lower bowel that were likely to develop into bowel cancer within a few years. An operation to remove some of his lower bowel saved his life," he said.

Beach Energy was inspired by Tom's story and adopted the Program as part of its employee wellbeing initiatives in 2012 and again in 2013. As a result of the Program, eight positive results were detected, which would have required follow up colonoscopy investigation and could have possibly prevented the onset of bowel cancer.

Beach Energy's Managing Director, Reg Nelson, said that looking after employees has always been a priority for Beach.

"Providing screening for our staff is quick and easy to do and can help identify bowel cancer sooner rather than later if lifesaving treatment is required.

"Beach extended its support of The Jodi Lee Foundation to raise awareness and encourage more companies and work places to support their staff taking the test.

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"The screening tests take just a few minutes and are the best hope we have of lowering the incidence of this cancer within the community," Mr Nelson said.

In additional to Beach Energy another 28 organisations have also participated in the Foundation's Corporate Bowel Screening Program across the country, including Macquarie Bank, Westpac, Coates Hire, KPMG, Kennett Builders and Caterpillar.

For more information about the Corporate Bowel Screening Program, go to www.jodileefoundation.org.au/content/corporate-bowel-screening-program.

## ABOUT THE JODI LEE FOUNDATION

The Jodi Lee Foundation was established in 2010 after Nick Lee lost his wife Jodi to bowel cancer at age 41. The Foundation's mission is to significantly reduce the prevalence of bowel cancer in Australian by promoting awareness about bowel cancer and encouraging regular and appropriate screening by all people from age 40. Money raised by The Jodi Lee Foundation is used to develop community awareness about bowel cancer and the importance of regular screening; run their Corporate Bowel Screening Program to encourage the screening of employees; promote Know Your Risk, an online questionnaire to help people self-assess their risk of developing bowel cancer based on family history; and fund research to improve the early detection of bowel cancer.

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