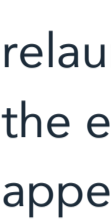


# Never Too Young

In remembrance of young lives lost to bowel cancer

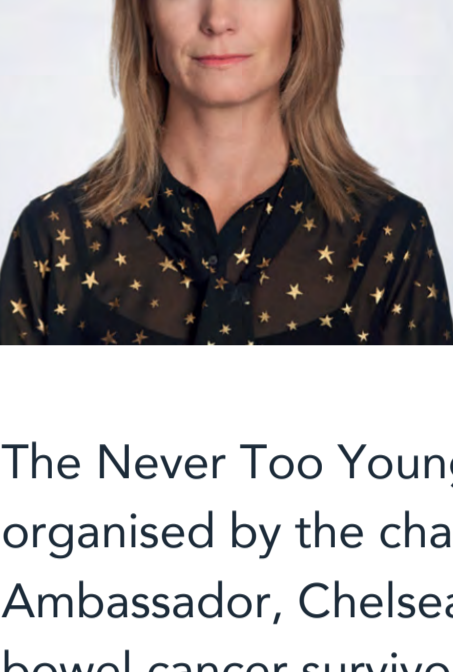


**Bowel Cancer**

NEW ZEALAND

## Never Too Young runs in remembrance of young lives lost to bowel cancer

The **Never Too Young** campaign has relaunched for 2020, in memory of four of the eleven brave young people who appeared in Bowel Cancer NZ's 2018 campaign and who have sadly since passed away. They wanted to continue to raise awareness of this disease, so that other young New Zealanders have a chance to beat bowel cancer.

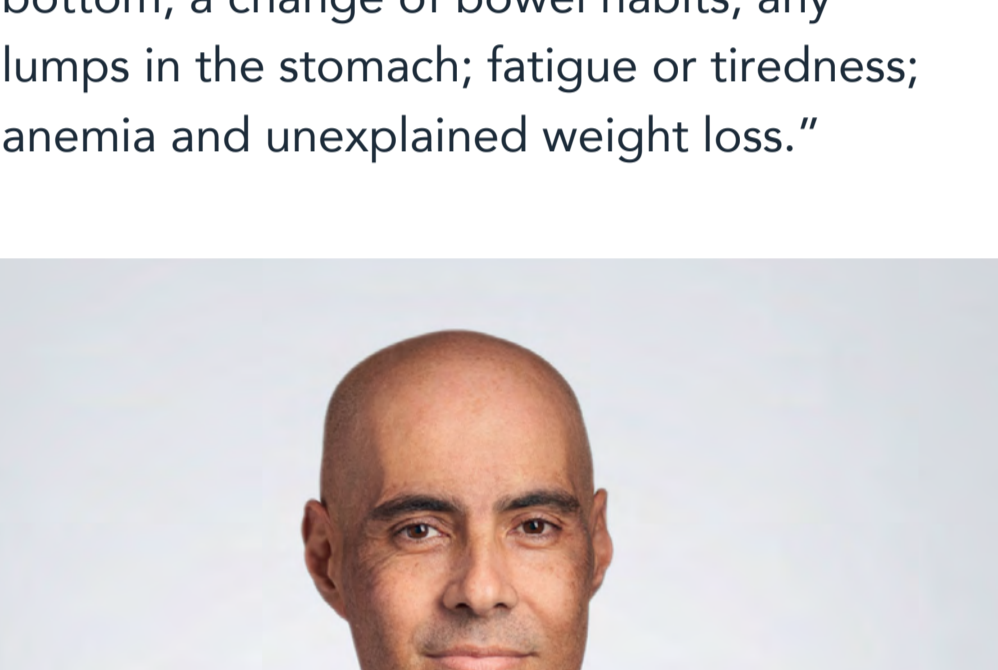


The Never Too Young campaign has been organised by the charity's Community Ambassador, Chelsea Halliwell. Chelsea, a bowel cancer survivor, came up with the idea after she noticed an increasing number of young people joining Bowel Cancer NZ's patient support group.

### Every year, more than 350 people under 50 are diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Bowel Cancer NZ's general manager Rebekah Heal says, "We hope the Never Too Young campaign continues to drive home how important it is for everyone, of any age to know the symptoms of bowel cancer. These include bleeding from the bottom; a change of bowel habits; any lumps in the stomach; fatigue or tiredness; anemia and unexplained weight loss."

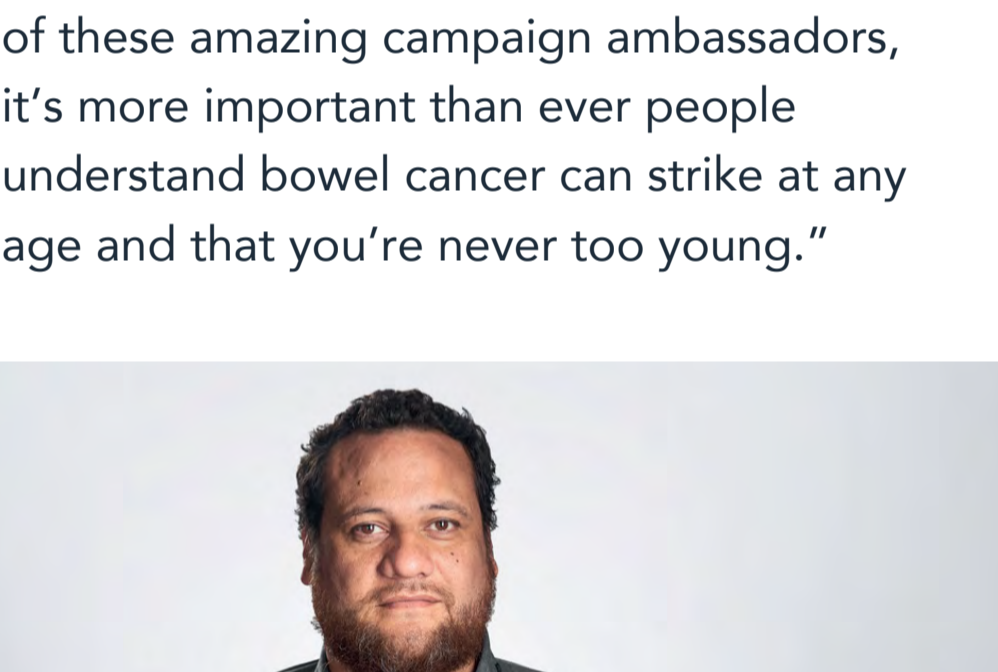
"Our charity has been calling for people to not sit on their symptoms for years. However, with the rising incidence of bowel cancer in young people and the loss of these amazing campaign ambassadors, it's more important than ever people understand bowel cancer can strike at any age and that you're never too young."



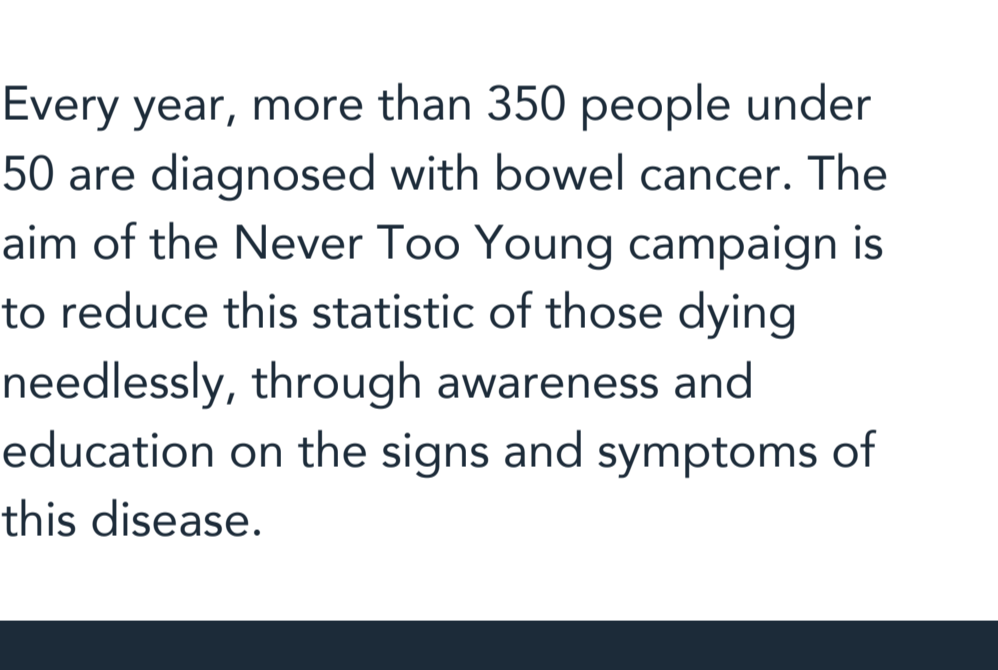
Every year, more than 350 people under 50 are diagnosed with bowel cancer. The aim of the Never Too Young campaign is to reduce this statistic of those dying needlessly, through awareness and education on the signs and symptoms of this disease.

### Those who have a family history of bowel cancer or want to do regular checks, can talk to their GP.

Bowel Cancer NZ Community Ambassador Chelsea Halliwell says, "If you have symptoms, taking action quickly is so important – it's because of this that I'm here today. I'm so fortunate I didn't delay in going to my GP because within a week of doing so, I had a stage three bowel cancer diagnosis, and my surgeon told me another six months would have made a real difference to my chances of survival.



"Unfortunately, the story was very different for Anaru, Britt, Solon and Fiona, who joined us in the 2018 campaign. For all of them, diagnosis came too late for life-saving treatment, which makes this message all the more important," she says.



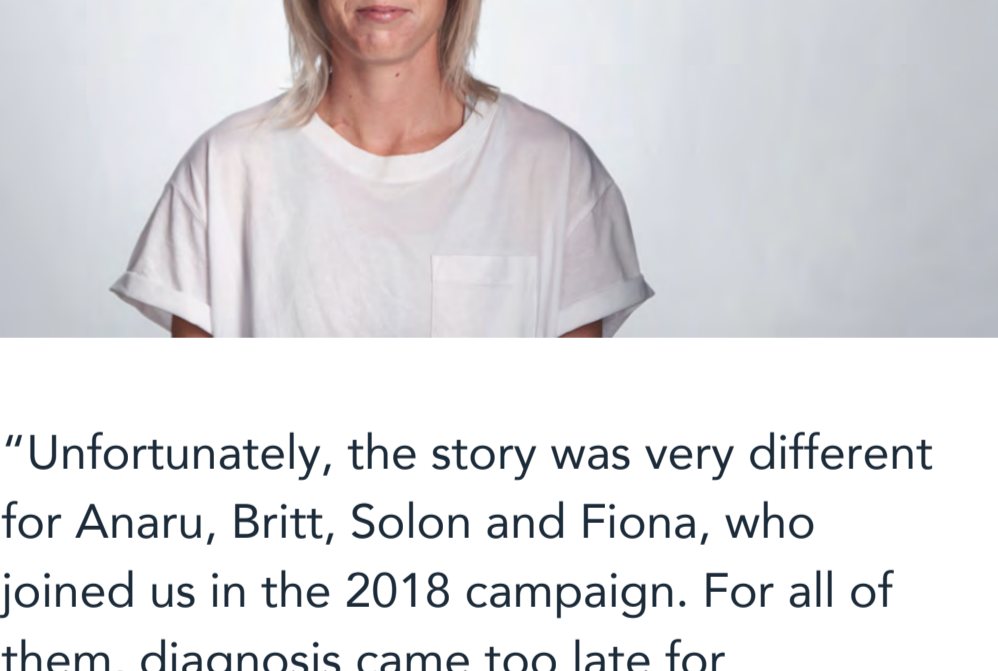
Bowel Cancer NZ encourages open discussion about bowel cancer with medical professionals and avoiding 'sitting on your symptoms'.

#### Symptoms include:

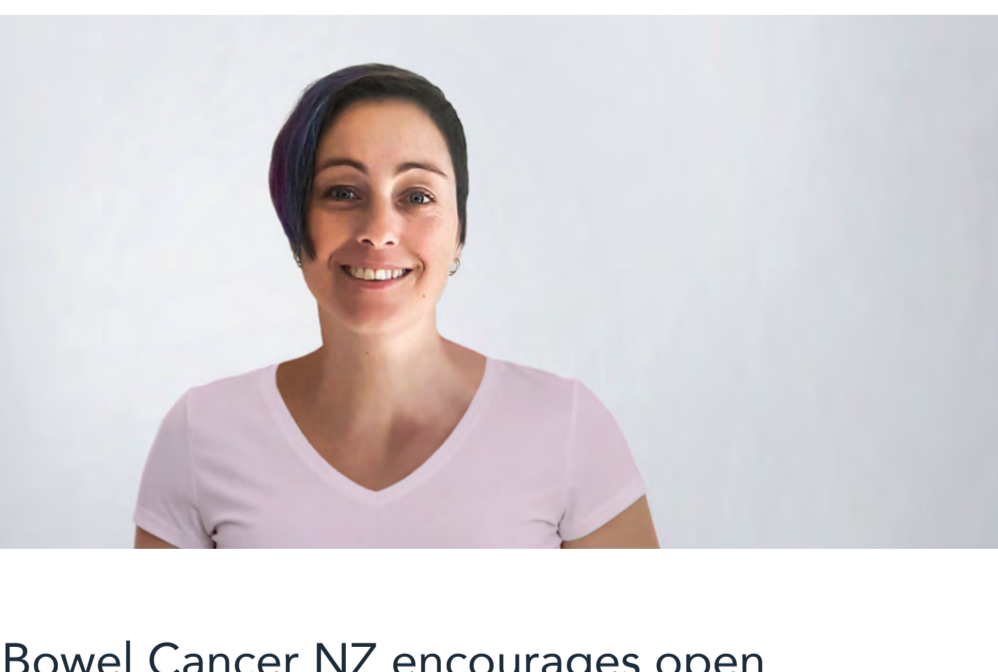
- Bleeding from the bottom or seeing blood in the toilet after a bowel motion;
- Change of bowel motions over several weeks without returning to normal;
- Persistent or periodic severe pain in the abdomen;
- A lump or mass in the abdomen;
- Tiredness and loss of weight for no particular reason;
- Anaemia.

Those who have a family history of bowel cancer or want to do regular checks, can talk to their GP. However, if you have symptoms, we advise seeing your GP immediately.

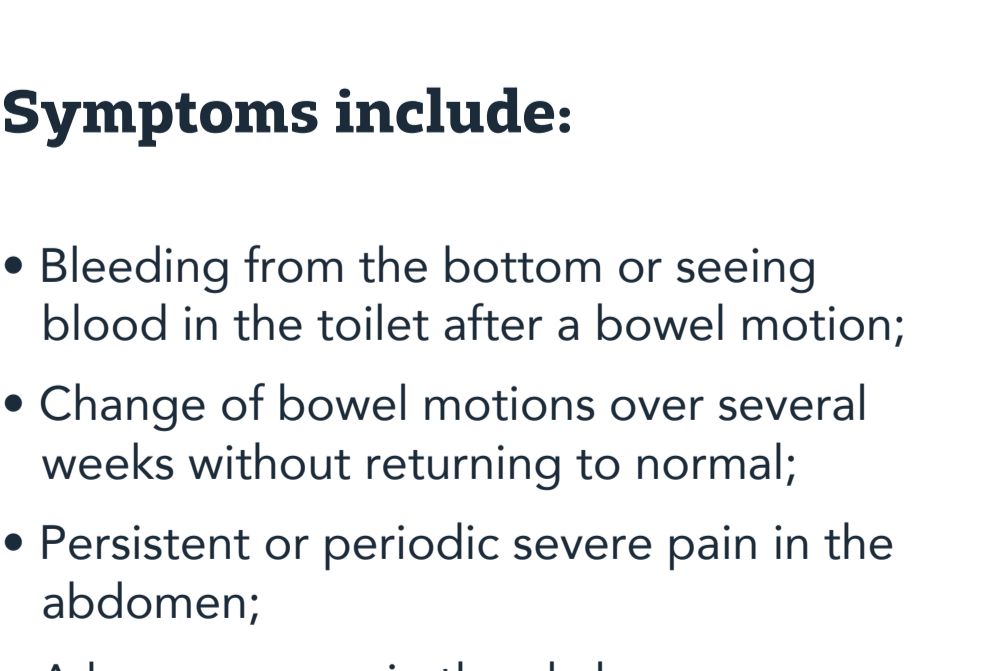
More information on bowel cancer and Bowel Cancer NZ can be found at [bowelcancernz.org.nz](http://bowelcancernz.org.nz)



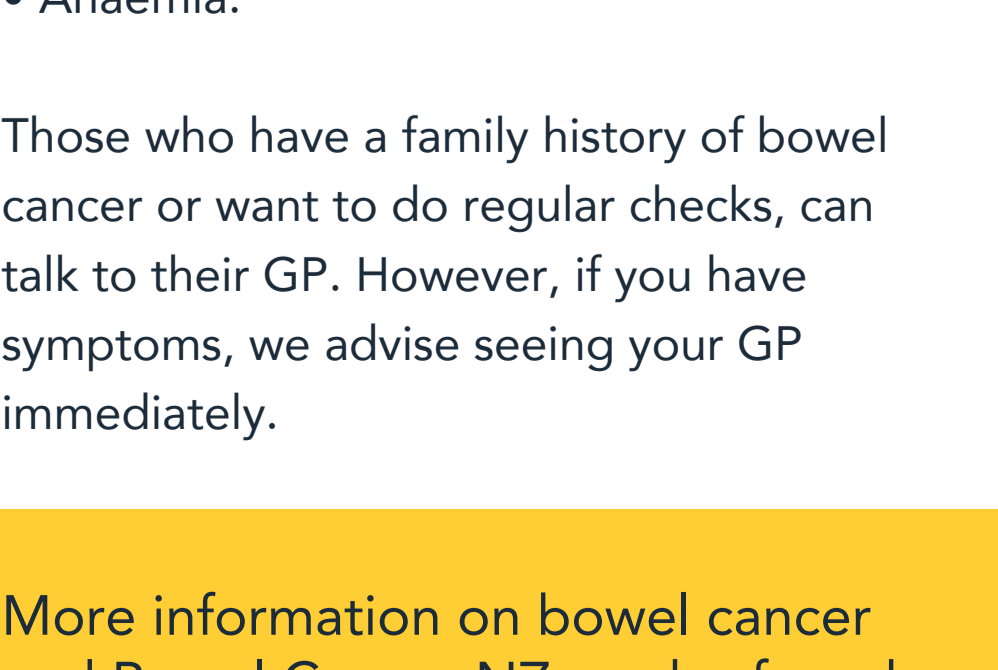
More information on bowel cancer and Bowel Cancer NZ can be found at [bowelcancernz.org.nz](http://bowelcancernz.org.nz)



More information on bowel cancer and Bowel Cancer NZ can be found at [bowelcancernz.org.nz](http://bowelcancernz.org.nz)



More information on bowel cancer and Bowel Cancer NZ can be found at [bowelcancernz.org.nz](http://bowelcancernz.org.nz)



More information on bowel cancer and Bowel Cancer NZ can be found at [bowelcancernz.org.nz](http://bowelcancernz.org.nz)

