



Media Release

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Manly Warringah Sea Eagles kicking goals for bowel cancer

Before an expected crowd of more than 18,000, the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, 3rd on the NRL Premiership Ladder, will kick off Bowel Cancer Awareness Week for 2008.

The Sea Eagles have teamed up with Bowel Cancer Australia in the fight against Australia's second biggest cancer killer. Only lung cancer kills more people.

The Delmege and Penn families, co-owners of the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, have generously given up their naming rights and rear jersey sponsorship for the match, so that the Institute can promote the Week.

Manly captain, Matt Orford said 'the Sea Eagles players are fully supportive of the bowel cancer awareness match against the Roosters.'

'Our dads, who will be special guests of the players on Sunday, are all in the age group where they need to be checked for bowel cancer and we are urging them all to do so in the next month.'

'If we can influence men and women to make the effort and ensure an early diagnosis on any bowel related problems, then it will be a worthwhile initiative,' Matt said.

'Our sporting heroes can make a difference in helping to raise awareness of a disease which kills 80 Australians every week,' Dr Cameron Bell, Royal North Shore Hospital Gastroenterologist, said.

'The risk of bowel cancer is very real, with 1 in 12 Australians developing the disease by age 85.'

The risk is even greater if a close relative has been diagnosed with bowel cancer,' he added.

'Early detection can save lives but embarrassment can kill. With the help of the Sea Eagles, we want to encourage more people to talk to their doctor about their bowel cancer risk,' Dr Bell said.

Bowel cancer is one of the most curable cancers if detected and treated early. Research shows that 9 out of 10 bowel cancers detected early are successfully treated.

Mr Max Delmege, naming rights sponsor and co-owner of the Club, said having players promote the Week on their jerseys before a huge stadium and TV audience was a great way to show the Club's support for Bowel Cancer Australia and to promote their message to the wider public.

'Forgoing jersey sponsorship for this match demonstrates the Club's commitment to raising awareness of the disease. In fact, several Sea Eagles Old Boys are bowel cancer survivors.'

'The Sea Eagles have a long and proud history of service to the community and charitable causes,' Mr Delmege said.

Now in its 9th year, Bowel Cancer Awareness Week is a national initiative of Bowel Cancer Australia. For further information visit www.bowelcanceraustralia.org

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Mr Max Delmege, Mr Richard Penn, Mr Matt Orford and Dr Cameron Bell are available for interview.