

Media statement

10 April 2019

Put your health first and schedule a BreastScreen

The BreastScreen mobile service is returning to Maleny Soliders' Memorial Hospital from April 24 to May 17, and local women are encouraged to take advantage of the service and book in for a two-yearly breast screen.

Health Promotion Officer, Jenny O'Dwyer said, "Eligible women aged 50-74 years are encouraged to prioritise their health and book their free breast screen. The service is also provided free to women aged 40 years and over."

"We are proud to offer a sensitive and caring service that is fast, free, friendly and female and protects and supports the health of women," Ms O'Dwyer said.

A breast screen takes less than thirty minutes and women do not need a doctor's referral.

Early morning appointments starting at 7.00am have been scheduled to accommodate busy, working women.

"Even with a great amount of publicity about breast cancer, there are still a lot of women who do not make breast screening a regular part of their health regime. Many women believe that they're not at risk of developing breast cancer, because none of their relatives have been diagnosed with it," Ms O'Dwyer said.

"Nine out of every 10 women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease. Women with a family history of breast cancer are more at risk, although most women diagnosed have no family history of the disease at all."

"It's not just women who receive a letter from BreastScreen Queensland who can participate in free screening. Any woman over 50 who'd like to be screened, can simply call 13 20 50 to book, or they can book online at breastscreen.qld.gov.au," she said.

THE FACTS:

- 75% of women diagnosed with breast cancer are over 50. Younger women do get breast cancer, but the risk of breast cancer increases dramatically after the age of 50.
- 9 out of 10 women diagnosed with breast cancer have NO family history of the disease. While women with a family history of breast cancer are more at risk, most women diagnosed have no family history of the disease at all.
- Breast screening every two years is the best way to detect breast cancer early, well before you or your doctor can feel anything.
- Women aged 40 years and over are eligible for a free breast screen every two years at a BreastScreen Queensland Service.
- Women aged 50-74 years are particularly encouraged to attend.

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

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Appointments are available from 7.00am and no referral is needed. Phone 13 20 50 for an appointment or for more information. Early detection could save your life.

ENDS

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