



BreastScreen Queensland delivers in year of challenge

08 November 2013

Please attribute the following to Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young:

Transferring responsibility for BreastScreen Queensland's (BSQ) mobile services and digital equipment to Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) did not affect the continuing upward trend in breast screens performed across Queensland each year.

Eleven of Queensland's HHSs gained responsibility for these services during 2012-13 and performed an additional 4,258 breast screens compared to 2011-12.

While operational responsibilities transferred to HHSs, the Department of Health retained oversight of quality monitoring and reporting, clinical guidelines and policy.

Minister for Health Lawrence Springborg said Queensland Health also made other major improvements last year to the way breast screens are delivered across the State.

"We expanded our age eligibility from 50 to 69 years to 50 to 74 years to give more Queensland women the opportunity to access breast screening through BSQ. Women in their 40s and over the age of 75 can also access this service," Mr Springborg said.

"We also successfully rolled out digital mammography technology across all BSQ services to enable us to continue to provide Queensland women with free, world-class breast screening services in over 200 locations.

"The number of fixed and mobile screening facilities was also increased to meet population growth in Queensland.

"These facilities have ensured that Queensland is well prepared to support the additional women who will have access to breast screening.

"BSQ services now cover our vast State using a network of 11 screening and assessment services, 23 satellite centres and nine mobile vans including a four-wheel drive for remote communities."

Nine out of ten women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease which is why the majority of women over 50 need to have regular breast screens.

BreastScreen Queensland provides free breast cancer screening to women aged 50 to 74.

Women in their 40s and over the age of 75 can also access screening.

Women can book for their breast screen by calling 13 20 50.

ENDS

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