

Media statement

25 June 2019

Prioritise your health ladies, schedule a breast screen

Busy women who have let their health take a back seat this year are being encouraged to think pink, and book in for a free breast screen.

BreastScreen Sunshine Coast Health Promotion Officer Kelly Hart said: “Woman can often get in the habit of putting themselves and their health last, but life shouldn’t get in the way of our health. For the sake of ourselves and our families, it’s important to buck the busy life trend and prioritise looking after ourselves.”

“Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women, so regular breast screens are crucial to detect breast cancer as early as possible. A mammogram with BreastScreen Queensland can identify breast cancer in its early stages, well before a woman or her GP can feel a symptom.

“Women aged 50-74 years who have not had a breast screen in the last two years are particularly encouraged to book an appointment. Younger women aged over 40 are also eligible to attend,” Ms Hart said.

“Making a potentially life-saving breast screening appointment is simple, just pick up the phone and call 13 20 50 or book online at breastscreen.qld.gov.au.”

The Breast Screen service based in Maroochydore on Duporth Avenue has a range of appointments available, including early morning appointments starting at 7:15am every Tuesday and Thursday.

“Even with a great amount of publicity about breast cancer, there is still a lot of women who overlook breast screening,” Ms Hart said.

“Many women believe that they’re not at risk of developing breast cancer, because none of their relatives have been diagnosed with it. However, nine out of every 10 women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease.”

Breast Screening is fast, free, friendly and female and no referral is required.

Take advantage of this free service and book your appointment now.

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.

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- 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.

Appointments are available now and no referral is needed. Phone 13 20 50 for an appointment or for more information.

ENDS

Media contact: Kelly Hart / Jenny O'Dwyer | direct: 5470 5041 | reception: 5470 5055

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