

MEDIA RELEASE

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One-stop-shop for women's health

Women attending BreastScreen Queensland's Toowoomba Service can book in to have a pap smear during the same visit.

Jessica Hobbs, Health Promotion Officer for BreastScreen Queensland's Toowoomba Service said a women's health nurse from Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) would be on hand every Friday to provide free pap smear tests.

"This is a great opportunity to have two very important checks done on the one day," Ms Hobbs said.

"In 2015 more than 15,000 Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and around 850 with cervical cancer.

"We know that early detection of women's cancers provides the best chance of survival and quality of life, so if you haven't been keeping up-to-date with these important checks, now's the time to do so.

"This one-stop-shop approach will allow us to help more local women to make their health a priority. It's as easy as calling 13 20 50 for an appointment."

Ms Hobbs said women aged 40 and over should have a free breast screen every two years, and women aged 18 and over should have a pap smear every two years.

"Regular checks are vital because 90 per cent of women who develop breast cancer have no family history of the disease, with similar figures for those who develop cervical cancer," she said.

"Even if women have had the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine they should continue to have regular pap smears."

Ms Hobbs said women who were due for a breast screen but unable to make it to the BreastScreen clinic at Toowoomba Hospital could access the state-of-the-art mobile service.

"Our mobile service has been extremely popular in and around Toowoomba in recent times, so call 13 20 50 to make an appointment," she said.

Additional information:

- DDHHS Mobile Women's Health Nurses conduct regular free women's health clinics at locations throughout the Darling Downs and other locations. For more information phone 4616 6809

- The BreastScreen Mobile Digital Service will be at a variety of locations around Toowoomba over the coming months including: Oakey Hospital 13 – 24 July; Gatton Hospital 27 July – 26 August

More details on cancer screening are available at visit; <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/cancer-screening/>

Ends

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