

Media statement

24 October 2019

Free breast screens available in Cooroy this October and November

Local women are encouraged to book a potentially life-saving appointment while the BreastScreen mobile service is in Opal Street, Cooroy from October 21 to November 7.

Queensland women have around a one in seven chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. It remains the most common cancer affecting women in the state and the second most common cause of cancer deaths.

“A breast screen is the most effective method of detecting breast cancer at a very early stage even before a lump can be seen or felt,” said Dr Alison Roper, Clinical Director of BreastScreen Queensland Sunshine Coast.

“This is important because finding breast cancer at an early stage gives a woman the best chance possible for successful treatment and wellbeing.”

When the BreastScreen mobile service was in Cooroy in 2017 over 400 women had a free breast screen. Many of these local women will already have received their reminder letter to invite them to return for their bi-annual screen.

“However, it is not just women who receive a letter from BreastScreen Queensland that can take part in the free Service” said Ms Roper.

“Although women aged 50 - 74 are strongly encouraged to have a two-yearly breast screen the service is free to women 40 years and over and doctors’ referrals are not required.”

Appointments are one-on-one with specially trained female health professionals and the breast screen images are read independently by two doctors.

To make an appointment at the Mobile Service at Cooroy or any of the permanent screening Services on the Sunshine Coast phone 13 20 50 or book online at breastscreen.qld.gov.au

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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 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.