

Media statement

8 May 2020

Free Breast Cancer Screening resumes on Sunshine Coast

BreastScreen Queensland Sunshine Coast Service (BSQSC) will resume routine breast screening in May following the temporary suspension of service due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Clinical Director of BSQSC, Dr Alison Roper said BreastScreen Queensland was an important early detection service for women, which reduced illness and death from breast cancer.

“The wellbeing of women and our staff is always our top priority. BreastScreen Queensland is implementing a range of strategies to minimise and address risk from COVID-19 for women who attend for breast screening and also our staff, she said.

“Following infection control and public health advice, social distancing will be maintained in waiting areas and additional cleaning of facilities and equipment has been implemented. Women who had an appointment cancelled will be contacted to make a new appointment.

“We understand that some women may have concerns about attending screening at this time. If this is you, please talk to your own doctor about whether breast screening at this time is right for you, based on your individual circumstances.” Dr Roper said.

BreastScreen Queensland has clinics in Gympie, Noosa, Nambour, Maroochydore, Caloundra and Caboolture. The mobile breast screening service will return to Tin Can Bay at the end of May, followed by Maleny and Kilcoy in June and Bribie Island in July.

“While our service was suspended, some of our staff were redeployed to other areas of the health service. They are now keen to get back to providing a world-class breast cancer screening service for women on the Sunshine Coast,” Dr Roper said.

Women aged 50 – 74 can book a free breast screen by phoning 13 20 50

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.
- A breast screen every two years is the best way to detect breast cancer early, well before you or your doctor can feel anything.

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Media statement

- Women aged 40 years and over are eligible for a free breastscan 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. Early detection could save your life.

ENDS

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