

### Media statement

8 January 2018

#### Tick Off Your First Health Check for the Year

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's BreastScreen Queensland mobile service is back in Beerwah this January.

The mobile service will be available to the public from 16 to 24 January 2018 and local women are encouraged to organise their first health check for 2018 while the service is in the local area.

Health Promotion Officer Kelly Hart said the service had appointments available now, with some days starting at 7:30am.

"We understand it can be difficult for busy women to find time to attend appointments between nine and five so we try to offer a variety of appointment times" Ms Hart said.

"One in eight Queensland women will develop breast cancer at some stage in their life. As there is currently no means of preventing breast cancer, the focus in reducing deaths from this disease has been on finding breast cancer as early as possible."

"The holiday season can be a busy time for women and they may not have had time to attend to reminders for their bi-annual breast screen," Ms Hart said.

"It's not just women who receive a letter from BreastScreen Queensland who can participate in this free screening program, women aged 50 to 74 years who haven't received a letter but who would like to make an appointment with our Service can just call 13 20 50. There are no referrals required," Ms Hart said.

Women aged 40 to 49 and over 74 are also eligible to have a free breast screen with BreastScreen Queensland.

BreastScreen Queensland also now offers online appointments. The online service allows women to pre-book an appointment, making it easier for women to fit the appointment into their schedule.

The BreastScreen Queensland Mobile Service is located at the Beerwah Community Centre, Peachester Road, Beerwah. Screening is also available at Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochydore and Nambour all year round.

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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 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.**
- 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 a referral is not required.

Phone 13 20 50 or go online at [www.breastscreen.qld.gov.au](http://www.breastscreen.qld.gov.au) for an appointment or for more information.

Early detection could save your life.

#### ENDS

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