Building Connections
Building Connections

Our efforts now to build connections, both human and technological, will ensure that BreastScreen Victoria continues to save lives well into the future.
Mission, Vision, Values

OUR MISSION
- Through the early detection of breast cancer, we work to reduce morbidity and mortality due to this disease in the Victorian community.
- We are a not-for-profit, government-funded program providing mammographic screening and assessment through to a diagnosis of breast cancer to women for whom the evidence of benefit is strongest.
- We strive for excellence in the provision of information and support to women, in multidisciplinary care and clinical practice.
- Through program review and the analysis of data, we demonstrate our achievements and identify ways to improve. We make a significant contribution to knowledge about cancer and its diagnosis and management.
- Collaboration underpins everything we do. We build alliances throughout the health and community sectors to create a better health system.
- We respect women’s dignity and diversity and actively seek their input to make our services acceptable.
- We provide services that are accessible to women wherever they live, whatever their background, women with special needs and those disadvantaged within our society.
- We advocate for better treatment services and facilitate a pathway to care for women diagnosed with breast cancer.

OUR VISION
By 2011:
- We will reduce the number of women who die from breast cancer in the Victorian community.
- Our leadership and achievements in cancer screening and health service improvement will be inspiring.
- We will be seen as an essential component of cancer care in Australia.
- We will be distinguished by the high esteem in which we are held by the women of Victoria.

OUR VALUES
- Listen to women and respect their needs.
- Be passionate about excellence.
- Work together as a team.
- Respect each other’s differences and ideas.
- Be proud of our achievements.
- Be forthright and informed.

OUR SYMBOL
Our circle of women is symbolic of Victorian women coming together in unity; holding hands, offering support, encouragement and friendship. The women, who link hands to form our logo, each represent the things that women value and the things they will experience at BreastScreen Victoria:

- Purple woman – reassurance
- Green woman – caring
- Pink woman – healthy
- Blue woman – affirming
- Orange woman – respect

Mission, Vision, Values
Accessible, free breast screening continues to receive strong support in the political domain and the wider community – and for good reason. Evidence to support the efficacy of this public health initiative continues to grow. There is no doubt that the early detection of breast cancer through screening saves lives. The recently published national evaluation of BreastScreen Australia concludes that the Program is effective in reducing mortality from breast cancer in the target population – and is also cost effective. BreastScreen Victoria and our partners are proud to have delivered this important service to Victorian women for another year.

Our strategic goals for 2008–2009 were to strengthen relationships and secure our funding base into the future. Independent reviews of our service delivery model and overall governance structures have led to stronger management and governance practices throughout the organisation and a keener understanding of the costs and critical influences on BreastScreen Victoria operations. This understanding has in turn advised strategic discussions with the Department of Health (DoH) about the future directions for breast screening in Victoria – how we are to come together to meet the challenges of the future. Independent reviews of our operations. This understanding has in turn advised strategic discussions with the Department of Health (DoH) about the future directions for breast screening in Victoria – how we are to come together to meet the challenges of the future.

10 per cent more women, including women who have not traditionally participated in the Program. The Board was pleased to welcome Sarah Vexey and Pam Williams as the Board representatives of the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC). As Co-Chairs of the CAC, their combined experience in the public health sector has brought an important new perspective to this role. The CAC continues to be an integral conduit between our consumers – the women of Victoria – and those who deliver the Program. Over the coming year the Board looks forward to the learnings provided by the CAC’s new work plan.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their work during the year. Generous and expert contributions from each member have been crucial during a year of change and growth. Their support was invaluable when family illness lead to Sandy Anderson’s resignation as Chair of the Board in December 2008. Sandy and I owe them a great deal and on behalf of Sandy, I would like to express our gratitude; with particular thanks to Dallas English for taking over the role of Chair of the State Accreditation Committee for the period during which I was Acting Chair of the Board. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Andi Diamond and Glenda Banks who completed their terms of service to the Board this year.

Ms Dorothy Reading Acting Chair, BreastScreen Victoria (from Jan 09)

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The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the budget announcement by the Victorian Government that $10 million would be available over the coming years to deploy digital technology across the state. This allows us to test the potential for digital technology to address issues of clinical workforce shortage, increased screening efficiency and improved timeliness which, in turn, will positively affect the experience of Victorian women.

BreastScreen Victoria has had a year of consolidation and development under the leadership of Vicki Pridmore in her first full year as the Chief Executive Officer. Vicki oversaw the Service Delivery Model Review, with the aim of identifying a viable financial model for the next decade of breast cancer screening. Vicki has been supported by a dynamic Senior Management Team which, under her direction, has continued to strengthen the capacity of the Program.

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Chair’s Report

Chief Executive Officer’s Report

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Breast cancer is a common and serious disease. The good news is that survival rates are improving due to earlier detection through the BreastScreen program, more public education about breast cancer awareness and advances in treatment.

**THE NATIONAL PROGRAM**

At the Australian Health Ministers’ Conference in 1990, health ministers from all states and territories joined the federal minister in endorsing the establishment of a national screening program for the early detection of breast cancer. The program—now known as BreastScreen Australia—sought to reduce deaths from breast cancer by using an organised, systematic and evidence-based screening model. BreastScreen Australia invites women aged 50-69 years who do not have any breast cancer signs or symptoms to have a free screening mammogram every two years and is now recognised as one of the most comprehensive population-based screening models in the world.

**BREASTSCREEN VICTORIA**

Jointly funded by the Victorian State Government and the Commonwealth Government, BreastScreen Victoria is an accredited part of BreastScreen Australia. BreastScreen Victoria began in 1992 with the establishment of a coordination unit in Carlton to oversee a pilot project which conducted 9,071 screening mammograms. The Program now encompasses a statewide network of eight screening and assessment centres, 35 fixed screening centres and 28 mobile screening locations, conducting more than 189,000 screening mammograms annually.

BreastScreen Victoria is made up of two components: the BreastScreen Victoria Coordination Unit and the Screening and Assessment Services. The BreastScreen Victoria Coordination Unit is an independently incorporated association which administers funding for the Screening and Assessments Services, manages the centralised appointment registry, coordinates the Mobile Screening Service, manages client screening and assessment data, develops and reviews Program policy, monitors service provision, coordinates special projects and supports state-wide recruitment. Screening and Assessment Services provide all clinical services from the initial screening mammogram to any further procedures required to the point of diagnosis. BreastScreen Victoria is proud to have developed strong relationships with both the public and private health service providers who manage the daily operation of the Screening and Assessment Services.

Although a doctor’s referral is not required for women to attend BreastScreen Victoria, the Program works closely with general practitioners. General practitioners are instrumental in encouraging initial participation and return-to-screening attendance and in the event of a breast cancer diagnosis, women are referred back to their general practitioner for care and management.

**CARING ABOUT WOMEN**

The many people who support and contribute to the BreastScreen Victoria Program share a commitment to the ongoing provision of quality screening and assessment services that the women of Victoria have come to expect. BreastScreen Victoria’s clinical staff are highly skilled and experienced in the detection and assessment of breast cancer. Our model of care aims to ensure that all women have equal access and experience a respectful and affirming service. Whilst current evidence suggests that the benefit of routine screening mammography is greatest in the 50-69 years age group, women in their 40s and over 70 are also eligible for free screening mammograms with BreastScreen Victoria.

**BreastScreen Victoria’s clinical staff are highly skilled and experienced in the detection and assessment of breast cancer.**

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**About BreastScreen Victoria**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF BREASTSCREEN VICTORIA STAFF EMPLOYED AT EACH FACILITY:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>2008–2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination Unit</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monash</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Vincent’s</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroondah</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampians</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rendigs</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>352</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women who self identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) proportion of all women screened by Breastscreen Victoria in the 50–69 years target age group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>First screen % of total screening</th>
<th>Subsequent screen % of total screening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monash</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Vincent’s</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroondah</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampians</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland</td>
<td>75.7%</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ANNUAL AVERAGE</strong></td>
<td>76.9%</td>
<td>82.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BreastScreen Victoria received welcome news in May 2009, with the announcement of an additional $10 million in digital-rollout funding as a result of a submission to the Expenditure Review Committee in February 2009. The funding, provided over a three-year period to complete the deployment of digital technology throughout the Program, builds on the success of the Rural Broadband Digital Mammography Project. Thank you to the members of Breastscreen Victoria’s Digital Steering Committee for their contribution, commitment and guidance during this interim period. An unexpected bonus was the Commonwealth Government’s 2009-10 Budget commitment of $120 million to upgrade breast screening equipment across the country.

At the Breastscreen Australia National Digital Users Group and National Program Managers’ meetings in early 2009, strong national interest was expressed in the level of Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) integration that Breastscreen Victoria has achieved with its customised Client Information System, Gecko. As a result, Breastscreen Victoria invited all Breastscreen Australia services to an ‘Integrated PACS/IKO Solution Information Day’ in May 2009. More than 20 participants from various states attended. Breastscreen Victoria was pleased to share our learnings and judging by the positive feedback received, attendees gained useful information for their own future deployments.

**Total number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) women assessed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Women assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>7,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monash</td>
<td>6,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong</td>
<td>456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Vincent’s</td>
<td>6,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroondah</td>
<td>3,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampians</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo</td>
<td>792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,364</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Screening mammograms performed by Breastscreen Victoria since February 1993: 2,735,864

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women who self identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women who self identify as speaking a language other than English at home are classified as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women are the backbone of our families and they often put their own health last. We should encourage them, especially once they turn 50, to have a screening mammogram every two years.

Breast Screening

- 50% of women diagnosed with breast cancer are aged 50-69. This is the reason why a breast screening mammogram once every two years is primarily recommended for women in this age group. However, women aged 70 and over are still at risk of breast cancer and screening is highly recommended. Women aged between 50 and 69

- The tissue of younger women’s breasts is usually more dense than that of older women and can show up as white areas on the x-ray. Breast cancers also show up as white areas on x-rays. This makes breast cancer more difficult to detect in younger women.

- It is important for all women to know the normal look and feel of their breasts. If you are unsure about your risk of breast cancer or whether breast screening mammograms should be a priority for you, we recommend that you talk to your doctor. If any symptoms are noticed and when treatment is likely to be most successful, it is important that you visit your doctor as soon as possible. For more information or to make a FREE appointment with BreastScreen Victoria, please call 13 20 50 or visit www.breastscreen.org.au.

- Notice any breast changes, nipple discharge or a lump, it is important that you visit your doctor as soon as possible, before you make an appointment at BreastScreen Victoria.

- BreastScreen Victoria is available from our website: www.breastscreen.org.au. Feedback helps BreastScreen Victoria advise our telephonist.

Year in Review – BreastScreen Coordination Unit (Continued)

STAFF

A number of changes at the senior staff level occurred this year. We recognised Digital Project Manager Kristie Gregg, Communications Manager Angela Hill and Director of Finance Manny Romoci. Breastscreen Victoria thanks Kristie, Angela and Manny for their significant contributions to the Program. Sharon Heams commenced as Director of Operations in October 2008 and Barry Ingate was appointed Acting Director of Finance in February 2009.

Congratulations to the following Coordination Unit staff for their long-service milestones reached during the year. We thank them for their commitment and contribution:

- 15 Years
  - Lucy Marchesani
  - Jane Ward
- 10 years
  - Manou Manou

INCREASING PARTICIPATION

Responding to the Victorian Government’s ‘Cancer Action Plan 2008–2011’, strategic planning commenced to increase the screening participation rates of culturally and linguistically diverse groups of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Working groups have been set up and project scopes developed. Additional funding has been allocated to assist with specialised recruitment activities for these under-screened groups.

VISUAL IDENTITY

BreastScreen Victoria’s revamped visual identity continued to come to life during 2008–2009. Many of the state’s screening sites replaced their old signage with the ‘Circle of Women’ brand mark and all sites converted to the new look stationery as part of the centralised mailing system. Promotional posters drawing attention to the BreastScreen message through the use of vibrant colours, the new brand mark and a strong headline, were developed and distributed.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Educational resources were comprehensively reviewed and three key brochures were redesigned in the new BreastScreen identity, ready for a mid-2009 rollout. Incorporating consumer feedback from focus groups and consumer advisory committees at local and state level, ‘Is BreastScreen for You’, ‘What Happens at BreastScreen’ and ‘It’s Time for Your Next Screening Mammogram’ underwent a make-over. The new brochures are brightly coloured, ‘friendlier’ and feature accessible language in a style that surveyed consumers suggested would be most informative. During the coming months, work will continue on reviewing and updating the remainder of Breastscreen Victoria’s brochure suite.

To help women understand the complexities of age-related breast cancer risk and of Breastscreen’s targeting of the 50–69 years age group, the Coordination Unit, in consultation with the Program’s Information Officers and consumer groups, developed a series of ‘age message’ fact sheets. The fact sheets convey information particular to women aged 40–49, 50–69 and 70+ and are available at screening sites and on Breastscreen Victoria’s website.

Further information about breast health for all women is available from:

- National Breast & Ovarian Cancer Centre
  - www.nbocc.org.au

- National Breast Cancer Foundation
  - www.cancervic.org.au

- Melbourne and regional Victoria. Please feel free to ask for a centre that is most convenient for you.

Further information about BreastScreen Victoria for you?

- No doctor’s referral required.
- Breastscreen Victoria.

How do I make an appointment?

Further information about BreastScreen Victoria:

- Phone (for the cost of a local call).
- 13 20 50 and ask to be connected to BreastScreen Victoria.
- TTY 13 36 77 (for people with hearing/communication impairments).
**Year in Review – Screening and Assessment Services**

**BREASTSCREEN VICTORIA SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE, BENDIGO**

**Established:** 1995  
**Number of screening mammograms performed in 2008-2009:** 10,537  
**Proudly brought to women by:** St John of God Health Care, Bendigo  
**Radiology provider:** Bendigo Radiology

**Coverage:** The Screening and Assessment Service, Bendigo is the screening centre for the region. The Service hosts the Mobile Screening Service every two years at Echuca, Kiering and Swan Hill.

**Accreditation status:** 2 year accreditation with high priority recommendations valid until Nov 2010.

**Clinical Director:** Dr Rob Jarvis ARBS (Radiol), FRACR.  
**Program Manager:** Ms Carol Gibbins (from Jan 09)  
**App. Sc. (Radiology).** Ms Philippa Hartnay (to Dec 08)  
**Dip. Teaching.** ASC.  
**Dip. App. Sc. (Radiology): Ms Carol Gibbins (from Jan 09)**  
**Clinical Director:** Dr Rob Jarvis ARBS (Radiol), FRACR.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- A new ultrasound machine was installed and the existing ultrasound machine updated.
- Stereotactic core biopsy became available locally through Bendigo Health Medical Imaging awaiting the need for invasive open biopsy.
- Bendigo Health Pathology was appointed as the provider for the Service.
- A new mobile site was established at Robinvale, screening at the Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative and the Robinvale District Health Service during July and August 2008.
- The Health Minister, the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, toured the Service in April 2009 and viewed the new digital screening equipment.
- Assessment numbers increased as a result of digital deployment, an increase in round-one women and the electoral role release.

**HEALTH PROMOTION**

- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATS) health day was held during the year. Activities and health promotion sessions were held at Robinvale and group screenings were conducted at Bendigo.
- Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women’s health promotion events included: a CALD women’s health day at Bendigo; a women’s health bus tour of Bendigo; Tongan women’s health day at Robinvale; multicultural women’s craft day at Bendigo and a Turkish women’s education and screening activity at Mildura.

**CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT**

- The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) provided advice to the Service and supported the Information Officer with the running of CALD women’s health promotion events. Jenny Holmes continued to represent the Service on the state Consumer Advisory Committee. Several members of the CAC retired during 2008-09. The Service thanks them for giving their time and support and for mentoring new members to the Committee.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- Two Mildura radiographers and one Bendigo radiographer completed CPM training.
- Assistant Program Manager/Nurse Counsellor and Chair of the CAC participated in BreastScreen Australia’s ‘Accreditation Site Visitor’ training.
- Assistant Program Manager/Nurse Counsellor trained as a facilitator with the ‘Workshop For Cancer Clinicians Communication’ program.
- Two Nurse Counsellors attended the ‘National BreastCare Nurse’ conference in Melbourne in February 2009.

**STAFF**

Carol Gibbins was appointed Program Manager following the resignation of Philippa Hartnay in late 2008. Data Manager Bernadette Lamb commenced maternity leave and Kristy Kum Too took on the role of Acting Data Manager.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- Professional development sessions were held for staff with invited specialist speakers.
- Designated Radiographer attended the ‘Breast 2009’ conference.
- Warrnambool radiographer attended the ‘RAdaim 2008’ conference.
- Nurse Counsellor completed two courses with the Counselling Academy.
- Nurse Counsellor attended the ‘National Breastcare Nurse’ conference.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- An accreditation site visit to the Service was held in June 2009.  
- Geelong Breast Clinic established integrated diagnostic and screening and assessment services.  
- A full-time BreastScreen Victoria designated radiographer was appointed.  
- Administration site relocated to Gheringhap Street, next door to the Screening and Assessment centre.  
- Radiographers from Geelong were seconded to Warrnambool to replace a staff member on extended leave.

**HEALTH PROMOTION**

- In collaboration with the local disability organisation, Koori, the Service provided screening familiarisation and breast awareness sessions and hosted a ‘Pink Ribbon’ Breakfast for women with special needs.
- CALD activity highlights included: International Women’s Day events; a breakfast function held in conjunction with ‘Diversitat’ (the Geelong Ethnic Communities Council) and health promotion sessions with an interpreter for Bosnian and Polish women.  
- The Service worked with Geelong’s Aboriginal Co-operative, ‘Wathaurong’, to develop and run a Koori health day.

**CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT**

- The Geelong Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) includes representatives from the CALD and ATS communities, GP Association, disability sector, BreastCare and community health nurses, rural communities, BreastCare and community health nurses, rural women and consumers. The CAC provided feedback on issues affecting the women they represent and contributed to the development of the Regional Communications Plan. CAC member Min Parsons was the Service’s representative on the state Consumer Advisory Committee.

**STAFF**

This year, the following new long-serving staff members are acknowledged with gratitude:

- Ann Veiga (17 years), Maureen Alldis (13 years), Sue Elliott (16 years) and Frankie Linke (16 years).

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Year in Review – Screening and Assessment Services

(Continued)

BREASTSCREEN VICTORIA SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE, GIPPSLAND

Established: 1993
Number of screening mammograms performed in 2008-2009: 10,308
Proudly brought to women by: Latrobe Regional Hospital
Radiology providers: Regional Imaging, Bairnsdale RHS, Central Gippsland HS, Wonthaggi Specialist Imaging

Coverage: The Screening and Assessment Service, Gippsland has screening centres at Bairnsdale, Morwell, Sale, Traralgon, Warnagul and Wonthaggi. The Service hosts the Mobile Screening Service every two years at Foster, Leongatha, Mallacoota, Orbost and Toora.

Accreditation status: 4 year accreditation until Feb 2011.
Clinical Director: Mr Ian McNeil Miller MBBCh, FRCS, FRACS

HIGHLIGHTS
- Wonthaggi Specialist Imaging became the new screening provider for Wonthaggi in July 2008.
- BreastScreen Victoria Clinical Director and surgeon Mr Ian Miller was honoured for his commitment to the Gippsland region at a gala dinner in May 2009. The Health Minister, the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, presented Mr Miller with a Rural Workforce Agency Victoria award for ‘Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities’.
- Specialist Radiographer Joan Doyle, recruited from Queensland, worked as a locum whilst two local radiographers were on extended leave.
- Work commenced on converting the Bairnsdale site from analogue to digital, important issues concerning network logistics were successfully addressed and the site will go live in October 2009.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT
The Gippsland Consumer Advisory Committee ran a recruitment drive to boost numbers and reinvigorate the group. Ruth Giles and Stella Christian continued to represent the Service on the state Consumer Advisory Committee.

STAFF
The Service thanked and farewelled Program Manager Deb Brown in December 2008. Data Manager Enza Roberts, Dr Patrick van der Heuven, Mr David Chan, Mr Ian Miller, Dr Darren Leckie, Monique Wiegens, Angela McLean, Lee Bray, Front (4) Blythe Piggin, Eileen Hain, Lyn Johnstone.

HEALTH PROMOTION
- The Service promoted BreastScreen Victoria at two racing events: the ‘Moe Cup’ and the ‘Melbourne Cup’.
- A presentation was given at a ‘Breast and Breast Health’ workshop in Ararat; the Grevilla Ladies Probbs Club; ‘Pink Ribbon’ events in Donald, Ararat and Avoca; and a multicultural luncheon in Ballarat.
- The ‘Friends at BreastScreen’ group grew to over 100 members. They met twice for Service updates and acted as ambassadors for the Program in the local community.

STAFF
Senior staff changes saw the departures of Dr Cliff Trotman, Dr Ken King, Dr Tony French, Jane Willshire, Kim Kyatt, Emma Grafton, Liz Koch and Julie MacDonald. New staff welcomed were: Dr Jim Mullany, Sue Riess, Lindy Day, Mona Liz Abella, Meggan Mulvogue, Alison Muthuraja, Jason Kelly, Michael Phylend, Dr Alex Pitman, Dr Don Barrie, Dr Lucida Zetiner, Dr Felda Thomas and Dr Mark.$

The following long-serving staff members are acknowledged with gratitude:

10 Years
Ann Romers, Manjke Wiegens

20 Years
Deena Thorpe, Liz Koch, lyn Johnstone

30 Years
Mr David Deutscher, Fiona Jeffs, Dianne Quinn, Jennifer Slattery

10 years Dr Norm Sonenberg recently retired.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
The following long-serving staff members are acknowledged with gratitude:

1. Multidisciplinary Team, Screening and Assessment Centre, Bairnsdale: Back (L-R) Ann Romers, Cheryl Cooksey, Dr Patrick van der Heuven, Mr David Chan, Mr Ian Miller, Dr Darren Leckie, Monique Wiegens, Angela McLean, Lee Bray. Front (4) Blythe Piggin, Eileen Hain, Lyn Johnstone.
2. Rural Doctors’ Award recipient Mr Ian Miller (centre) with RMAW Chairman Dr Philip Wetbrosy, Dr Ann Miller, the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, and JAGHS Chief Services Claudia Battilana.

BREASTSCREEN VICTORIA SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE, GRAMPIANS

Established: 1994
Number of screening mammograms performed in 2008-2009: 5,614
Proudly brought to women by: Ballarat Health Services (from Mar 09), St John of God Health Care (to Mar 09)
Radiology providers: Western Medical Imaging, Radsonic, Symbion

Coverage: The Screening and Assessment Service, Grampians, has screening centres at Ballarat Base Hospital and Horsham. The Service hosts the Mobile Screening Service every two years at Birchip and Hamilton.

Accreditation status: 2 year accreditation with high priority recommendations valid until Sep 2010.
Clinical Director: Dr Jim Mullany (from Mar 09) MBBS, DAWD (London), FRANZCR, FRACS
Program Manager: Ms Jennifer Slattery Grad. Dip. Management, ACHE, AIM

HIGHLIGHTS
- Ballarat Health Services became the new service provider in March 2009.
- The Service relocated to a new purpose-built digital site in the Queen Elizabeth Centre and was renamed ‘Grampians’.
- The new Grampians service was officially opened by the Health Minister, the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, on 21 May 2009.

HEALTH PROMOTION
- ATSI health promotion events included: participation in ATSI women’s health day events with the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative, a presentation at an ‘Elders’ meeting in the Kint Baret Aborigional Cultural Centre and an ATSI group visit to the new screening and assessment centre in the Queen Elizabeth Centre.
- Presentations were given at a ‘Breast and Breast Health’ workshop in Ararat; the Grevilla Ladies Probbs Club; ‘Pink Ribbon’ events in Donald, Ararat and Avoca; and a multicultural luncheon in Ballarat.
- Information stands were organised for the ‘Mini Field of Women’ event in Ballarat and at the Belly Dancing Bazaar in Ballarat.
- The Service participated in a ‘Girls Night Out’ event for 300 women in Maryborough.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT
Fran Harrison and Jeanette Vervaart were the consumer representatives for Grampians BreastScreen. During the year, they participated in planning for the new screening and assessment centre in the Grampians.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
The ‘Friends at BreastScreen’ group grew to over 300 members. They met twice for Service updates and acted as ambassadors for the Program in the local community.

STAFF
Senior staff changes saw the departures of Dr Cliff Trotman, Dr Ken King, Dr Tony French, Jane Willshire, Kim Kyatt, Emma Grafton, Liz Koch and Julie MacDonald. New staff welcomed were: Dr Jim Mullany, Sue Riess, Lindy Day, Mona Liz Abella, Meggan Mulvogue, Alison Muthuraja, Jason Kelly, Michael Phylend, Dr Alex Pitman, Dr Don Barrie, Dr Lucida Zetiner, Dr Felda Thomas and Dr Mark.$

The following long-serving staff members are acknowledged with gratitude:

15 Years
Mr David Deutscher, Fiona Jeffs, Dianne Quinn, Jennifer Slattery, Mr Stephen Tobin, Mr Rob Ventura.

10 Years
Helen McKenzie, Gay Stevenson

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- All staff undertook training in the new digital screening equipment.
- Data Manager Helen McKenzie was awarded an Advanced Diploma in Management.
BreastScreen Victoria Screening Locations

The BreastScreen Victoria program is delivered to the women of Victoria through eight Screening and Assessment Services located throughout the state. Collectively these eight Services manage 35 permanent screening centres and the Mobile Screening Service visits 28 locations on a 2-yearly cycle.

The map below shows the spread of the BreastScreen Victoria screening locations throughout greater metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The BreastScreen Coordination Unit (Carlton).

BreastScreen Victoria is delivered to the women of Victoria through eight Screening and Assessment Services located throughout the state. Collectively these eight Services manage 35 permanent screening centres and the Mobile Screening Service visits 28 locations on a 2-yearly cycle.


Year in Review – Screening and Assessment Services

CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Mobile Screening Service screened 90% of Maroondah’s screening
- The Box Hill clinic was successfully
- 4 year accreditation with high priority recommendations valid until Apr 2010.
- 2 year accreditation with high priority recommendations valid until Apr 2010.
- 90% of Maroondah’s screening
- 90% of Maroondah’s screening images are now fully digital, with only the Yarra Ranges site using analogue screening.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT

Maroondah’s Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) met for the first time in July 2008. The group suggested improvements to the Program with the view to making a positive difference for women who attend. CAG member Jan Thompson was the Service’s representative on the state Consumer Advisory Committee.

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Chief Radiographer and Information Officer commenced planning an annual ATSI screening and information day, to be held at the Casey site each November. The promotion will include a breast health session, general health information and lunch.

STAFF

Breast Surgeons Mr Michael Law and Mr Sunny Jassal, and Radiologist Dr Miranda Bremer. The CAG were involved in reviewing the client feedback system and the consumer group action plan. Members have also been consulted on recruitment, including the recruitment of ATSI women. Monash CAG member Sue Veen was the Service’s representative on the state Consumer Advisory Committee.

TECHNICAL

- Two radiographers and radiologists

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- To be held at the Casey site each November. The promotion will include a breast health session, general health information and lunch.
- The promotion will include a breast health session, general health information and lunch.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT

The Monash Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) was supported by an Information Officer from BreastScreen Victoria, Maroondah. The CAG were involved in reviewing the client feedback system and the consumer group action plan. Members have also been consulted on recruitment, including the recruitment of ATSI women. Monash CAG member Sue Veen was the Service’s representative on the state Consumer Advisory Committee.

STAFF

Breast screens Victoria


BreastScreen Victoria Screening and Assessment Service, Monash

Established: 1993
Number of screening mammograms performed in 2008–2009: 40,495
Proudly brought to women by: Southern Health
Radiology provider: MIA, MDI Radiology, Gippsland Regional Imaging
Coverage:
- Breastscreen Victoria Screening and Assessment Service, Monash has screening centres at Berwick, Dandenong, East Bentleigh, Frankston, Mentone, Mount Waverley and Rosebud.
- Accreditation status: 4 year accreditation valid until Feb 2011.
- Clinical Director: Mr Stewart Hart MBBS, FRACS
- Acting Clinical Director: (from Jan 09) Dr Jill Evans MBBS, FRANZCR
- Program Manager: Ms Louise Bowren ANA, Dip. Soc. Studies
- Acting Program Manager: (Sep-Nov 08, Feb-Jun 09) Ms Lisa Scott M Ed St., Dip.App.Sc. (Nrs), B App.Sc. (Nrs)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The service received funding to purchase a new vacuum assisted breast biopsy system and ultrasound machine.
- Reached screening target despite closure of a screening site that had significant impact on throughput, along with staff departures and staff leave.
- Reassignment of Rosebud BreastScreen from MDI Radiology to Gippsland Imaging Group.

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Chief Radiographer and Information Officer commenced planning an annual ATSI screening and information day.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Nurse Unit Manager ran a training session entitled ‘Principles of Nursing Practice in the Management of Seroma Post Surgery for Breast Cancer’ for nurse councillors.
- Nurse Unit Manager attended ‘EBBC-6 Breast Cancer Conference’ in Germany and received a ‘Link & Learn’ grant enabling a visit to four UK teaching hospitals to observe nurse practitioners/breast care nurse roles.
- Two radiographers and radiologists attended ‘Breast 2009′.

1. Multidisciplinary Team, Screening and Assessment Centre, Monash. L-R Jayne Mullen, Dr David Speakman, Dr John Waugh, Mary Lynch.
2. Dr Jill Evans.

1. Multidisciplinary Team, Screening and Assessment Centre, Monash. L-R Jayne Mullen, Dr David Speakman, Dr John Waugh, Mary Lynch.
2. Dr Jill Evans.
Year in Review – Screening and Assessment Services (Continued)

BREASTSCREEN VICTORIA SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE, NORTH WESTERN

Number of screening mammograms performed in 2008-2009: 34,914
Proudly brought to women by: Melbourne Health
Radiology providers: MDI Radiology, Capitol Health, Victorian Medical Imaging

Coverage: The Screening and Assessment Service, North Western has screening centres at Brimbank, Broadmeadows, Essendon, Footscray, Parkville and Werribee. The Service hosts the Mobile Screening Service every two years at Broadfoot, Geelong, Kyneton, Melton, Port Phillip, Seymour and Sunbury. Accreditation status: 2 year accreditation with high priority recommendations valid until Aug 2009.
Clinical Director: Dr Allison Rose MBBS, M Med (Radiology), FRANZCR
Program Manager: Ms Victoria Cuevas MBA, BA, BSW, Grad Dip Legal Studies, Grad Dip 17

This Service was the first to be established in 1991 and carries the historical beginnings of the Program, with the Essendon screening centre opened in 1987 as one of 10 pilot sites for the national evaluation of mammography screening.

HIGHLIGHTS
- North Western made a successful application for 2 year accreditation.
- Screened nearly 5,000 more women in the North Western region of Melbourne and regional and remote areas than in the previous year.
- The Service acquired a new ultrasound machine and prone biopsy table.
- Trained two Breast Fellows, several Registrars and medical students.
- Radiology and radiography workforce shortages eased towards the end of financial year.

HEALTH PROMOTION
- Lauren Proudfoot was appointed as the new Information Officer.
- CALD presentations included: Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Women’s Health Day, United Somali Women’s Group, Moreland Community Health’s Arabic-speaking women’s group, NMIT Bi-lingual Health Workers, Australian Vietnamese Women’s Association, Harmony Day Celebrations, VRWV’s Vietnamese Women’s Link and the Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health ‘Points of Departure’ National Forum.
- Connections with ATSI women were made through the Western Suburbs Indigenous Gathering Place.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT
The Consumer Reference Group (CRG) welcomed some new members in addition to the Group’s five long-standing members. During the year the CRG provided input into the development of a consumer satisfaction survey for women attending the assessment clinic. CRG member Barbara Taylor continued as the Service representative on the state Consumer Advisory Committee.

STAFF
Thank you to the following long-serving staff, some of whom have been with the BreastScreen Program since the BreastScreen Australia pilot project at the Essendon Hospital:

20+ years
Sassy Alessandri, Ms John Collins, Francis Mass, Jenny O’Connor, Jennifer Owen, Dr Allison Rose, Hui Tay, Amita Vaid

15 years
Dr Arlene Mou, Victoria Cuevas, Bryan Mason.

10 years
Li Lay, Anne Minitti, Karen Brown.

Sincere thanks to volunteers Freda Nicolas and Shirley Cullum who have continued to provide support and assistance during assessment clinics.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- Radiographers held quarterly Continuing Education meetings.
- Staff training included: fire, safe lifting, evacuation, first aid, working with interpreters, cultural awareness training, Melbourne Health ‘Cultural Values’, digital technology, stress management, managing the needs of diverse clients, infection control and CPR.

BREASTSCREEN VICTORIA SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE, ST VINCENT’S

Number of screening mammograms performed in 2008-2009: 38,997
Proudly brought to women by: St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne
Radiology providers: Symbion, MIA, Goulburn Valley Imaging, Radar Medical Imaging, Austin Health Radiology

Coverage: The Screening and Assessment Service, St Vincent’s has screening centres at Camberwell, Elsternwick, Epping, Fitzroy, Greensborough, Heidelberg, Preston, Mildura and Shepparton.
Accreditation status: 2 year accreditation with high priority recommendations valid until May 2010.
Clinical Director: Associate Professor Jennifer Cowman MBBS, FRACR, MPH, ARD (Graduated)
Program Manager: Ms Erin Cosgriff

This year in review – screening and assessment services

HIGHLIGHTS
- Screening target met for the year.
- New stereotactic care biopsy table and vacuum core biopsy unit allowed full investigation on the day of assessment and averted the need for invasive open biopsy.
- Extensive preparation and planning undertaken for site to fully convert to digital mammography.
- Successful continuation of Breast Fellow training program. The Service was fortunate to have excellent Fellows over the course of 2008-09. The effort expended in training new radiologists is well spent in terms of the contribution they make to a very busy unit, plus the benefit of recruiting and retaining committed specialists.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT
The recently reconvened Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) was involved in formulating an updated consumer satisfaction survey to evaluate assessment clinics. CAG member Jackie O’Dowdell was the Service’s representative on the state Consumer Advisory Committee.

STAFF
Dr Helen Frazer was appointed as Deputy Director. Helen has extensive experience with the BreastScreen Program and breast screening information to ESI certificate level student groups.
- Partnership established with Northern Metropolitan Institute of TAFE to regularly present breast health and breast screening information to ESI certificate level student groups.
- Partnership established with NMIT Preston to provide student placements at BreastScreen Victoria Services for bilingual health worker students.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- Breast Imaging Fellowship training continued for local and ASIAN fellows.
- Quarterly Radiographer Continuing Education meetings were well attended by staff from all St Vincent’s screening sites.
- Clinical Director, Deputy Director, Program Manager and Chief Radiographer attended ‘BreastScreen Australia’s Accreditation Site Visitor’ training.
- Associate Professor Cowman convened a successful breast imaging meeting ‘International Breast Cancer Update: Celebrating 25 years of Screening, Attending the Luncheon’.
- Nurse Counsellor trained as a facilitator with the ‘Victorian Cancer Liaison Committee’ program.

Multidisciplinary Team, Screening and Assessment Centre North Western: Front (L-R) Dr Arlene Mou, Amita Vaid, Freda Nicolas, Li Lay, Marleena Harris, Lynette Karaliamis, Vicki Zagon, Dr Allison Rose. Back (L-R) Sally Nesbitt, Brian Lewis, Karen Brown, Kate Jenkins, Sassy Alessandri, Pamela Watson, Olga Puzdzez, Jenny O’Connor, Victoria Cuevas, Giovanna Fos, Anne Minitti.
Year in Review – Mobile Screening Service

The Mobile Screening Service was again received enthusiastically by women in Victoria, with appointments consistently filled. The BreastScreen Victoria radiographers working on the Mobile Screening Service – Patricia Bedford, Bernadette Odebi, Joy Pittaway, Teresa Warren and Isom Di Pettigrew – have become familiar faces in the local communities and are warmly welcomed when they re-visit each site on a two-yearly schedule.

In the last year the Mobile Screening Service visited the following sites:
- Broadford
- Melton
- Seymour
- Geelong
- Swan Hill
- Robinvale
- Yarrawonga
- Corryong
- Tallangatta
- Myrtleford
- Wonnangatta
- Leonagatha

Number of women screened 2008–2009: 13,629
2007–2008: 12,639
Number of first screens 2008–2009: 2,371

Research and Evaluation

The BreastScreen Victoria program continues to attract interest from researchers because of its comprehensive data collection, which spans more than a decade of program activity and more than 2 million screens. The data set covers all aspects of screening and includes demographic details, screening and assessment activity, outcomes, pathology and histology details, and treatment. Research within BreastScreen Victoria has ranged from larger, state-wide studies to smaller analyses of work within an individual Service.

BreastScreen Victoria does not fund research initiatives but is committed to working collaboratively with investigators to contribute to the body of knowledge about breast cancer and breast screening in Australia.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION NEW PROJECTS

Titles, authors and the institution of the principal investigator are listed below for research and evaluation studies which commenced in 2008–2009.

NCBF BreastScreen Australia cohort study.
Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology, University of Melbourne.

Simulation modelling of breast cancer screening in collaboration with IARIC.
Nickson, C. Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology, University of Melbourne.

The impact of preoperative auxiliary assessment by ultrasound with and without FNA in patients with screen-detected breast cancer.
North Western BreastScreen.

Comparison of screen detected with interval breast cancers at North Western Breast Screen between 1995 and 2004.
Mann, B., North Western BreastScreen.

Is the incidence of HR positive lesions in women with screen detected lobular breast cancer higher than those with other histological types?

PUBLISHED PAPERS

Papers resulting from research or evaluation activities undertaken within BreastScreen Victoria and published in peer-reviewed literature are listed below.

Improving mammographic screening outcomes: Should screening policies focus on mammographic density, hormone therapy or age?

Imaging surveillance of the breast in a patient who developed sclerodema after breast conserving surgery and radiotherapy.


Extensive haematoma formation after large core vacuum assisted breast biopsy.

Invasive breast cancers detected by screening mammography in BreastScreen Australia: A detailed comparison of CAD-assisted single reading and double reading.

MY JOURNEY AROUND VICTORIA WITH BREASTSCREEN
by Mobile Screening Service Radiographer Teresa Warren

My journey around Victoria with the Mobile Screening Service started in Mansfield in July 2007. I had not been to a ski resort before and had a wonderful time on the snow-shoe walk to the summit of Mt Buller and indulge in schnapps at the top above the clouds as we watched the sun set. I have been for walks in the state parks that the Mobile Screening van is in... so I have been for walks in the state parks (warby ranges) and the national parks (ayer’s field’s lake, bramback, harrays sunset’s pink lakes, the grampians, mt Buffalo), along the beaches (Inverloch, Sandy Point, Rhyll), in the mountains (Corryong) and along the rivers (the Murray at echuca, Swan Hill, Robinvale and Yarrawonga).

I have been to the “Fifties Festival” at Tallangatta, “La Fiera” at myrtleford and the beechworth “harvest” and “celtic” festivals. For a patchworker, nothing could be better than searching out the patchwork shops around victoria... Shoppaport has the best ... and getting to the “Stitches and Craft” shows that are on in Melbourne two to three times a year.

During the year I signed up for a sewing forum for a week in Geelong. I also joined in a “sculpting with native grasses” class in Ballarat at Easter time and made an emu out of grass that stands 3 feet high. Someone should re-arrange the van schedule so that I can participate in more of these festival times!
Building Relationships with Our Community

1. Nurse Counsellor Quality Group. (R-L): Julie Harris, Bendigo; Susan Greenwood, Maroondah; Lee Bray, Gippsland; Kath Sheridan, Bendigo; Glenys Makary, Maroondah and Heather Christensen Anderson, St Vincent’s. The Nurse Counsellor Quality Group includes representatives from all eight Screening and Assessment Services. The group meets regularly for peer support, training and policy review.

2. (L-R) Karingal Service Development Manager Meg Parsons and Development Manager Sally Wall with BreastScreen Victoria Information Officer Mary Lennon. Disability agency Karingal sponsored a "Pink Ribbon" breakfast in collaboration with BreastScreen Victoria’s Geelong and South West service. The women are holding a mascot designed by Karingal’s Art Group. A mascot-naming competition held at the breakfast pronounced "Rack-elle" the winning entry. The event raised breast health awareness for women with disabilities.

3. Back (L-R) Margaret Inverno, Nancy Tanner. Front (L-R) Mary Stewart, Sherrilyn Ballard, Information Officer. BreastScreen Victoria’s Maroondah service is fortunate to have three volunteers who attend each fortnight. Margaret, Nancy and Mary make a valuable contribution and their company is enjoyed by all. The Maroondah service thanked the volunteers at a lunch at the Wyreena Community Arts Centre in December 2008.

Quality Programs in Action

1. Nurse Counsellor Quality Group. (R-L): Julie Harris, Bendigo; Susan Greenwood, Maroondah; Loo Bray, Geelongland; Kath Sheridan, Bendigo; Glenys Makary, Maroondah and Heather Christensen Anderson, St Vincent’s. The Nurse Counsellor Quality Group includes representatives from all eight Screening and Assessment Services. The group meets regularly for peer support, training and policy review.

2. Nurse counsellors attended a workshop that explored the needs of lesbian and transgender women accessing BreastScreen services. The training was provided by Professor Anne Mitchell, the Director of Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria.

3. Nurse counsellors (L-R) Julie Harris, Bendigo and Heather Christensen Anderson successfully completed a course to become facilitators with the ‘Victorian Cancer Clinicians Communication’ program. They will now be supporting other nurse counsellors to improve their communication with women attending assessment.

4. Nurse counsellors attended a workshop that explained the needs of lesbian and transgender women accessing BreastScreen services. The training was provided by Professor Anne Mitchell, the Director of Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria.

5. Nurse Counsellor/Information Officer, Kathryn Sheridan (centre) from BreastScreen Victoria’s Bendigo service was guest speaker at a ‘Connecting Cultures’ lunchbox hosted by Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services. Fostering harmony and connectedness, the lunchbox celebrated the cultural diversity of 24 ethnic groups of women including Italian, Filipino, Greek, Venezuelan, Chinese, Thai-Karen and Papua New Guinean. Kathryn spoke about the importance of the early detection of breast cancer.
Governance

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The BreastScreen Victoria Board of Management is appointed by the Minister for Health. The Board of Management liaises closely with the Department of Health and the Victorian Minister for Health regarding funding for the Program and desired outcomes. The Board of Management meets with the Senior Management Team at the BreastScreen Victoria Coordination Unit four times a year. Members do not receive any payment or sitting fees except for executive staff members holding positions within BreastScreen Victoria who receive payment in accordance with their agreed terms and conditions.

We acknowledge and thank the following members of the Board whose terms of appointment expired at the Annual General Meeting in November 2008:

Ms Sandy Anderson
Ms Glenda Banks
Dr Andrea Diamond

1. Ms Dorothy Reading
   BA, Dip Ed
   Deputy Chair (to Det 08)
   Acting Chair (from Jan 09)
   Dorothy Reading is a Senior Strategic Consultant at The Cancer Council, Victoria. She chairs the national Public Health Committee of the Cancer Council Australia and is editor of its National Cancer Prevention Policy. Dorothy was a member of the steering committee of the Essendon Mammographic Screening Pilot Program and was nominated as a representative of The Cancer Council, Victoria on the founding BreastScreen Victoria Board in 1991 and elected Deputy Chair in 1993. She has also been a member of the State Accreditation Committee since 1994 and is its Chair.

2. Ms Anne Cronin
   BSc, BBus (Acc), MAICD, FAIM, FCPA
   Treasurer
   Anne Cronin is the Chief Operating Officer at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute. Trained as a medical scientist, Anne moved into management at the time of the establishment of the Murdoch Institute 20 years ago. She is a Fellow of the Society of OM and the Australian Institute of Management and is a member of a number of boards in the not-for-profit sector including University College at the University of Melbourne, Raising Children Network and the Australasian Research Management Society. Anne is also a member of BreastScreen Victoria’s Consumer Advisory Committee.

3. Associate Professor John Collins
   MBBS, FRACS, FACS
   John Collins is Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne Department of Surgery. He is a breast surgeon and former head of the joint Royal Melbourne and Royal Women’s Hospital Breast Unit. John has been involved in breast screening as a surgical specialist since its commencement in 1987. He is the past Chair of the Breast Committee of the Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group (VCOG) and past President of the International Breast Cancer Study Group (IBCSG). He has a strong research interest in breast infection, breast cancer and medical education.

4. Professor Dallas English
   PH.D (Epidemiology), MSc
   Professor English is Director of the Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology in the School of Population Health, University of Melbourne and Senior Principal Research Fellow at the Cancer Epidemiology Centre at the Cancer Council, Victoria. He has substantial experience as a cancer epidemiologist, having worked in this field since 1982. He has also served on many state and national policy committees and is active within the National Health and Medical Research Council. In accordance with our Rules of Incorporation, Professor English is The Cancer Council, Victoria nominated representative.

5. Ms Mary Hawkins
   MBA, BSc, BAppSc, Grad Dip
   Mary Hawkins has 20 years experience in managing technology across local government and the corporate sector including University College at the University of Melbourne, Raising Children Network and the Australasian Research Management Society. Anne is also a member of BreastScreen Victoria’s Consumer Advisory Committee.

6. Ms Jane Poletti
   MM (Strategic Forecasting), LLB, BSc
   Jane Poletti currently operates a General Counsel and Commercial consultancy practice to which she brings 14 years experience with prominent Melbourne law firms and 3 years of management experience with a technology company. In addition, Jane is a commercial director and co-owner of an emerging sms information service. She is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has completed the foundation Victorian Health Boards Governance Program.

7. Ms Genevieve Webb
   MBA, BSc, BAppSc, Grad Dip (Computing), Grad Dip (Ed)
   Genevieve Webb is General Manager Corporate Services at Mind. She has held a variety of leadership roles as a manager and consultant across the public, private and community sectors including Executive Director of Relationships Australia (Vic), Assoc. Director at KPMG and Manager at City of Melbourne. Genevieve has previously served on the board of a TAFE Institute and a transitional housing service, and is a member of the Audit Committee for the State Revenue Office. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

8. Ms Sue Viney
   M Soc Sc (Int. Development), Grad Conv. Accounting, BA (Hons)
   Joint representative of the Consumer Advisory Committee.
   Sue Viney runs a management consultancy practice specialising in policy and service improvement in the public and not-for-profit sectors. Prior to this she had nearly twenty years experience in the Victorian Public Service in line agencies (including in procurements of the Department of Human Services and in women’s policy and advisory services) and central coordinating agencies. Sue is a Board Member and Treasurer of the Health Issues Centre; a Member of the Southern Health Breast Services Consumer Reference Group and the Southern Health Community Advisory Committee and a member of the Medical Practitioners’ Board of Victoria’s Community Consultative Committee. She joined the Consumer Advisory Committee in 2008 and was elected Co-Chair in February 2009.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Governance (Continued)

9. Dr Pam Williams
PhD, MA, BA, TST (Domestic Arts), Dip Domestic Arts
Joint representative of the Consumer Advisory Committee
Pamela Williams taught family and consumer behaviour health promotion and health data to trainee Home Economics teachers. After taking early retirement following her diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer she became involved in practicing consumer advocacy. She joined the Southern Health Breast Services Consumer Reference Group in 2001. She is currently Chair of the Health Issues Centre Board of Governance and Co-Chair of the Breast Cancer Action Group (BCAG). Pam has represented BCAG on the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) since 2007. She was appointed as Co-Chair of the CAC in February 2009. She was a member of Southern Health Co-C Unit and was the first elected Chair for 3 years.

10. Dr Bob Fabiny
MBBS, FRANZCR
(from Nov 08)
Bob Fabiny has been the Director of Radiology at Austin Health for the past thirteen years. Prior to this he was Director of Radiology at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital and a staff radiologist at the Alfred Hospital Melbourne. Bob is keenly interested in radiology teaching and training and is the Victorian Breast Education Officer for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR). He is an RANZCR examiner in thoracic and cardiovascular radiology and in musculoskeletal radiology. Bob has represented RANZCR on the Victorian Bace Tumour Registry, the RANZCR Medical Radiations Course Advisory Committee and the AIR-RANZCR liaison Committee. He was a founding member and is past president of the Australasian Musculoskeletal Imaging Group (AMSIG).

11. Professor Katherine McGath
MBBS, FRACP, GAANZCA
(from Jan 09)
Katherine is a widely respected health care executive with over 30 years experience in government, public, private, clinical and academic posts. Her roles have included Deputy Director General of NSW Health, Chief Executive Officer of Hunter Area Health Service, Professor of Pathology at the University of Newcastle and Group Manager of Strategy and Corporate Affairs at Medibank Private. She has a deep knowledge of Australian and international health systems and a reputation as an innovative and successful driver of reform in healthcare. Katherine trained as a haematologist and is a fellow of the Royal College of Pathology of Australasia.

12. Dr Michael Jefford
MBBS, MPhil, MHRSevicMT, PHD, MRACMA, FRACR
(acting Member from Jan 09)
Associate Professor Michael Jefford is Deputy Head, Department of Medical Oncology, at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, is clinical consultant with the Cancer Information and Support Service (a unit of Cancer Council Victoria) and is a Principal Fellow with the University of Melbourne. Michael is a Director of the newly established Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre. His research focuses on interventions to improve psychosocial wellbeing and reduce patient unmet needs. He has previously been a member of the State Accreditation Committee with BreastScreen. Michael has been co-opted as the Cancer Council representative, replacing Dorothy Reading during her time as Acting Chair.

13. Ms Vicki Pridmore
Grad Dip (Org Psych), BA (Comms & Org Psych), Dip Teaching (Sec)
Ex Officio
Vicki Pridmore joined BreastScreen Victoria as the Chief Executive Officer in April 2008. Prior to this she was CEO of the Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Trust. She has extensive experience in the human services sector, most recently serving as Director Portfolio Services, Department of Human Services. In this role she managed corporate services – including legal, media, complaints, parliamentary correspondence and briefings – and was responsible for key governance operations. Her career path spans secondary teaching, organisational and counselling psychology, project review and a decade in senior and executive management roles within the public sector.

1. Program Managers of BreastScreen Victoria’s eight Screening and Assessment Services: Back (L-R) Judy Gallagher (Geelong), Michelle Muldowney (Hawthorn), Caroline Gebbie (Bentleigh), Cheryl Couley (Gippsland), Lisa Scott (Monash). Front (L-R) Victoria Guiss (Nth Western), Jennifer Slattery (Grampians), Erin Coiglif (St Vincent’s).
2. After 15 years with BreastScreen Victoria Screening and Assessment Service, Robyn, Program Manager Phoebe Hatton (9) was farewelled and thanked by Assistant Program Manager Julie Harris in January 2009.

BREASTSCREEN VICTORIA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEES
A number of sub-committees exist to advise the Board of Management on specific areas relevant to the Program. An Executive Committee deals with urgent matters in between Board of Management meetings.

Partnership Committee
Sandy Anderson Chair (to Dec 08)
Vicki Pridmore Deputy Chair (from Jan 09)
Barry Ingale (from Dec 08)
Lynett Norris (from Sep 08)
Chiurie Pickard (to Sep 08)
Vicki Pridmore ex officio
Doro the Reading (from Jan 09)
Greg Stenton (to Mar 09)
Genevieve Webb

Board of Management Finance and Audit Committee
Anne Cronin Chair
Sandy Anderson (to Dec 08)
Mary Boretti (ex officio to Dec 08)
Mary Hawkins (Feb 09 to Mar 09)
Barry Ingale ex officio (from Feb 2009)
Sue Maddern (from Aug 08)
Vicki Pridmore ex officio
Doro the Reading (from Feb 09)

State Accreditation Committee
Doro the Reading Chair (to Dec 08)
Sandy Anderson ex officio (to Dec 08)
Dr Dallas English Acting Chair (from Feb 09)
Dr Jill Evans Radiology Quality Assurance Group representative
Dr Michael Jefford (to Oct 08)
Janeen Mullen
Elisabeth Newman Consumer Advisory Committee representative
Vicki Pridmore ex officio

Consumer Advisory Committee
Glenda Banks Chair (to Nov 08)
Sue Vinay Co-Chair (from Feb 09)
Dr Pam Williams Co-Chair (from Feb 09)
Stella Christian (to Feb 09)
Anne Cran
Ruth Giles
Fran Kimmon
Jenny Holmes
Elisabeth Newman
Jackie O’Donnell (from Jul 08)
Meg Parsons (from Feb 09)
Jan Thomson (from Feb 09)

Research and Evaluation Committee
The committee did not meet between July 2008 and June 2009.

Governance Committee
Sandy Anderson (to Dec 08)
Doro the Reading (from Jan 09)
Vicki Pridmore ex officio

Digital Steering Committee
Jane Poletti Chair
Bronwyn Chapelle (to Feb 09)
Fiona Brown ex officio
Lourie Galloway-Dohl
Mary Hawkins
Dr Darren Lockie
Sue Macalady
Michelle Muldowney (May 09)
Vicki Pridmore ex officio
Dr Alison Rose
John Siddham
Lou Stewart
Bruce Winzar

BreastScreen Victoria
BreastScreen Victoria
We respect women’s dignity and diversity and actively seek their input to make our services acceptable.
ACCREDITATION
All BreastScreen Victoria Services are required to undergo regular reviews to ensure that they continue to meet the National Accreditation Standards. These national standards were developed by an expert BreastScreen Australia committee and describe the minimum standards and requirements for Services. They are based on research, evidence and experience in breast cancer screening in Australia and overseas.

The National Accreditation Standards help to ensure that the goals of reduced morbidity and mortality are achieved, services are provided in a way that is acceptable to women and the national program remains cost-effective. Accreditation standards have been developed for each of the following service objectives: participation and access, screening and assessment, acceptable and appropriate services and effective management.

Assessment is conducted through site visits, internal quality programs and by continual reporting to the accrediting body. Accreditation is only achieved if a Service demonstrates an acceptable quality of service delivery. Although the National Accreditation Standards set minimum standards, these are seen as a starting point and it is expected that most Services will perform considerably above the requirements.

COMPLAINTS POLICY
BreastScreen Victoria’s Complaints Policy is consistent with the Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1987. Complaints are seen as an important part of BreastScreen Victoria’s quality assurance program. The Complaints Policy was reviewed during 2008–2009 and a number of recommendations were implemented. All complaints are categorised according to severity and are centrally recorded in order to identify and rectify any recurring issues across the Program’s sites. Trends are analysed and reported to the Board of Management. Response times are standardised and a new process for investigation has been employed. The policy emphasises the importance of providing a client-focused environment in which complaints can be made and resolved in a spirit of cooperation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
BreastScreen Victoria continued to review and improve its environmental performance during 2008–2009. The ongoing transition from analogue to digital mammography at screening sites led to further reductions in the quantity of physical film and photographic chemical waste generated by the Program.

BreastScreen Victoria made a commitment to produce all new information resources on 100% recycled paper and to promote electronic versions of consumer resources. New initiatives within BreastScreen Victoria’s patient management system, Geriks, enabled electronic appointment schedules to replace paper versions distributed from the Coordination Unit to Screening and Assessment Services around the state.

The Coordination Unit eliminated paper timesheets, pay slips, leave forms and group certificates by converting to an electronic Human Resources system. During 2009–2010, BreastScreen Victoria aims to integrate environmental sustainability options into all of its business operations.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)
The Freedom of Information Act 1982 gives consumers the right to access information held by government organisations. All BreastScreen Victoria sites comply with the FOI act. For further details contact the Manager Information Services, BreastScreen Victoria. PH (03) 9660 6888.

PRIVACY
BreastScreen Victoria is committed to protecting client privacy and confidentiality at all times and to ensuring that health and personal information collected, stored, disclosed and destroyed by the Program complies with relevant Victorian state legislation including: the Cancer Act 1958, the Health Services Act 1988, the Health Records Act 2001, the Public Records Act 1973 and the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

Every woman that attends BreastScreen Victoria for screening is asked to sign a consent form that authorises the use of her data for the purpose of monitoring the Program’s performance. This information is only reported numerically and does not allow the identification of details from an individual woman. Information that identifies a woman, such as her screening mammogram results, can only be made available to a third party (including her local doctor) with her prior written consent for this information to be released. Further information about BreastScreen Victoria’s privacy statement can be found at: www.breastscreen.org.au

WHISTLEBLOWER LEGISLATION
Since January 2002, BreastScreen Victoria has been subject to and complies with the Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001 (WPA). BreastScreen Victoria’s Whistleblowers policy and current procedures are set out on our website www.breastscreen.org.au and can be obtained by phoning (03) 9660 6888. BreastScreen Victoria reports annually on whistleblower statistics in accordance with Section 104 of the Act. No disclosures were received during the 2008–2009 financial year.