BreastScreen Australia Review Survey

The Department of Health and Aged Care, with state and territory Governments, is currently undertaking a review of the BreastScreen Australia Program. In December 2023, a public consultation was opened to inform the program review. Cancer Council are supportive of the review of the BreastScreen Program and welcomed the opportunity to provide a submission to this consultation.

In our submission, we highlighted the biggest opportunities which we believe exist for breast cancer screening in Australia, including:

- Improving screening participation rates, particularly in diverse communities and priority population groups.
  - Further deaths from breast cancer could be prevented through increased participation at both the population level, and through improving equitable participation in prioritised communities.
- Building a stronger evidence base through an ongoing investment in data, evaluation, and research.
  - Investment in data on screening behaviour will allow screening programs to be tailored to deliver the most benefit.
  - Ongoing evaluation will provide opportunities to implement recommendations and improve the effectiveness of the Program.
- Examining evidence gaps and ensuring the successful implementation of a risk-based screening program in Australia, as there is significant evidence from both Australia and internationally, that demonstrates that a risk-based approach to breast cancer screening can improve outcomes
- Considering additional breast imaging technologies, which are expected to improve the balance of benefits, harms, and cost-effectiveness.
- Maximising opportunities across the national program to provide improved community awareness, and information about cancer.

Overall, Cancer Council commends the work which BreastScreen Australia is undertaking to help improve breast cancer screening and breast cancer outcomes in Australia. Further information on the BreastScreen Australia Review can be found on the [Department of Health and Aged Care website.](#)