



**THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP**  
**Minister for Health and Ageing**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Reimbursements now available for breast prostheses**

Australian women who have had a mastectomy as a result of breast cancer will welcome the news that the Rudd Government has fulfilled its election and Budget commitment to reimburse the cost of breast prostheses up to \$400.

The new program provides, for the first time, nationally consistent financial support to eligible women who require external breast prostheses as a result of breast cancer.

The reimbursement covers both new and replacement external breast prostheses purchased from 1 July 2008.

Since the program was announced on 9 September 2008, Medicare Australia has received more than 1,000 claim forms for reimbursement.

From today, the program is operational and claims processing has commenced.

To claim the reimbursement a Medicare claim form needs to be completed, which is available from any Medicare office or from the Medicare website.

All reimbursements will be made by electronic funds transfer to a nominated bank account.

Women who are permanent residents of Australia, have a current Medicare entitlement and have had a mastectomy as a result of breast cancer are eligible to claim the reimbursement.

Women can access information about the program by contacting Medicare Australia via the website [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) or by telephoning 132 011.

This builds on other funding the Government has committed:

- \$12 million through the McGrath Foundation for breast care nurses in 44 locations
- Listed the drug Tykerb® (lapatinib) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for women with advanced breast cancer
- Provided \$2.5 million over five years towards the National Breast Cancer Foundation's cohort study of 100,000 women's experiences of breast cancer.

**For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220.**