



# QUALITY MATTERS

An NQMC update: October 2023

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## BSA National Surveyor Update

### Exciting Announcement: New Deputy National Surveyor for BreastScreen Australia

We are thrilled to share some exciting news that promises to enhance the quality and safety of our BSA program with the recent appointment of Kim Coulter as the new Deputy National Surveyor.

This new role was established by the Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) to further strengthen the accreditation processes within BSA.

The Deputy National Surveyor will play a pivotal role in the operational aspects of accreditation surveys for BSA Services and State Coordination Units (SCUs), the National Surveyor will continue to provide strategic oversight and contribute to safety and quality improvement within the program.

This appointment marks a significant milestone in our commitment to ensuring that breast screening in Australia continues to meet the highest standards of safety and quality. We are confident that Ms Coulter will play a pivotal role in achieving this goal.

Join us in extending a warm welcome to Ms Coulter and stay tuned for further updates as we work together to advance breast health in our community.

## Join Our Accreditation Surveyor Team for BreastScreen Australia!

Here is an exciting chance to become an integral part of our mission to ensure the highest standards of breast screening quality and safety. We are on the lookout for Accreditation Surveyors. Expressions of interest are currently open for:

- Radiologists
- Radiographers
- Senior Manager and Service Director

The category of Program Manager/Service Director has now been expanded to include Senior Managers who oversee Services/SCUs accreditation and/or engage in quality improvement activities.

### How to Apply

To get started, simply reach out to the [NQMC Secretariat](#), and request the application package tailored to the role you are interested in. This package includes an online application form, role description, selection criteria and the essential Surveyor code of conduct.

### Have Questions?

If you have any queries or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the National Surveyor, [Joan Burns](#) or by phone at 0409 883 255.

### Key Dates to Remember

- Applications close on Friday, 20 October 2023.
- Successful applicants will be notified by December 2023.

### Mark Your Calendar

The Surveyor Training session is tentatively scheduled for February 2024. If you have previously applied and were successful, you are eligible to attend this training session without reapplying.

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Join us on this remarkable journey to uphold the highest standards of breast screening quality and safety.

### BSA Information Update

#### BSA Conference 2024 – Save the Date!

Mark your calendars and save the date because the BSA Conference 2024 is just around the corner. This will be the first BSA Conference since April 2018.

#### Conference Details

**When:** Wednesday, 13 March – Friday, 15 March 2024

**Where:** Canberra Convention Centre (hosted by BreastScreen ACT)

**Theme:** “Towards Tomorrow – Inclusion, Evidence, Showcase, Change”

#### Meet the Keynote Speakers

We have the privilege of hosting two distinguished keynote speakers who will inspire us with their expertise and insights.

- Dr Elizabeth Morris (USA): A renowned radiologist specialising in high-risk screening and the use of contrast-based screening.
- Dr Sophia Zachrisson (Sweden): An expert in Oncology Imaging, Dr Zachrisson’s research in digital breast tomosynthesis in screening, coupled with her keen interest in Artificial Intelligence, promises to open new horizons in our understanding of breast health.

#### How to Book Early Bird Conference Tickets

Be sure to reserve your spot today by visiting the official conference [website](#).

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to take advantage of early bird pricing and ensure your place at the conference. The early bird pricing set to end on Friday, 2 February 2024.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue our countdown to this exciting event.

### NQMC Update

#### NQMC Membership

The NQMC Secretariat is delighted to announce four fantastic opportunities to join our team as Proxy Members:

- NQMC Consumer Advocate Member
- NQMC Radiologist Proxy Member
- NQMC Surgeon Proxy Member
- NQMC State Quality Committee Chair Proxy Member

If you are passionate about contributing to the NQMC’s mission and would like to be part of our team, this is your chance.

Whether you are interested in applying for one of these positions or would like to nominate someone, we encourage you to send an expression of interest to the [NQMC Secretariat](#). Your participation will support the BSA program to achieve the highest possible quality standards.

### BreastScreen Australia – Research and other activities

The Department manages various research projects related to the BSA program. You can find a comprehensive summary of these projects on the Department’s [website](#). This summary is periodically updated, so you can always stay in the loop with the latest insights.

For the latest statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Cancer Screening Programs’ quarterly data update for the March quarter of 2023 was publicly released on Friday, 14 July 2023. This report includes valuable BSA activity data up to March 2023 and preliminary BSA participation data for the 2021-2022 period.

You can access these informative quarterly monitoring reports on the [AIHW website](#).

#### The Australian Public Health Conference 2023

We are pleased to provide a recap of the recently concluded Australian Public Health Conference 2023, held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart from Tuesday, 26 September to Thursday, 28 September 2023.

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The Australian Public Health Conference, organised by the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), served as a national platform for sharing insights into a wide array of public health issues. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, exchanged ideas, and gained knowledge about the latest development in the field.

The conference theme was: **‘Investing in a strong, smart and sustainable public health system for the future’**.

The conference theme emphasised the importance of strengthening our public health system to serve as the cornerstone of a sustainable health and well-being framework for all. In light of the challenges posed by the pandemic, there was a collective call to reframe the public’s perception and appreciation of public health evidence and practice.

While we have seen encouraging developments such as the National Preventative Health Strategy and the commitment to establish an Australian Centre for Disease Control, concerns remain about resource allocation for balancing prevention, control strategies, and emergency responses. This holds true for both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The conference served as a vital platform to explore what constitutes a high-value public health system. By bringing together researchers, practitioners, policy makers, students, and community members, it fostered discussions aimed at driving change based on evidence and experience.

We extend our gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Australian Public Health Conference 2023. Your commitment to advancing public health is commendable, and together, we are making strides toward a healthier and more sustainable future.

## NQMC reporting

### Accreditation Application and Annual Data Report Submission

We are excited to bring you an important update regarding the submission process for BSA Accreditation and Annual Data Reports (ADR).

The Department has introduced a new and secure submission process, effective as of June 30, 2023. Here are the key details:

#### 1. Submission via Symantec Secure Mail System.

Moving forward, BSA Accreditation and ADR Submissions must be sent to the Department through the Symantec Secure Mail System, a secure web email portal.

**2. Registration Required.** Services will be asked to register for this secure web email service, and they will have the opportunity to create their own login credentials for accessing the secure email portal.

**3. Streamlined Review Process.** The Department's dedicated BreastScreen team will facilitate the distribution of submissions to the relevant parties, such as the NQMC and the National Surveyor, for their review and consideration.

**4. Data Report (Form BSA004) Submission.** It's important to note that the BSA004 PDF or Excel template CSV file will still need to be submitted to the AIHW. The AIHW will continue to utilise this data to generate graphs for synopses and support the NQMC and National Surveyor.

**5. Use of Defigo.** To submit your BSA004 PDF or CSV file to the AIHW, you are still required to utilise Defigo, the AIHW secure email portal. If you have questions or need assistance regarding access to Defigo, please reach out to the AIHW at [screeninganalysismonitoring@aihw.gov.au](mailto:screeninganalysismonitoring@aihw.gov.au).

If you have any questions or require support in creating your user login for the secure email portal, please do not hesitate to contact the BreastScreen team at [BSAAccreditation@health.gov.au](mailto:BSAAccreditation@health.gov.au).

These changes represent our ongoing commitment to streamlining processes, enhancing security, and ensuring the highest

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standards of data submission and review within the BSA program.

We appreciate your cooperation and dedication to advancing breast screening in Australia. Together, we continue to make significant strides in our mission.

### Important Dates: NQMC Accreditation and ADR Submission Deadlines

We want to ensure that you are well prepared and informed about the upcoming submission deadlines for accreditation applications and ADRs to the NQMC. Here are the key dates to mark in your calendars:

1. NQMC Meeting on 17 November 2023 (rescheduled)
  - Submission Date: 27 October 2023
2. NQMC Meeting on 1 March 2024
  - Submission Date: 2 February 2024
3. NQMC Meeting on 24 May 2024
  - Submission Date: 25 April 2024
4. NQMC Meeting on 23 August 2024
  - Submission Date: 26 July 2024

Please note that while the date of the November 2023 meeting has been brought forward by one week to 17 November 2023, there is no change to the dates for the Services and SCUs to submit their reports.

These deadlines are critical to ensure the smooth flow of accreditation application and ADR submissions within the BSA program. Your timely compliance with these dates is greatly appreciated as it contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of our processes.

If you have any questions or require further clarification about these submission dates, please do not hesitate to contact the [NQMC Secretariat](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Joint NQMC – PMG Workshop

We are thrilled to share some exciting news that has been in the making for quite some time. The much-anticipated workshop, a collaboration between NQMC and the Program Managers

Group is coming. This Joint NQMC – PMG Workshop will mark the first joint gathering since 2020. It is a chance to reconnect, exchange ideas, and reignite our collective commitment to advancing cancer screening in Australia.

**When:** Thursday, 16 November 2023

**Where:** Park Royal Hotel Melbourne

The collaborative effort takes on a greater significance with the commencement of the Policy and Funding Review. It offers a platform to take a forward-looking stance, ensuring that our strategies align with the evolving landscapes.

The next Quality Matters Bulletin will be published following the November 2023 meeting.