

## **The BreastScreen Australia National Policy and Funding Review**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The BreastScreen Australia National Policy and Funding Review (Review) will inform the strategic direction for the BreastScreen Australia Program (Program).

The Review will be Commonwealth led, with support from the Review Steering Committee. It is anticipated the Review will deliver a final report and recommendations by the end of 2024.

#### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the Review is to develop recommendations for evidence-based best practice in breast cancer screening. The recommendations should support national consistency and a sustainable increase in Program participation. The Review will also include recommendations on the future funding model of the Program.

#### ***Objectives***

The objectives of the Review are to:

1. Ensure BreastScreen Australia puts evidence into practice nationally by evaluating current and emerging screening technologies and screening and assessment pathways for the early detection of breast cancer.
2. Align BreastScreen Australia accreditation arrangements with new evidence, technologies, and screening and assessment pathways.
3. Identify strategies for increasing participation and providing equity of access to breast cancer screening.
4. Determine a contemporary and sustainable funding model that considers Program funding mechanisms.
5. Describe a review model that ensures the Program will be responsive to future evidence of best practice screening.

The Objectives will be achieved by:

- Reviewing and synthesising evidence on screening technologies and different policy and clinical approaches to breast cancer screening and assessment.
- Identifying evidence-based breast cancer screening and assessment pathways that could be considered in the Australian context, which includes screening women who may have risk factors other than age, such as dense breasts.
- Conducting economic modelling of alternative breast cancer screening and assessment pathways and compare to current practice to support policy decisions and where previous modelling has not evaluated the scenario.
- Assessing the impact of new evidence, technologies and screening and assessment pathways on the safety and quality of the Program and updating accreditation arrangements as required.

- Providing an assessment of the feasibility of implementing recommendations.
- Identifying funding models that could support sustained increase in Program participation:
  - Develop a standard model to estimate the cost of breast cancer screening and assessment in BreastScreen Australia and in the private sector, which may include cost per woman screened <sup>1</sup>and estimate current and potential future costs of breast cancer screening and assessment.
  - Future funding models will consider a funding mechanism, both screening and assessment costs and variations across jurisdictions, including service delivery models and different population profiles.
- Developing a plan to systematically inform and implement evidence-based best practice in the Program into the future. This will need to consider how the outcomes of two major international clinical trials, *My Personalized Breast Screening (MyPeBS)* and *Women Informed to Screen Depending on Measures of Risk (WISDOM)*, can be reviewed, evaluated, and translated into an Australian context.

The Review will ensure the objectives and targets of BreastScreen Australia participation in other national joint agendas are supported, including, but not limited to, the:

- National Preventative Health Strategy 2021-2030
- Australian Cancer Plan 2023-2033
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- Other relevant national/jurisdictional strategies or plans that may impact future national policy for BreastScreen Australia.

## Scope

The scope of evidence for evaluation includes and is not limited to:

- The outcomes and recommendations from the 2009 BreastScreen Evaluation, which have not yet been implemented.
- Outcomes and recommendations from the Roadmap to Optimising Screening in Australia (ROSA) breast cancer screening project.
- National and international research on tomosynthesis, breast cancer risk factors, such as dense breasts, risk stratified screening and artificial intelligence.
- Outcomes and recommendations from relevant research.
- Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items that support diagnostic breast cancer tests for asymptomatic individuals, with consideration to how the BreastScreen Australia Program interacts with these existing services.

### *In scope of the Review*

- The study population is restricted to asymptomatic women.
- Clinical trials, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses.
- Best practice in current national or international breast screening settings that have been reported and can be evaluated.

### *Out of scope of Review*

- Symptomatic women.
- A review of National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) funding.

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<sup>1</sup> Cost per women screened includes cost of assessment.

**Governance**

The Review will be led by the Commonwealth with support from the Review Steering Committee. A BreastScreen Australia Review Expert Advisory Group will be established to provide advice.

***Deliverables and timeframe***

The Review will deliver a final report and recommendations by the end of 2024.