

QUALITY MATTERS

This bulletin reports on current BreastScreen Australia (BSA) National Quality Management Committee (NQMC) news, events, and opportunities

BreastScreen
AUSTRALIA

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

DECEMBER 2023



National Surveyor Update

Exciting Announcement: Surveyor Recruitment Success!

We are delighted to share a pivotal update on our recent efforts to bolster our Accreditation Surveyor team. Here's the latest news:

Expressions of Interest Closure

As of 20 October 2023, the window for expressing interest in joining our Accreditation Surveyor pool has officially closed.

Selection Panel Evaluation

In October 2023, our dedicated Surveyor Selection Panel meticulously assessed all applications.

IN THIS ISSUE

[National Surveyor Update](#)

[BSA Information Update](#)

[Joint NQMC-PMG
Workshop](#)

[BSA's other activities](#)

[NQMC Update](#)

Eligibility Criteria Met

Applicants meeting the selection criteria and deemed suitable by the panel are now eligible to progress to the next stage – our comprehensive surveyor training.

Save the Dates

A virtual Surveyor Training Course is scheduled for 9 and 23 February 2024 – a crucial step in shaping the future of our surveyor team.

If you've previously successfully applied, consider this your golden ticket – you're automatically eligible for the upcoming training session, and no re-application is necessary.

Heartfelt Thanks

Our sincere gratitude goes out to all who submitted expressions of interest to become Accreditation Surveyors. Special thanks to the dedicated members of the Surveyors Selection Panel for their integral role in the selection process. We also extend our appreciation to the NQMC Secretariat for their support and assistance throughout the recruitment journey.

Need More Information?

For any additional details or inquiries, please feel free to contact our National Surveyor, Joan Burns, via [email](#) or phone at 0409 883 255.

Your enthusiasm and dedication have made this recruitment process a success. We're excited about the prospect of shaping the future of our Accreditation Surveyor team together.

BSA Information Update

BSA Conference 2024 – Save the Date!

Exciting news is brewing as the BreastScreen Australia Conference 2024 draws near, hosted by BreastScreen ACT at the Canberra Convention Centre from Wednesday, 13 March to Friday, 15 March 2024.

Conference Theme: Towards Tomorrow

The conference's overarching theme is "Towards Tomorrow – inclusion, evidence, showcase, change." This sets the stage for dynamic discussions and showcases the industry's evolution.

Conference Program Highlights

The conference program promises a diverse array of topics. You can take a look [here](#) for an in-depth look at what awaits you!

Keynote Speakers

Get ready to be inspired by the esteemed keynote speakers:

- **Dr Sophia Zachrisson (Sweden):** Specialising in Oncology Imaging, Dr. Zachrisson explores digital breast tomosynthesis and its intersection with Artificial Intelligence.
- **Dr Nisha Sharma (UK):** Director of the Breast Screening Program in Leeds Teaching Hospital, Dr. Sharma delves into the integration of AI to enhance Radiologists' performance and health system efficiencies.

Conference Speaker Lineup

A stellar lineup of 42 speakers is set to captivate audiences with their insights and expertise.

Early Bird Registrations

We are thrilled to announce 86 delegate registrations to date, primarily from BSA jurisdictions. Hurry and secure your spot by taking advantage of the early bird rates on our Conference website [here](#).

Call for Abstracts - Poster/Oral Presentations

The response to the conference organising committee's call for abstracts has been phenomenal. They received 48 submissions, including 40 oral presentations and 13 poster presentations. After careful consideration, 21 oral abstract presentation slots have been allocated, and all poster presentations have been accepted. For those with unsuccessful oral

presentations, the organising committee is offering the opportunity to convert them into engaging poster presentations. Please feel free to contact Julianne Siggins, via [email](#) or phone at 0422 390 606.

Join Us on this Unforgettable Journey

As the momentum is building, we cannot wait to embark on this enriching journey "Towards Tomorrow" with each of you at the BSA Conference 2024.

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

Joint NQMC and PMG Workshop

We're excited to provide you with a snapshot of the impactful collaboration between the NQMC and the Program Management Group (PMG) during our joint workshop on Thursday, 16 November 2023.

Building on Success

This marked the third collaborative workshop between NQMC and PMG, following successful sessions in March 2018 and March 2020.

Convened by the Department of Health and Aged Care, the workshop aimed to foster knowledge-sharing, gather perspectives, and identify joint strategic activities for continuous quality improvement and safety within the BSA Program.

Workshop Objectives

The primary objective was to achieve a shared understanding of the current operational environment of BreastScreen services and the accreditation system. Participants collectively outlined how the three national BSA committees - NQMC, PMG, and CAG (Clinical Advisory Group) - could collaborate effectively to enhance quality improvement in the program.



Throughout the workshop, there was a palpable sense of goodwill, encouraging collaboration between NQMC and PMG. The shared passion among attendees to ensure the BSA program becomes the best it can be for the women of Australia was truly inspiring.

Key Takeaways and Next Steps

The workshop facilitated valuable discussions, and attendees left with a clear vision for joint strategic activities. The commitment to continuous quality improvement and safety within the BSA Program remains unwavering.

As we move forward, we anticipate the positive impact of these collaborative efforts on the enhancement of BSA's overall effectiveness.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to making a difference in the BSA program.

BreastScreen Australia's other activities

In our commitment to keeping you informed about crucial developments in the field of cancer care, we are pleased to highlight the release of key strategic documents.

Australian Cancer Plan by Cancer Australia

Cancer Australia has unveiled the Australian Cancer Plan, a groundbreaking initiative designed to propel cancer research, treatment, and support services nationwide. This comprehensive plan serves as a strategic roadmap, outlining the trajectory for advancing the overall landscape of cancer care. Dive into the details of this pivotal plan [here](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan by NACCHO

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) has introduced the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan. Tailored to address the unique challenges and needs of Indigenous communities, this plan focuses on enhancing cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Explore the plan's details [here](#).

National Strategy for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer

In tandem with the above initiatives, the Department of Health and Aged Care has launched the National Strategy for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer in Australia. This forward-looking strategy is geared towards significantly reducing and ultimately eliminating cervical cancer through targeted interventions and awareness campaigns. Access further detail [here](#).

We encourage you to delve into these groundbreaking documents to gain insights into the future of cancer care, treatment, and prevention in Australia.

For any inquiries or to stay updated on the latest developments, feel free to reach out to us. Your ongoing engagement is crucial in shaping the future of cancer care in our community.

BSA Review announcement

On 27 October 2023, the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler, [announced the commencement](#) of the BSA Review.

Have your say

The BSA Review is underway, and the Department of Health and Aged Care would like to hear from you. From now until 20 February 2024, you can provide your thoughts, comments, suggestions, and responses to their questions via the [Consultation Hub](#).

How to get involved

As part of the Review, the Department have set up a 'Partner Reference Group'. They understand that communication is important, and the more people involved, the more views they can consider as part of the Review.

Those that register for this group will receive regular updates on the review, including ways to participate in future public consultations. If you would like to register for the Partner Reference Group, please indicate your interest to BreastScreenReviewPRG@health.gov.au.

For the latest statistics, head to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) [website](#).

NQMC Update


NQMC Membership

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

- NQMC Consumer Advocate Member
- NQMC Radiologist 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.



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 1 March 2024
 - Submission Date: 2 February 2024
2. NQMC Meeting on 24 May 2024
 - Submission Date: 25 April 2024
3. NQMC Meeting on 23 August 2024
 - Submission Date: 26 July 2024
4. NQMC Meeting on 15 November 2024 (*rescheduled*)
 - Submission Date: 25 October 2024

Please note that while the date of the November 2024 meeting has been brought forward by one week to 15 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](#).

The next Quality Matters Bulletin will be published following the March 2024 meeting.