



Australian Government

BreastScreen
AUSTRALIA

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

1 in 7

Australian women
will develop breast
cancer in their
lifetime

What is breast cancer?

Breast cancer is a disease that occurs when abnormal cells in the breast grow out of control. The cancer spreads into the breast tissues.

Breast screening saves lives.

The earlier breast cancer is found, the better the chance of surviving it.

BreastScreen Australia is the national breast cancer screening program. Every state and territory operates a BreastScreen Australia service.

This is a resource for you and your doctor to read together.

9 out of 10,
women with breast
cancer do not have
a family history of
breast cancer



Aged 50–74

Actively invited to get
a free screen every 2 years.



Aged 40–49

Free screening is available,
but it is not routinely recommended.
Talk to your doctor about whether
screening is right for you.



Aged 75 or over

What is a breast screen?

- A mammogram is a quick, 20-minute test that takes clear pictures of your breast tissue from the top and side. It is free and you do not need a doctor's referral to get one.
- It is an early detection tool that checks for tiny changes or signs of breast cancer long before they are big enough for you or your doctor to see or feel.
- It is designed for women who have no current symptoms or unusual changes, helping to find cancer early when treatment is most successful.

If you are trans or gender diverse breast screening may be of benefit for you – or it may not be, depending on individual circumstances.

If you have breast implants it is generally safe to have a screening mammogram. Chat to your doctor about whether breast screening is suitable for you. If you decide to have a breast screen, please tell the BreastScreen staff about your implants when you make your appointment.

If you have a disability you have the same risk of breast cancer as other women. When you are making your booking, please tell BreastScreen Australia staff about any particular requirements you may have.



Find out more:
health.gov.au/bsa

Or contact BreastScreen Australia
on **13 20 50**



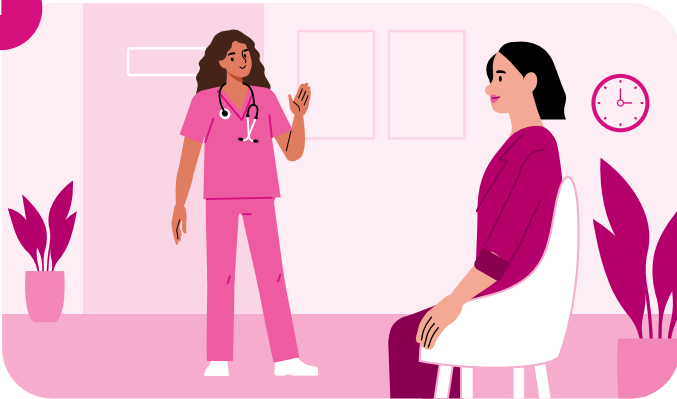
If you need an interpreter,
please call **13 14 50**

**These resources are available
in other languages**

What happens next

If you decide to get a breast screen, here's what to expect in the 20-minute appointment:

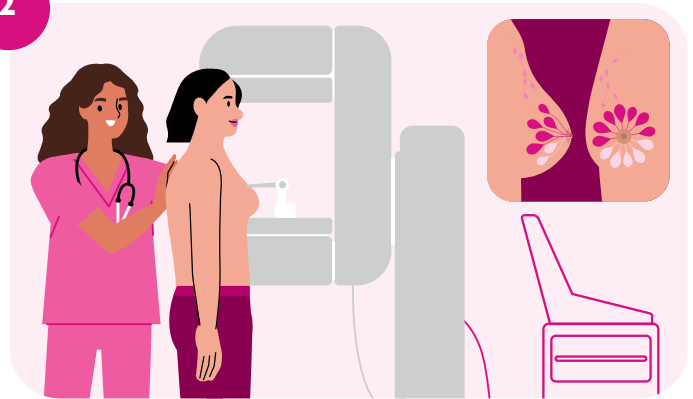
1



Welcome and Preparation

Your radiographer will take you into a private X-ray room and ask you to remove your clothing from the waist up.

2



The Scan

The radiographer will then place one breast at a time between 2 plates on the X-ray machine. The machine will press firmly on your breast for about 10 seconds to take the picture. It may feel tight or uncomfortable, but it should not hurt. If you feel pain, tell the radiographer straight away.

3



Results

At least 2 specialist doctors will read your mammogram images to check for breast cancer. Results will generally be sent in the mail within 2 weeks to you and your doctor or health service (if you've agreed to this).

There are over 750 locations across Australia where you can get a breast screen.

To make an appointment, visit your local state or territory BreastScreen website or call **13 20 50**.

If you have symptoms now

Do not wait for a screening appointment.

See your GP immediately if you notice a lump, pain, or any unusual breast changes.



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