



# QUALITY MATTERS

## An NQMC update: February 2020

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### NQMC Projects

#### **Amendment to Decision Tool**

Following consultation with Program Managers, at the November 2019 meeting the NQMC approved a series of non-material amendments to the BSA National Accreditation Handbook.

The changes will have the following impact on Services and SCUs:

- SCUs in multi-service jurisdictions will be required to report state wide data for each NAS measure in their applications and ADRs
- Services will be required to report service level data against all NAS Measures regardless of responsibilities.

These changes will not change the underlying decision-making processes of the NQMC, they will simply alter the starting point of NQMC consideration of accreditation applications by

showing state performance against all NAS measures.

The NQMC will still consider the Service's/SCU's accountability for

performance under the NAF alongside the Decision Tool outcome when determining accreditation outcomes.

The updated version of the [BSA National Accreditation Handbook](#) and updated forms [BSA101](#) and [BSA004](#) are now available on the [BreastScreen Australia website](#).

The key changes in the updated forms include:

- the non-target cohort NAS, and
- the requirement for Services and SCUs to report against state wide data (not only reporting responsibilities), and
- the removal of the reference to the 'Equivalent Previous NAS'

The NQMC will require the Services and SCUs to use the new forms and reporting for the May 2020 NQMC meeting.

Please contact the NQMC Secretariat on 03 6231 4091 with any queries you may have.

#### **Performance Report – Live Trial**

As reported in the June 2019 Quality Matters, a live trial of the Performance Report is underway. The Performance Report seeks to improve efficiency in the accreditation system by replacing the existing six accreditation forms with one cumulative online reporting facility.

The trial is progressing and will see participating Services submit their applications using the Performance Report to the May 2020 NQMC meeting.

A consultant has been engaged to evaluate the trial of the Performance Report

#### **National Performance Benchmarking Program**

Following a successful workshop on the implementation of the NPBP in February 2019, the NQMC is proceeding with a National Quality Improvement Forum (NQIF) to be held

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in Canberra on 26 August 2020 in connection with the BSA Conference.

The NPBP will establish national benchmarking that supports end-to-end change management – that is, not only identifying relative performance but to also encompass mechanisms that allow Services/SCUs to learn from each other.

The NQIF will bring together key participants in the benchmarking program to discuss performance and facilitate networking opportunities

### BSA National Surveyor Update

By Ms Joan Burns

#### National Surveyor Review

A big shout out to all the BreastScreen staff and Services affected by the unprecedented weather events this summer. Certainly, the impact of these events will be felt for months and years into the future by so many people and communities right across the country. Thinking of you all and wishing you courage and strength and above all, stay safe.

A big congratulations to BreastScreen Tasmania for their achievement of Accreditation with Commendation. As you would all know, accreditation with commendation is extraordinarily difficult to achieve and is recognition of the high quality of the Service's program delivery.

Congratulations to Gail Ward and all the team at BST for their outstanding efforts and service to the women of Tasmania that are recognised in this award.

Congratulations to Vicki Pridmore, Dr Jill Evans and Georgina Marr from BreastScreen Victoria and their colleagues for publication of the results of a pilot of breast tomosynthesis at Maroondah BreastScreen in the Medical Journal of Australia in August 2019.

Publication in a peer-reviewed journal is a marker of quality in academia so this achievement is an indicator of quality research. Congratulations to all involved.

If you have published or know of any recent journal publications involving BreastScreen staff or services, please let us know so that it

can be brought to the attention of the wider BreastScreen community.

A lot of hard work, effort, blood, sweat, tears and cost goes into gaining and holding accreditation. Ever wondered what the value of accreditation is? An evidence brief by the Deeble Institute looking at the value of accreditation to health systems and organisations and explores concepts of value in healthcare, the value of accreditation, quality, population health, workforce and workplace culture in the Australian setting. With an extensive reference list, it is a valuable resource to anyone working in the field.

View a copy of the report [here](#)

Lastly, one of the issues I've most often been asked about in this role is that of Surveyor payments. Revised advice on this issue is in draft and will be made available to all Surveyors and Services and amendments included in the BSA National Accreditation Handbook once all the necessary approvals have been received.

My contact details are:

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#### Forms reminder

The NQMC Secretariat frequently receives reports of issues with the BSA accreditation forms that are resolved by simply ensuring that the Service/SCU is using the current version of the form.

Updated forms [BSA101](#) (BSA101\_2020\_c) and [BSA004](#) (BSA004\_2020\_c) are now available on the [BreastScreen Australia website](#). The forms include the additional non-cohort NAS measures.

Services and SCUs are reminded that all BSA documents and forms are available in their latest version on the Cancer Screening website. The most failsafe method to ensure you are using the correct version is to always download the required form each time it is needed, rather than refer to older saved copies.

### BreastScreen Australia research and other activities

A summary of current BreastScreen Australia research and other projects managed by the Commonwealth Department of Health is available on the Cancer Screening website. This summary is updated periodically.

### Events

- The PMG is hosting the NQMC-PMG Joint Annual Workshop on Thursday 5 March 2020 at the ParkRoyal, Melbourne, Tullamarine Airport.
- The NQMC will host a National Quality Improvement Forum (NQIF) on Wednesday 26 August 2020 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra.
- The 2020 BSA Conference 'Towards Tomorrow' is to be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from Thursday 27 August 2020 to Saturday 29 August 2020.

### NQMC Membership

The Single-service jurisdiction Program Manager position on the NPBP Working Group has been filled by Ms Niamh Wade who is the Program Manager for Breast Screen South Australia.

Dr Patsy Soon has been appointed as the incoming Surgeon proxy (replacing Mr David Finkelde) to the NQMC. Dr Soon is the Clinical Director (BreastScreen South Western Sydney Local Health District), Clinical Academic (Bankstown Hospital) and Breast Surgeon (Bankstown and Waratah Private Hospitals, Liverpool BreastScreen Assessment Clinic).

Dr Gareth Porter has been appointed as the incoming Radiologist proxy (replacing Dr Jennie Noakes) to the NQMC. Dr Porter is the Consultant Radiologist and Designated Service Radiologist for BreastScreen WA and Consultant Radiologist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth.

### Cancer Australia Position Statement

Cancer Australia has developed a *Position Statement on the use of fine needle aspiration (FNA) and core biopsy of the breast in the BreastScreen Australia program*.

The Position Statement is currently being finalised and endorsement has been received from the following medical colleges and peak bodies:

- Breast Surgeons of Australia and New Zealand (BreastSurgANZ)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)
- Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA)
- BreastScreen Australia Program Management Group
- BreastScreen Australia National Quality Management Committee (NQMC)
- Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC)'s Standing Committee on Screening (SCoS)

The Position Statement and supporting Evidence Review Technical Report is anticipated to be published on Cancer Australia's website in early 2020.