

QUALITY MATTERS



An NQMC update: June 2020

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NQMC Projects

Performance Report – Live Trial

The Live Trial has been paused as participating Services have been granted extensions to their accreditation period due to the impact of COVID-19. A consultant has been engaged to evaluate the trial of the Performance Report to ensure learnings are captured for activities undertaken to date.

BSA National Surveyor Update

By Ms Joan Burns

National Surveyor Review

The public health measures taken by federal, state and territory governments to contain and suppress the COVID19 pandemic led to the rapid cessation of BreastScreen screening services across Australia from March onwards.

Enormous gratitude and respect is offered to all the staff of BreastScreen services across Australia in undertaking such unprecedented action with such professionalism and care for clients and each other.

The National Quality Management Committee took the decision to extend current accreditation to all Services for twelve months, adding a full year to the accreditation cycle. This action was taken to provide certainty to Services during what was, and continues to be, a rapidly-changing and unpredictable environment.

BreastScreen services have resumed at some level in most jurisdictions but this varies according to state and territory policies in place at any one point in time. COVID19 is now with us and the uncertainty and state of flux will likely remain for some time yet.

In the meantime, surveys are planned to recommence in 2021 subject to public health measures in place at the time. Activity continues around a revision of the National Survey Plan, planning for future Surveyor recruitment and training, a quality improvement training program and continuous quality improvement of accreditation processes.

To everyone in the wider BreastScreen family, thanks for all you do - and stay safe.

Please feel free to contact me anytime on 0409 883 255.

Joan Burns

National Surveyor

BSA information update

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.

Updated forms on the [Cancer Screening website](#) include:

- [BSA004](#) (BSA004-2020-d), and
- [Reporting adverse events to the NQMC](#) (BSAADVEV-2020-a)

The [BSA Handbook](#) (Attachment 4) has been updated with Payment and Travel Requirements for Surveyors and Data Assessors

Quality Improvement Initiatives

BreastScreen Victoria has an ongoing commitment to inclusive, welcoming, and safe screening for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people. Our recent major achievements are:

- The BreastScreen Coordination Unit (BCU) and Mobile Screening Service achieved Rainbow Tick accreditation in March 2019 for their commitment to safe and inclusive practice.
- Implementation of a [trans and gender diverse policy](#) to clarify the eligibility of trans and non-binary people to screen.
- [Beautiful Women](#) project aimed to encourage LGBTI women to undertake breast screening.
- [Rainbow Rose](#) – quarterly screening sessions specifically for the LGBTI community at a central screening clinic
- LGBTI Inclusion at Work training for BSV staff at BCU and our services
- Partnerships with LGBTI community organisations and presence at community events and festivals.

The Aboriginal Breast Screening Shawls project reflects our commitment to community control and self-determination.

- BSV and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) and seven Aboriginal Community Controlled

Organisations (ACCOs) have just completed a project combining development of the Aboriginal Screening Shawls with MSS visits to ACCHOs.

- VACCHO and each ACCO led the project and ensured that the needs of the Aboriginal community were central at every stage. To ensure cultural safety, BSV staff received cultural awareness training and ACCO staff received reception training so they were able to work on the MSS and provide community support. An Aboriginal screening shawl was designed for each community, featuring artwork by a local artist. One hundred and sixty Aboriginal women screened as part of this project, a significant achievement for an under-screened group.
- BSV is currently working with VACCHO to evaluate this project and develop a plan to roll this out across the state. A documentary will be launched in April alongside an exhibition of the artwork that inspired the shawls.
- BSV will now develop a self-determination strategy with our Aboriginal partners to ensure that self-determination remains at the core of our future projects with Aboriginal people.

ISQua Membership

The BSA program has renewed its institutional membership with the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua) for 2020.

ISQua is an independent, not-for-profit global organisation that operates the leading International Health Care external evaluation program.

This membership links BSA with a global quality community and is part of the NQMC's focus on quality improvement.

A webinar on the ISQua website:

['Accreditation as a driver of improvement and knowledge transfer'](#) may be of interest further

to the PMG hosted NQMC – PMG Joint Workshop held on 5 March 2020.

There are two conferences scheduled for ISQua in 2021: [Florence Italy](#) (8-10 February 2021) the conference theme is 'Emotion, Inspiration and Creativity: Pathways to Global Health Quality'. This year's health care convention will host over 180 expert presentations and provide ample opportunity for networking among the best and brightest in the international health care quality community, and [Brisbane Australia](#) (3-6 October 2021) to be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

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.

Impacts of COVID-19

On the 18 March 2020 the NQMC sent the 'NQMC Communique – COVID-19' alongside the 'BSA update for NQMC' from the Commonwealth to all NQMC members and BSA jurisdictional Program Managers regarding the changes to the BSA Accreditation Program arising from COVID-19. The May 2020 NQMC meeting was cancelled.

The NQMC clarified the extended periods of accreditation due to COVID-19 in a letter to Services/SCUs on 18 May 2020. The [Cancer Screening website](#) was updated with the extended periods of accreditation dates.

The National Surveyor is consulting with Program Managers on a new National Survey Plan 2020-2024 to take account of the changes due to the COVID-19 impact.

Events

The PMG hosted NQMC – PMG Joint Workshop in Melbourne on 5 March 2020. A major outcome of the Joint Workshop is that the Commonwealth will develop a Strategic

Workplan in 2020 for the BreastScreen Australia program.

The 2020 BSA Conference due to be held in Canberra from Thursday 27 August to Saturday 29 August 2020 and the associated National Quality Improvement Forum (NQIF) originally planned for Wednesday 26 August 2020 have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

BreastScreen Australia Program Position Statements

Fine Needle Aspiration and Core Biopsy Use

Cancer Australia is pleased to advise that the *Position Statement on the use of fine needle aspiration (FNA) and core biopsy of the breast in the BreastScreen Australia program* (Position Statement) has been uploaded to the Cancer Australia website ([here](#)), alongside the *High level review of evidence and national and international guidelines to inform the Position Statement* ([here](#)).

The purpose of this Position Statement is to provide guidance on the use of FNA and core biopsy for the assessment of abnormalities identified through population screening for breast cancer. This Position Statement is not intended to provide guidance on the use of biopsy techniques outside of the BreastScreen Australia program and applies only to the assessment of screen-detected abnormalities.

This Position Statement is based on:

- a review of high-level published peer-reviewed, clinical evidence (01 January 2000 to 31 July 2018) relating to the use of FNA and core biopsy in the context of mammographically-detected breast abnormalities;
- a review of recent national and international guidelines on the use of FNA and core biopsy for mammographically-detected breast abnormalities;
- an analysis of National Accreditation Standard (NAS) data from the BreastScreen Australia program (2004-2015); and

- the clinical expertise of a multidisciplinary Expert Advisory Group established by Cancer Australia to provide expert input into the development of the Position Statement.

Guidance for the use of FNA and core biopsy can be found ([here](#)). Table 1 outlines circumstances where FNA and/or core biopsy are appropriate in the BreastScreen Australia program, according to lesion type on imaging, and Table 2 provides a summary of benefits and limitations of FNA and core biopsy.

The Position Statement has been endorsed by the following:

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

Use of Tomosynthesis

The Commonwealth Department of Health commissioned Allen and Clarke Policy and Regulatory Specialists to prepare a Position Statement on the use of Tomosynthesis within BreastScreen Australia. The [2019 Position Statement](#) was endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Committee (AHMAC) Standing Committee on Screening in 2019, and by the AHMAC Clinical Advisory Committee in 2020. The 2019 Position Statement replaces the 2014 Position Statement prepared by BreastScreen Australia, a joint Australian State and Territory Government Program.

The 2019 Position Statement has been endorsed by the following organisations:

- Australasian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine
- Australian Society of Breast Physicians
- Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy
- BreastSurg ANZ
- Breast Cancer Network Australia
- Cancer Australia
- Cancer Council Australia
- The AHMAC Clinical Principal Committee
- The AHMAC Standing Committee on Screening