



## Media Statement

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## Free mammograms for EXMOUTH women

BreastScreen WA invites women 50 to 74 years to have a FREE screening mammogram. (All women 40 years and over are eligible). BreastScreen WA's mobile service will be located at Exmouth District Hospital, Lyon Street from 6/12/2019 to 19/12/2019.

Breast cancer is the most common life threatening cancer for women and one in eight women in Australia will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

Having a screening mammogram (breast x-ray) every two years significantly increases the chance of a woman surviving breast cancer and reduces the amount of treatment required. More than 75% of breast cancers occur in women over the age of 50. Research shows that screening is most effective for this age group.

BreastScreen WA's Medical Director Dr Elizabeth Wylie, said screening mammography was the most effective method for early detection of breast cancer.

"Screening every two years is vitally important to increase the chance of a breast cancer being detected when it is too small to feel or be noticed. Finding a cancer at this early stage often means that the breast cancer is small and more treatable".

"A free screening mammogram is one of the best things that women can do to look after their health. Breast screening saves lives and only takes 20 minutes," said Dr Wylie.

Screening mammograms may detect 70-90% of breast cancers.

Any woman with a persistent change in a breast should see her doctor immediately.

BreastScreen WA encourages women to make an informed decision about having a mammogram. For more information please visit the BreastScreen WA website [www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au)

**To make your free screening mammogram appointment – book online [www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au) or call 13 20 50.**

The mobile service will then be moving to Denham and Kalbarri.

**Early detection is your best protection.**

**ENDS**

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Dr Wylie is available for interview.