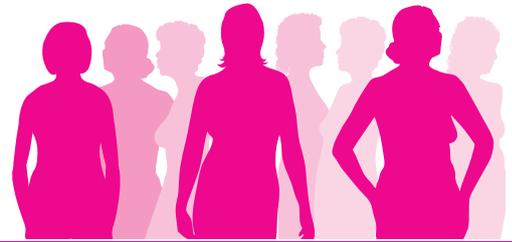




Department of Health



# Keeping abreast of BSWA News

Issue 26

April 2015

## Update from the Medical Director

April was a very busy time for the service. Despite the service disruption of Easter and the ANZAC public holiday breaks the program maintained its change momentum.

Staff will have noticed the hive of activity in the records area, as the compactus shelves empty and the records are bundled up to go offsite to Recall. The relocation of the files will allow us to have sufficient space on level 9, to permit the business administration unit staff to relocate from level 8. Bringing all the BreastScreen WA Eastpoint Plaza staff into level 9 will allow us to have a more functional integrated central co-ordinating unit, on a smaller accommodation footprint.

- Dr Liz Wylie



## Secrets in the Garden

On Saturday April 18 BreastScreen staffed a display at the inaugural Secrets in the Garden at Belvoir Amphitheatre in the Swan Valley.

Over the day approximately 1000 women were treated to food demonstrations, pampering zones, panel discussions and interactive workshops. There were over 40 inspiring speakers and experts across the main stage and workshops on wellness, business, motherhood and relationships. We had about 75 women visit our display and we received positive feedback about the BreastScreen WA service.



## BreastScreen WA Mobile Visit Albany

On Tuesday 3 March BreastScreen WA radiographer Gayll Rasmussen featured on page 2 of the Albany Advertiser. It was a great promotional article for our visit in Albany and we wish to thank Gayll for taking part. It is pleasing to note that because of this fantastic photo we have a terrific article on page 2 as opposed to relegated to deeper in the newspaper.



Radiographer Gayll Rasmussen meets with women daily for free screenings. Picture: Laurie Benson

## Free service in town

Caroline Campbell

"We're doing everything we can to ensure that treatments means

# Aboriginal Health Flip Chart Training

In April Leanne Pilkington, BreastScreen WA's Aboriginal Program Officer, presented the flip chart at the National ATSI Health Worker Association Professional Networking Forum in Mandurah (NATSIHWA). NATSIHWA is the main accreditation body for Aboriginal Health Workers and Practitioners. During the workshop there was discussion around how the ATSI flip chart training could be accredited working through a Registered Training Organisation or whether the attendees could get CPD points. Jenny Poelina (the NATSIHWA National Chair) was very enthusiastic about the flip chart and is taking the flip chart to the next Board meeting for discussion. To date 27 training sessions have been held over 7 metro, 20 rural/remote areas and over 180 participants have attended.



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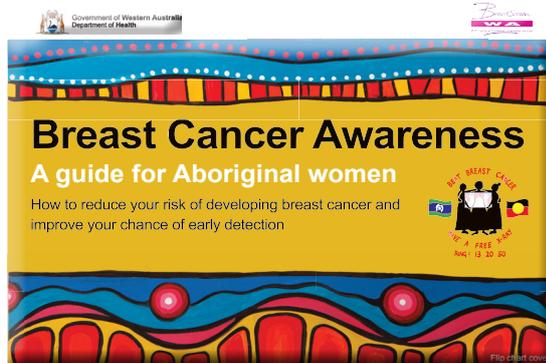
**Background:**

Aboriginal women have a lower incidence of breast cancer than non-Aboriginal women. However, they tend to be diagnosed at a later stage and their survival rate is lower. Current participation for Aboriginal women aged 50-69 years in the BreastScreen WA (BSWA) program is around 44%, significantly lower than the target rate (70%).



**The flipchart:**

After consulting with the Aboriginal Women's Reference Group and Aboriginal community members to address the low participation in the screening program, BSWA developed the flip chart and training kit.



**The training:**

Face-to-face training is held in towns around WA. Health professionals are the main target, however others who work with Aboriginal women in places like refuges, prisons and community groups are also welcome.

It is more culturally appropriate and much more effective than just sending out the flip chart without training. Personal contact encourages questions and interaction and promotes a better understanding of breast cancer and the screening program.

Local health professionals, with local knowledge, are better placed to reach and influence community members than an occasional visit by the Aboriginal Program Officer.

**Attendees:**

171 attendees have attended the 25 training sessions which have been held around WA. Seven in rural areas; eight in remote; four in very remote areas and seven in Perth.

The metropolitan training at Marr Moolty (2) and the CCWA (2) had attendees from all over WA. While most of the attendees work with Aboriginal women, very few specifically talk about breast cancer, breast screening and breast awareness in their day to day duties.

**Outcomes:**

Feedback to date has been very positive. 100% of attendees learned something new from the training and over 70% were more confident talking with their clients about breast cancer.

In those who participated in post-training follow-up to date, 40% said that they have used the flip chart to talk with their clients, which may be due to the timing of the mobile unit visits in some areas.

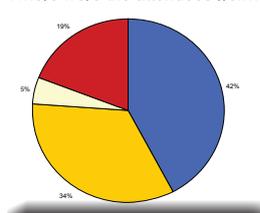
Three AHP in remote/very remote areas said they explain the flipchart in their traditional language for their clients.

**Challenges:**

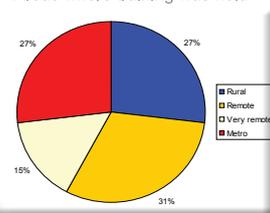
Isolation and distance, language, communication and cultural differences make it very challenging to provide training around WA. Cost of travel to remote areas may be an issue. In many areas, the Aboriginal Program Officer has had to fly several hours and then drive for several more to reach the training sites.



Where were the attendees from?



Areas where training was held



Government of Western Australia  
 Department of Health



A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

