



Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

*Better information and statistics
for better health and wellbeing*

CANCER SERIES
Number 55

BreastScreen Australia monitoring report 2006–2007 and 2007–2008

**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
for BreastScreen Australia**

August 2010

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

Cat. no. CAN 51

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is Australia's national health and welfare statistics and information agency. The Institute's mission is *better information and statistics for better health and wellbeing.*

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced without prior written permission from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be directed to the Head of the Communications, Media and Marketing Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.

This publication is part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's cancer series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Institute's website <www.aihw.gov.au>.

ISSN 1039-3307

ISBN 978 1 74249 043 4

Suggested citation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010. BreastScreen Australia monitoring report 2006–2007 and 2007–2008. Cancer series no. 55. Cat. no. CAN 51. Canberra: AIHW.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Board Chair

Hon. Peter Collins, AM, QC

Director

Penny Allbon

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Dr Alison Budd

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

GPO Box 570

Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6244 1023

Email: screening@aihw.gov.au

Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Printed by Union Offset Printers

**Please note that there is the potential for minor revisions of data in this report.
Please check the online version at <www.aihw.gov.au> for any amendments.**

Contents

Acknowledgments..... iv

Abbreviations..... v

Summary vi

National comparison table.....vii

Introduction.....1

Indicator 1 Participation8

Indicator 2 Detection of invasive cancers.....20

Indicator 3 Sensitivity31

Indicator 4 Detection of ductal carcinoma in situ.....39

Indicator 5 Recall to assessment44

Indicator 6 Rescreening50

Indicator 7 Incidence54

Indicator 8 Mortality66

Appendix A Additional data tables.....75

Appendix B BreastScreen Australia information82

Appendix C Data sources and classifications.....88

Appendix D Statistical methods.....92

Glossary.....95

References98

List of tables101

List of figures104

Acknowledgments

BreastScreen Australia is jointly funded by the Australian Government and state and territory governments. This report was produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in collaboration with the Screening Section of the Department of Health and Ageing and state and territory BreastScreen programs.

This report was prepared by Alison Budd, Shubhada Shukla, David Meere, Theresa Negrello and Christine Sturrock. Thanks are extended to the following state and territory program and data managers for providing the data and assistance in the production of this report. Thanks are also extended to all state and territory cancer registries, which are the source of data on the incidence of breast cancer (through the Australian Cancer Database) and ductal carcinoma in situ, and to state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, which are the source of data on breast cancer mortality (through the AIHW Mortality Database).

BreastScreen Australia

New South Wales

Ms Nevine Iskander
Ms Gordana Culjak
Mr Bolivar Morejon

Victoria

Ms Vicki Pridmore
Ms Karen Peasley
Ms Suzen Maljevac

Queensland

Ms Jennifer Muller
Dr Roz Glazebrook
Mr Nathan Dunn

Western Australia

Dr Liz Wylie
Ms Jan Tresham

South Australia

Ms Lou Williamson
Ms Chris Barber
Ms Ada Childs

Tasmania

Ms Gail Ward
Mr Dylan Sutton

Australian Capital Territory

Ms Yvonne Epping
Mr Philip Crawford

Northern Territory

Ms Chris Tyzack
Mr Rajeev Sadasivan

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Ms Melanie Bromley
Dr Tracey Bessell
Ms Karla Lister
Ms Sarah Dadds

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index for Australia
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographic Classification
ASR	age-standardised rate
CD	Census Collection District
CI	confidence interval
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
DCIS	ductal carcinoma in situ
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
NAS	National Accreditation Standards
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
Tas	Tasmania
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Symbols

..	not applicable
≤	less than or equal to
<	less than
>	more than

Summary

BreastScreen Australia is a joint program of the Australian Government and state and territory governments that aims to reduce morbidity and mortality from breast cancer. This is achieved through organised breast cancer screening to detect cases of unsuspected breast cancer in asymptomatic women, enabling intervention at an early stage. The target age group is women aged 50–69 years.

Participation and rescreening

In 2007–2008, 1,641,316 women participated in BreastScreen Australia, of whom 1,273,403 (77.6%) were aged 50–69 years. Although the number of women increased, participation of women aged 50–69 years decreased from 56.9% in 2005–2006 to 54.9% in 2007–2008.

BreastScreen Australia achieved equitable access to women across geographic regions, but participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women remained lower at 36.0%.

The proportion of women aged 50–69 years rescreened within 27 months ranged from 59.3% after the first screen to 66.8% after the second screen and to 78.4% after subsequent screens.

Invasive cancer detection

Between 1996 and 2008, the national rate at which women are recalled to assessment to investigate mammograms suspicious for breast cancer increased from 5.8% to 9.5% of women screened for the first screening round, while for subsequent screening rounds this rate remained at around 4%. An increase in the recall to assessment rate may have contributed to the increase in the rate of detection of invasive breast cancer between 1996 and 2008. The rate increased from 56.5 to 71.7 per 10,000 women screened for the first screening round, and from 35.3 to 47.5 per 10,000 women screened for subsequent screening rounds.

Nearly two-thirds of all invasive breast cancers detected by BreastScreen Australia were small. This is an important result, since detection of breast cancers when they are small leads to more options for treatment and improved survival.

While screen-detected cancer detection rates were high, interval cancer rates were low. For the 0–12 months after a negative screening episode, these rates were 6.3 and 6.5 interval cancers per 10,000 women-years for the first and subsequent screening rounds respectively.

Incidence and mortality

Incidence and mortality rates for breast cancer for Australian women have changed between 1991, when BreastScreen Australia commenced, and the most recent year for which these data are available.

Incidence for women aged 50–69 years increased from 230.1 new cases per 100,000 women in 1991 to 287.7 in 2006, with a peak of 304.8 in 2001. Conversely, mortality from breast cancer for women aged 50–69 years has decreased steadily, from 68.2 deaths per 100,000 women in 1991 to 47.0 deaths per 100,000 women in 2007.

While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experienced lower incidence of invasive breast cancer than non-Indigenous women, mortality was found not to differ.