

**Commonwealth Breast Screening Research Activities
Summary of current BreastScreen Australia (BSA) projects**

Table 1

Project	Being undertaken by	Description	Timing/Reporting
Breast screening research database	AIHW	Develop and maintain a database of research activities and publications relevant to breast screening in Australia, to promote and reduce potential duplication of research.	The database is available on the AIHW Website .
BSA Data Linkage Project	AIHW	The linkage project is assessing outcomes from screen-detected breast cancers and screening patterns specific to BSA participants, and will compare these outcomes to those of non-participants.	Phase 1: A data linkage report to investigate screening behaviour and outcomes was published on 26 November 2018 on the AIHW Website . Phase 2: A scoping paper on expanding the data linkage project for further breast screen research – due March 2019.
Literature reviews on Tomosynthesis in Screening; and on Tomosynthesis in breast cancer assessment and diagnosis	Allen+Clarke	Undertake two literature reviews and prepare recommendations for an updated position statement on the use of tomosynthesis in the BSA program.	Both literature reviews were published on the Cancer Screening website in January 2019. BSA Program Managers will consider whether to recommend changes to the position statement to the Standing Committee on Screening (SCoS) for endorsement.
Literature review on Breast Density and mammography	Allen+Clarke	Undertake a literature review, collate the views of consumers on the evidence underpinning the current position statement on the management and reporting of breast density in BSA, and prepare recommendations for an updated position statement.	The literature review was published in late 2018 on the Cancer Screening website . BSA Program Managers will consider whether to recommend changes to the position statement to the SCoS for endorsement.
Horizon scan of new and emerging technologies in breast cancer screening	Allen+Clarke	Undertake a literature review supplemented with key informant interviews to identify new and emerging technologies with the potential to affect the BSA program.	The literature review was published on the Cancer Screening website in October 2018. A summary of themes discussed in interviews has also been published.

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Evaluation of the revised accreditation system	University of SA	<p>Phase 1: The post-commencement evaluation aims to advise on the effectiveness of the change management process, implementation and performance of the new BSA accreditation system. The evaluation will also provide insight into the management of any future changes.</p> <p>Phase 2: The University of South Australia will undertake an evaluation of the impact of the new national accreditation system on clinical outcomes for BreastScreen Australia clients and consumer experience.</p>	<p>The Phase 1 evaluation methodology is available on the Cancer Screening website. The evaluation of the revised accreditation system Final Report will be made available on the Cancer Screening website once approved, which is expected in mid-2019.</p> <p>Phase 2 is expected to be completed by mid- 2020.</p>

Project	Being undertaken by	Description	Timing/Reporting
<p>Evaluation of the expansion of the BSA program to invite 70-74 year old women</p>	<p>NOUS</p>	<p>The evaluation will test three key lines of enquiry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1. How effective were the implementation processes and activities? 2. How has program expansion impacted participation in the target group and what barriers or enablers to participation have been encountered? 3. What opportunities are available to improve and sustain the program expansion? <p>The University of Sydney has been subcontracted through Nous to support the expansion evaluation. The University of Sydney will undertake a clinical evaluation of the BSA expansion and inform the Final Report of the Evaluation of the BSA Expansion. Their aim is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the diagnostic efficacy of screening mammography for 7-74 year old women and compare that with women 50-69 years old; and 2. Compare the risk of radiation induced cancer between women who are normally screened from 50-69 years old and those who are screened from 40-69, 45-69, 40-74, 45-74, or from 50-74 years old (annually from 40-49 years old and biennially thereafter). 	<p>The Final Report will be received by the Department in early 2021. The summary of the methodology is available on the Cancer Screening website.</p>
<p>Optimising early detection of breast cancer through a clinical guidelines approach</p>	<p>Cancer Council Australia</p>	<p>The project will look at options for risk-based personalised approaches to breast cancer screening by investigating evidence to build consensus on optimal clinical pathways for managing women in particularly high and low risk groups, and how communication with women in these risk groups should be undertaken.</p>	<p>The Cancer Council Australia will publish consensus statements, fact sheets and summary outcomes during 2018-19. A link to these will be placed on the Cancer Screening website.</p>

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Remote Tele-radiology Assessment Research Project	James Cook University	The Commonwealth, NSW, QLD and NT are jointly funding a study into the use of remote radiology in BSA assessment services.	The Final Report is expected to be delivered to the Governance Committee in early May 2019. Results will be assessed by the National Quality Management Committee (NQMC) prior to consideration of publication.
Study on how women respond to reporting of breast density	University of WA	This project included a survey of BreastScreen WA participants to assess the impact of dense breast notification and also to assess the knowledge and awareness of breast density in the general population.	This research concluded on 30 September 2018. Initial findings were presented to BSA Conference 2018. The University of WA is intending to publish findings in a journal.
BREAST project	University of Sydney	The Commonwealth is providing funding from 2017-18 to 2020-21 for the University of Sydney to continue to offer the BreastScreen Reader Assessment Strategy (BREAST) educational modules to BreastScreen radiologists, breast physicians and trainees to improve cancer detection and incorporate new technologies.	Training modules will be offered at appropriate conferences and other venues throughout the funding period.
Position Statement on the use of FNA and core biopsy	Cancer Australia	The project aims to develop an evidence-based position statement to provide guidance on the use of fine needle aspiration (FNA) and core biopsy in the BSA program. The Position Statement will be informed by high quality evidence and data, and will include recommendations to support best practice in the BSA program.	Once finalised, endorsement of the Position Statement will be sought from relevant medical colleges and peak bodies, BSA Program Managers, the NQMC, and the SCoS. The final Position Statement is expected to be published on the Cancer Australia website by end 2019. A link will be placed on the Cancer Screening website .
Cost changes in BSA Services	Stenning & Associates	Undertaking a review of costs of BreastScreen services, particularly new and rising costs.	The results of this study will be shared with BSA Program Managers when available (expected mid 2019).
Researcher's guide to BSA	Stenning & Associates	Developing a researcher's guide to BSA, and advice on how to request access to data held by the AIHW.	It is expected the Guide will be finalised by mid-2019. The SCoS will review the final version once complete. The Guide will be published on the Cancer Screening website .

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Workforce Review	Stenning & Associates	A survey of BSA workforce needs particularly relating to the Graduate Diploma of Mammography but also to include other workforce issues.	Final report due mid-2019.
Biopsy Rates Project	Professor Gelareh Farshid	Project to develop a guide 'target' biopsy rate within the BSA program. Funding has been agreed by the NQMC Chair.	A final report will be provided to the NQMC.
A report on consumer assessment, understanding and use of information on the benefits and risks of participating in organised, population-based breast cancer screening programs	Allen+Clarke	A report on consumer perspectives and understanding of breast screening benefits and risks (including breast density), including a literature review and a stocktake of publicly available material produced in Australia (either by BSA programs, breast cancer networks/foundations, health professional bodies, or other groups) which describes the benefits and risks of participating in breast cancer screening.	The report is anticipated to be completed by end 2019, and will be published on the Cancer Screening website .
Managing annual screening rates in the BSA Program	Screening Guidance Working Group supported by Stenning & Associates	A project to develop guidelines to ensure women participating in BSA are recommended mammography screening at an interval appropriate to their risk.	Outcomes of this project may inform an update to the National Accreditation Standards. Any such update will be published on the Cancer Screening website .
Screening Women 75+ in the BSA Program	Screening Guidance Working Group Supported by Stenning & Associates	A project to report on the impact of the program's expansion on screening participation by women aged 75 years and over and develop guidance for screening women aged 75 years and over.	Outcomes of this project may inform an update to the National Accreditation Standards. Any such update will be published on the Cancer Screening website .
Technical standards for use of Tomosynthesis in BSA	Tomosynthesis Technical Standards Working Group Supported by Stenning & Associates	A project to develop technical standards for the use of Tomosynthesis in BSA.	Results of this project will inform the development of technical standards for the use of Tomosynthesis in BSA and will be published on the Cancer Screening website . The final standards are planned for consultation with PMG and SCoS in late 2019.

Project	Being undertaken by	Description	Timing/Reporting
<p>Research to estimate the extent of overdiagnosis of breast cancer due to participation in screening</p>	<p>University of Melbourne through sub-contract with Stenning & Associates</p>	<p>Statistical analysis of Medicare data for the Electoral Roll cohort of women to obtain valid estimates of the extent of screening on overdiagnosis for the established BreastScreen WA cohort study of overdiagnosis and breast cancer mortality.</p>	<p>Results are expected to be published by the University of Melbourne once the Report is finalised.</p>