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New South Eastern Sydney Illawarra BreastScreen Service opens at Myer Bondi Junction

South Eastern Sydney Illawarra BreastScreen Service is rallying women in Sydney's eastern suburbs to fight against breast cancer by booking a free breast screen (mammogram/breast x-ray) at the new BreastScreen Service situated within the Myer store at Bondi Junction.

Mathivanan Sakthivel, Director, South Eastern Sydney Illawarra BreastScreen Service is encouraging women between 50 and 74 years to take advantage of the new service that is conveniently located in the heart of Bondi Junction's shopping precinct.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Australian women with one in eight women in NSW at risk of developing breast cancer in their lifetime," Mr Sakthivel said.

"The chances of developing breast cancer increases as women get older. Mammograms can detect breast cancer before they can be felt or noticed, which increases treatment options available and improves the chance of survival from the disease."

Latest figures from the Cancer Institute NSW predicts that in NSW, 5,043 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016, and the disease will cause 916 deaths. It is projected that in 2021, 5,393 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Gerry Marr, Chief Executive, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, said the new fixed site at Myer Bondi Junction was chosen to help meet the current demand of appointments being made at the mobile breast screening van that has been visiting Bondi for many years.

"Bondi has a high female population over the age of 50 who live, work and shop in the local area and this is the target age for breast cancer screening," Mr Marr said.

"Although the service is free for women over 40 years of age, women 50 to 74 years of age are particularly encouraged to attend. It takes about 20 minutes to have a mammogram, and it could save your life."

Mr Marr thanked Myer for partnering with South Eastern Sydney Illawarra BreastScreen Service to offer this vital service to women in the local area.

"Myer is a proven location for women to access a breast screening service and has had great success at its stores in the western Sydney region. I hope this new breast screening service will spur into action those women who had not been screened in the last two years," Mr Marr said.

Women are encouraged to call 13 20 50 to book a free appointment. The new BreastScreen Service at Myer Bondi Junction will commence breast screening from 11 May 2015.

For more information on BreastScreen NSW, visit www.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au.