

Monday, 14 January, 2019

BreastScreen mobile van arrives in South Eastern Sydney

A BreastScreen NSW mobile van equipped with the latest digital technology will roll into the South Eastern Sydney region next week, offering free screening mammograms for women aged 50 to 74 from four sites.

The mobile van will be visiting Menai - January 21 to February 1, Engadine - February 4 to March 8, La Perouse - April 1 to April 5 and Cronulla - April 8 to April 30.

Ms Robyn Schubert, Director of BreastScreen South Eastern Sydney Illawarra, said the aim of the mobile service is to improve access to mammograms for women who live and work across South Eastern Sydney.

“We hope by visiting more communities, thanks to the mobile van, women who otherwise were not able to visit a fixed site, will now be able to use this potentially lifesaving service.

“So often I hear women say they don’t screen because breast cancer is not in their family. However, nine out of 10 women diagnosed with breast cancer have no known family history,” Ms Schubert said.

Recent data revealed as many as 290 women in South Eastern Sydney could have breast cancer, but don’t know it because they haven’t had a mammogram in the past two years.

The data, released by the Cancer Institute NSW during Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2018, also showed 45,895 women aged 50 to 74 in the region are either overdue for a mammogram, or have never had one.

“We encourage all women over 50 without symptoms to have a regular screening mammogram every two years. If you haven’t been able to attend a fixed site, book an appointment in 2019 to visit the mobile van,” Ms Schubert said.

“Twenty minutes every two years could save your life.”

To make a free appointment call 13 20 50 or book online at breastscreen.nsw.gov.au.

One in eight women will develop breast cancer in NSW in their lifetime and early detection through screening mammograms is vital. The earlier breast cancer is found, the less invasive treatment options and the greater the chance of survival.

The NSW Government, through the Cancer Institute NSW, is investing more than \$46.5 million into BreastScreen Screening and Assessment Services across NSW in 2018-19, including \$7 million into South Eastern Sydney Illawarra’s Screening and Assessment Service.