

**TITLE: NEW DATA SHOWS MORE WOMEN
IN <electorate> ARE/SHOULD BE HAVING A
BREAST SCREEN**

<date>

Member for <insert electorate>, <insert name> shares the latest breast screen participation rates for their local area.

"<Insert participation statistic> of women aged 50 to 74 in the <insert electorate> had a breast screen in 2023/25," <insert name> said.

"This is <insert comparison to the state rate ie. higher or lower> than the state participation rate of 52.50%."

If higher: "I commend the women who are keeping up with their breast screens when they are due, and I encourage them to continue prioritising their health."

If lower: "I'm concerned by this result and encourage women to prioritise their health by booking a breast screen appointment today."

"This free service can substantially impact people's lives and health outcomes," explained <MP>. "Booking a 10-minute appointment could be the difference between finding breast cancer early and having successful treatment or delaying detection further when the impact of the disease is in many cases harder," s/he continued.

Rita Butera, CEO BreastScreen Victoria said too many women are putting their health on hold, and it's a trend that is deeply concerning.

"Almost half of Victorian women haven't had a breast screen in the past two years, so thousands of women could be missing the opportunity to detect breast cancer early" Rita says. "We understand that life is busy, we juggle so much which can make it easy to delay an appointment that only takes 10 minutes – but that's the point, this quick, 10-minute appointment can pick up the disease long before anything can be felt. Early detection leads to better health outcomes, always." Ms Butera added.

75% of women diagnosed with breast cancer are over the age of 50, and the vast majority have no family history of the disease. BreastScreen Victoria encourages

women aged 50 to 74 without breast symptoms to have a free 10-minute breast screen every 2 years.

Those who wish to make a breast screen appointment can book at breastscreen.org.au or by calling 13 20 50.

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