



NAIDOC goes pink

NAIDOC Week will take on a pink tinge as part of a new breast screening initiative for indigenous women.

The "I Pink I Can" breast screening luncheon, being held tomorrow, was created from an ongoing partnership between local Indigenous Health Service Providers and developed by the Murray Primary Health Network's (Murray PHN) Indigenous Health Team.

The first of its kind in Mildura, the luncheon is being hosted by the Murray PHN and Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) and will also include a tour of the breast screening centre,

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natural therapy pampering, guest speakers and lunch.

It will be held at the Mildura Private Hospital, with the first 30 women who register to be screened on the day to receive a professional bra fitting and bra. MDAS health services manager Ange Imms said cancer was the "un-talked about" killer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

people. The event is also helping form strong partnerships between local organisations such as MDAS, Murray PHN, Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation, Jane McGrath Foundation, Mildura Private Hospital, Breast Screen Victoria, Sunraysia Community Health and the Cancer Council Victoria.

Murray PHN north west

regional manager David Kirby said the initiative was a practical, local move to help address the under-representation of indigenous women in mainstream breast-screen programs.

"Breast cancer effects one in eight women and it is the most common cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Victoria," he said.

To register for the "I Pink I Can" indigenous women's breast screening luncheon, women can contact their local Aboriginal health service. Transport to the event is also available and can be arranged when registering.