

Record numbers at BreastScreens

Taking care of your health

IT'S pleasing to note that more Bendigo women are taking advantage of BreastScreen Victoria's program, making an impressive contribution to the record numbers of women participating in the free program.

The Bendigo community has made an impressive contribution to the record numbers of women participating in BreastScreen Victoria's free program.

The BreastScreen Victoria 2014-16 Participation Statistics reveal that 12,613 women aged 50-74 accepted the well-being challenge to complete their regular screen at the organisation's Bendigo clinic.

This is an increase of 538 women from the 2013-15 results, for a participation rate of 58.8 per cent.

More women are participating in BreastScreen Victoria's free program than in previous years, according to the latest data.

Across the state 422,209 women aged 50-74 screened with BreastScreen Victoria.



RECORD NUMBERS: BreastScreen staff from L-R: Jenni Clohesy, Kylie Kent, Julie Fletcher, Roslyn Fyffe, Glennis Fitzgerald, Jodie Ah-Dore, and Eliza Alford.

This is an increase of 20,227 women, resulting in a statewide participation rate of 53.6 per cent for 2014-16.

"It's encouraging to see that the number of women taking up free breast screens with our service is growing in

line with our ageing population," BreastScreen Victoria CEO, Vicki Pridmore said.

Analysing the data by remoteness classification, participation in outer regional Victoria - areas like Horsham - continue to be the highest

at 58.2 per cent followed by inner regional - including Bendigo - at 55.4 per cent.

"It's not unusual for women in urban areas to participate in screening programs at lower rates.

"Community diversity,

and lifestyle factors all play a role in these lower rates," Ms Pridmore said.

"It forces us to think about how we can provide a more flexible service."

Underscreened groups have also shown improve-

ment with BreastScreen Victoria continuing to make gains to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, for whom breast cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosed.

A total of 1,215 women identifying as indigenous, aged 50-74, were screened, an increase of 148 on the previous reporting period.

BreastScreen Victoria also screened a total of 84,966 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) women aged 50-74, an increase of 2,695 women.

"The Breast screening experience is different for every woman," Ms Pridmore adds.

"BreastScreen Victoria works hard to provide a service that is culturally sensitive to women's needs and expectations."

For more information phone 5441 6850. Parking options are Barnard Street (both sides but this street is very busy), Honeysuckle Street, Off Lily Street in car park and Rowan Street.

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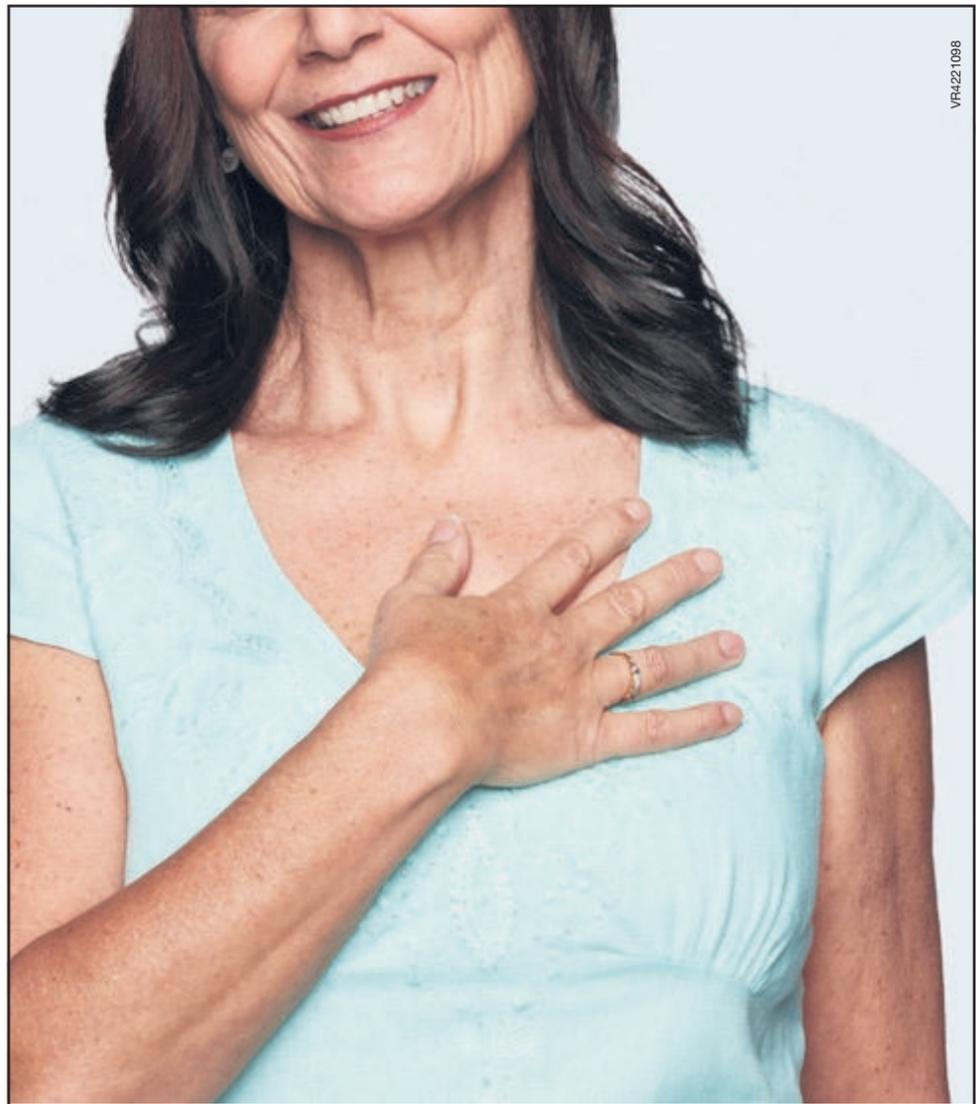
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"Recognising the importance of Women's Health Week"

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