



Australian women finding answers

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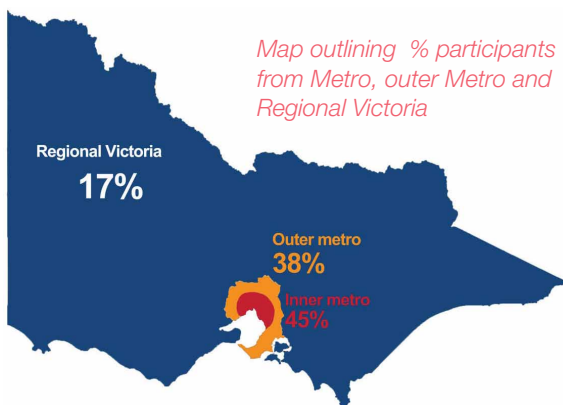
Best wishes for the festive season to all lifepool participants

If this is the first time you have received a lifepool update, welcome! The newsletter is designed to keep everyone informed about progress in developing lifepool and about the research using information provided by you, the participants. We hope you find the newsletter of interest and invite you to contact lifepool with any feedback you care to provide.

Recruitment is now state-wide

As we reported in the Winter 2011 lifepool News, our first small scale recruitment pilot focussed on BreastScreen Victoria clients who had made appointments for mammograms at just two Melbourne screening centres. We have used the information gained from these pilot studies to define the most effective way to mail information to women whilst ensuring their privacy. Importantly, because all this happens at BreastScreen Victoria Head Office, the process must fit within the workload of Mail Operations staff.

Each day, about 600 clients are posted a letter confirming their mammogram appointment. BreastScreen also mails an information pack about lifepool to these women. Rhonda and Lisa (the lifepool Management Team) are thrilled to receive signed consent forms and completed questionnaires from women right across Victoria. We are learning of new towns every day!

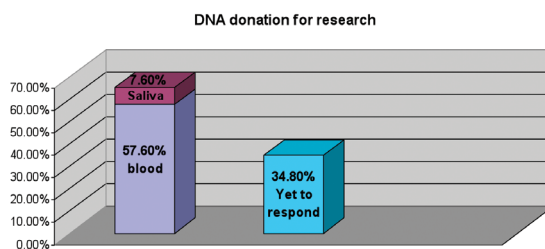


Blood and saliva samples

Lifepool is a resource which will be widely used for research into breast cancer and other health issues important to women.

Genetic research can reveal information about the way breast cancer develops and help researchers understand more about breast cancer risk in the population. Genetic research uses DNA, the 'instruction manual' contained in our cells. Lifepool extracts DNA for research from blood or saliva samples

A small group of lifepool participants have already been asked to donate blood or saliva and the response has been fantastic! Over 65% of women asked have provided a blood or saliva sample and responses are still coming in. The lifepool project, in conjunction with Melbourne Pathology, have developed a system which allows women to have their blood collected at a time and place convenient to them.



Thank you to those of you who have been able to donate and we'd also like to acknowledge the wonderful staff at Melbourne Pathology who have collected and delivered the blood samples safely and quickly to our lab at Peter Mac.

Information to women considering donation of DNA for research

We are committed to providing the most up-to-date information to women who are part of lifepool.

Our Management Advisory Committee, including Consumer representatives from BreastScreen Victoria and Breast Cancer Network Australia, worked with expert legal advisors to review the latest information about genetic research and insurance contracts.

As a result of this work, we have included extra information for lifepool participants who agree to provide DNA for research. This new form, 'Stage 2 Participant Information and Consent Form Version 2' will soon be mailed to all lifepool participants who have previously donated a blood or saliva sample. Donors can read the new information and confirm their consent for lifepool to use their DNA sample in research, or ask us to destroy this sample.

The Version 2 form is being mailed out to a new group of lifepool participants and we hope that you might consider donating blood or saliva in the future.

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A little bit about us: lifepool chief investigators Vicki Pridmore and Ian Campbell

There are 7 Chief Investigators involved in the **lifepool** project and the talents of each represent the broad range of skills necessary to the success of **lifepool**. The Chief Investigator group has expertise in the areas of surgery, pathology, health screening, epidemiology, clinical genetics, radiation oncology and breast and ovarian cancer research. Central to the project is BreastScreen, with its connection to Victorian women.

In this edition of the **lifepool** News, we'd like to introduce you to two of these investigators and describe the key roles they have in the **lifepool** Project. We have also provided a little personal insight through questions that are important to all of us: work and holidays!



*Vicki Pridmore,
Chief Executive Officer
of BreastScreen Victoria*

Vicki Pridmore brings expertise in management and communication to **lifepool**, as well as a strong background in both the public and private health sector. BreastScreen Victoria is committed to supporting a high quality research program which focuses on best practice in screening for breast cancer in Victorian women. As a major research collaboration for BSV, the **lifepool** project will enable research to improve our understanding of how different groups of women in our community vary in their breast cancer risk.

The evidence gathered can be used by BreastScreen in reviewing screening policy, particularly the frequency of mammograms for these different groups of women. Right now however, the important message for women in BSV's target age group (50-69) is that having a screening mammogram every 2 years saves lives by detecting most breast cancers when they are small and responsive to treatment.

Q & A with Vicki:

Describe what you love about your job:

"The opportunity to make a difference to women and the wider community by improving their health outcomes."

Describe your ideal summer holiday:

"Books, water at 26 degrees and no Blackberry"



*Ian Campbell,
Head of the Cancer
Genetics laboratory
at Peter MacCallum
Cancer Centre*

Ian Campbell is a molecular geneticist with a particular interest in breast and ovarian cancer. He has extensive experience in the identification of cancer causing genes through high throughput genome-wide analyses of primary cancers. He is a member of the Victorian Breast Cancer Research Consortium, the Board of the Victorian Cancer Biobank and has also served for several years on the PeterMac Human Research Ethics Committee.

Ian has developed a program of research which will study the genetic differences between breast cancers that are detected by routine mammograms (screen detected), and those that arise in the time between mammogram screening (interval cancers). He will also lead research looking at differences in the genetic 'signature' of breast cancers that occur in women with very dense breast tissue as compared to cancers found in women with low breast density. As with all research projects wishing to use the **lifepool** resource, Ian's work will apply for access to the required data when **lifepool** participant numbers are high enough. The application will be considered by an independent Access Committee. Future Newsletters, and the **lifepool** website (www.lifepool.org) will keep you informed of progress of this research.

Q&A with Ian:

Describe what you love about your job:

"I love the excitement of making new and meaningful discoveries, which may help prevent, or cure cancer. My work also gives me the opportunity to play with cutting edge technology that allows us to do things in a week that not long ago would have taken years."

Describe your ideal summer holiday:

"Going camping with the family to some quiet beach location."

Thank you for your support

The lifepool Team

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