



Australian women finding answers

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## A warm hello to all Lifepool participants

This is the first of two updates you will receive during 2011 to let you know of progress in establishing the lifepool resource. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and invite you to contact lifepool with any feedback you care to provide

## A little bit about you

There are many valuable pieces of information contained in the questionnaire and we thank you all for taking the time to complete it.

Here are a few interesting facts from the information you have provided in the **lifepool** questionnaire so far:

- **Lifepool** participants range in age from women in their late 30's to women in their early 80's.
- Around 45% of you have used Hormone Replacement Therapy at some stage in your life
- Just over 80% of you have been pregnant at least once.
- Just under 20% of you have had some kind of cancer over your lifetime.

The comments you provide are also carefully recorded. Many women ask why we haven't included questions about diet in the questionnaire.

While diet is a very important factor in maintaining health, to document it accurately needs quite a detailed series of questions.

The **lifepool** investigators have chosen to keep the baseline questionnaire as short as possible, while still gathering very important information from all new participants. A Dietary questionnaire may well be part of future research conducted by **lifepool**

## Lifepool expands

During our pilot recruitment period, women have been invited to join the **lifepool** project by BreastScreen Victoria, as part of their regular contact with clients, at 2 metropolitan screening centres.

We have looked carefully at different ways of providing information to women about the project and, in partnership with BreastScreen Victoria, we will soon commence sending information to women across the state.

This whole process is managed by BreastScreen Victoria so that all client details are kept confidential. We feature some of the people who make all this happen later on in the newsletter.

We know that Victorian women are busy, and that mail is often put in the 'to do' pile. We have developed a new, pink **lifepool** envelope to make our documents hard to miss

## Invite a friend

Invitations to consider being part of lifepool are being posted out to BreastScreen Victoria clients in batches. If you know a woman who is yet to receive an invitation through BreastScreen but would like to learn more about the project, please visit our website [www.lifepool.org](http://www.lifepool.org) You are also most welcome to phone Lisa on 1800 198 082 or email [lifepool@petermac.org](mailto:lifepool@petermac.org)

## Any Victorian woman who has had, or intends to have, a mammogram is encouraged to join us.

We have a way to go before we achieve our goal: 100,000 Victorian **lifepool** participants.

As a member of the **lifepool** project, you will make a significant contribution toward improving the health of Australian women.

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## Behind the scenes at BreastScreen Victoria

In the 2009-2010 financial year, BreastScreen Victoria performed over 195,000 screening mammograms for Victorian women. Just over 15% of those screened attended for their first visit. The BreastScreen Coordination Unit, based in Carlton, received 311,667 phone calls and posted 822,415 client mail items!

Lifepool's collaboration with BreastScreen means that the mailroom is just a bit busier. A dedicated printer has been installed to ensure lifepool document packs are addressed to clients efficiently and cost effectively. In addition, lifepool document packs will be available at most BreastScreen Victoria sites in the coming months. We aim to spread the word about lifepool and keep our mail costs down at the same time.



BreastScreen Victoria mailroom with Lisette Bicknell (Manager, Information Services) Karyn McCuskey (Registry Team Leader) and Sharon Coles (Co-ordinator, Telephone and Appointment Service)

## Research update

Professor Anne Kavanagh and Professor John Hopper, from the University of Melbourne, both lead research teams looking at the relationship between the density of breast tissue and risk of developing breast cancer.

Their research plan is to match information about breast density taken from mammograms to health outcome data obtained through linkage to cancer registries. Lifepool will gather this information and provide it to researchers coded only with the lifepool ID assigned to each woman. Over time, it will be possible to test the relationship between breast density and the size and frequency of breast cancers in some women. Researchers aim to gather evidence to inform current screening mammography processes in Victorian women.

Future Newsletters, and the lifepool website ([www.lifepool.org](http://www.lifepool.org)) will keep you informed of progress of this research.

## Spreading the word

The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) provides funding to support the lifepool project in Victoria. NBCF have also funded another exciting new initiative called Register4.

Register4 is an on-line community of people interested in supporting research, ([www.register4.org.au](http://www.register4.org.au)). Register4 members are kept informed about all kinds of research projects that need people to take part. These might be clinical trials, laboratory based research or psycho-social research projects. The basic aim is to put researchers in touch with the community and accelerate progress toward a cure for breast cancer. Register4 sends an email to it's members and then each member chooses whether to find out more about the research described.

Lifepool has applied to be part of the information distributed to Register4 members. It is a great way to reach out to women who are yet to receive an invitation via BreastScreen Victoria.

There are some review and approval steps to be completed first, but very soon we hope that the lifepool project will be approved for distribution to Register4 members who live in Victoria.

What does this mean for women who are already part of lifepool?

You need do nothing at all. You will remain a member of the lifepool project as long as you wish.

If you choose to join up with Register4, you might receive an email about the lifepool project. This email will contain information for all our current participants.

## Thank you for your support

### The lifepool Team

Ian Campbell, Stephen Fox, John Hopper, Anne Kavanagh, Bruce Mann, Gillian Mitchell, Vicki Pridmore, Lisa Devereux.



#### Contact lifepool:

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