



Lifepool has almost reached the half-way mark for recruitment with just under 50,000 women participating at the time of writing.

Thank you for your support.

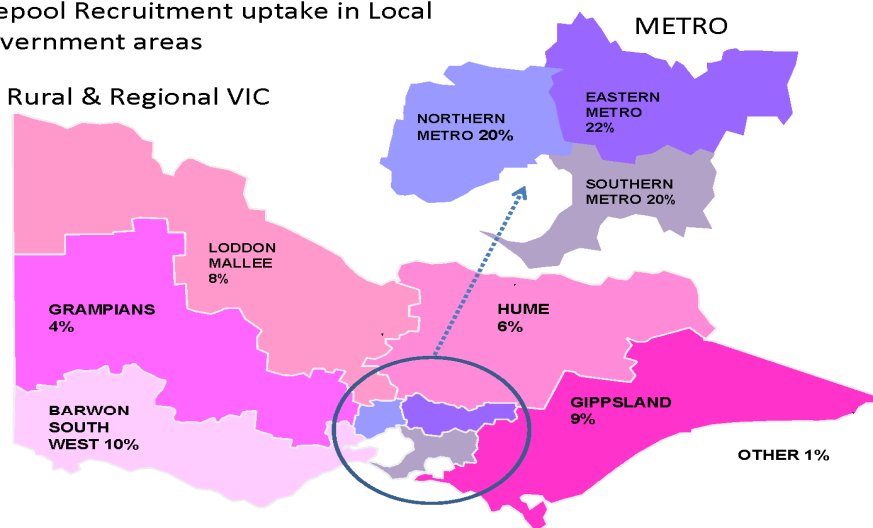
We encourage you to help us grow these numbers rapidly by inviting any friends or family members you think might be interested in joining us to support breast cancer research.

Interested women can email us at lifepool@petermac.org or ring freecall 1800 198 082. Lisa and Rhonda will be pleased to post a document pack and to answer any questions.

As you know, BreastScreen Victoria send information about lifepool to clients living throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria. BreastScreen also provides mammogram screening services to women living just over the border in NSW. We thought you might be interested in seeing just where lifepool participants live.

Here is a map of Victoria, divided into local government areas. We have marked on the map the percentage of lifepool participants living in each area. Approximately 62% of women come from the Melbourne metropolitan area and 37% live in regional and rural Victoria. The remaining 1% of you are living over the border or have moved to another state since joining the project, (thank you for the address updates!).

Lifepool Recruitment uptake in Local Government areas



Research Projects Underway.

A Melbourne University researcher will use data provided by lifepool participants to study the differences in mammographic density observed in South East Asian women living in Victoria compared to Caucasian women. Mammographic density, the extent of light white areas on a woman's mammogram, is a risk factor for breast cancer. This is therefore a potentially important tool for breast cancer research and prevention, just as blood pressure has been for cardiovascular disease. To date, the vast majority of research work in this area has been conducted on Caucasian women and so this project will focus on South East Asian women. The study will use the lifepool project to determine the measured environmental and lifestyle factors that explain why South East Asian women who live in Victoria, especially Vietnamese born women, differ from each other in their mammographic density. It will also compare South East Asian women with Caucasian women to see if differences in mammographic density reflect the different breast cancer risks of these two groups of women.



Lifepool is collecting breast tumours left over after **lifepool** participants have had surgery as part of their breast cancer treatment. These blocks will have small cores of tissue removed to make up Tissue Microarray (TMA) blocks for research. Tumour cores are arranged in a grid



that looks like this: Sections of TMAs allow researchers to examine cancer tissue from many different participants quickly and efficiently.

Some DNA will also be extracted from the cores to provide a source of tumour DNA for research. This DNA will be used by a team of researchers based at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. The project will look at differences in the gene profile of breast cancers detected through regular BreastScreen mammographic screens (screen-detected cancers), compared to breast cancers that arise after a negative mammogram but before the next scheduled screening mammogram (interval cancers). We know that interval cancers tend to be more aggressive and are likely to have genetic differences. This project, aimed at identifying and defining these gene 'signatures' will hopefully provide evidence that can be used in future to identify women at risk of developing these cancers.

Lifepool will keep you informed on progress of this research.

Health & Lifestyle Questionnaire: An update.

Your average age when joining lifepool	59.9 years
You have ever been pregnant	91%
You have had at least one child	86%
You have used oral contraceptives at some time in your life	88%
You have been through menopause	80%
Your average age when you started menstruating	13 years
Your body mass index is in the under weight range	1%
Your body mass index is in the healthy weight range	36%
Your body mass index is in the overweight-obese weight range	56%
You have had a first degree relative diagnosed with breast cancer	18%

We know that breast cancer arises as a result of subtle and complex interactions between our genes and our environment. There are many known risk factors, and many yet to discover. The **lifepool** Baseline Health & Lifestyle questionnaire that you have all completed is providing a valuable resource for research into better understanding breast cancer risk.

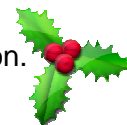
The box above provides a snapshot summary of some of the answers you have provided.

Thank you to all **lifepool** participants for taking the time to provide this valuable information.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions at all about **lifepool**. Let us know if you no longer wish to be contacted by **lifepool** or receive emails from us. You can change the way you participate in the project at any time.



Best wishes for a lovely festive season.



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