

**Seasons Greetings to all from the NBCF *BreastScreen* Victoria Cohort Demonstration Project.**

A lot has happened since our last update, and we are pleased to let you know of progress and developments. Some significant achievements are:



**We are hearing from women!** The Health Issues Centre, in collaboration with the *BreastScreen* Victoria Consumer Advisory Committee, are conducting a series of workshops aimed at gathering the opinions of Victorian women about the Cohort Project. With the support of Consumer Advisory Committee members, focus groups of women will be convened to discuss how the Project is perceived, the clarity of Project documents and the way in which women prefer to be approached. The input of women from metropolitan Melbourne as well as rural and regional Victoria will be sought and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds as well as women from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community will be invited. Data from these Workshops will inform the first pilot recruitment process.



**We are approved!** The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Human Research Ethics Committee have reviewed the Cohort Project protocols and have given approval for the Project to commence. This means that after the data from the Consumer Workshop sessions is analysed, The Project will commence pilot recruitment in one *BreastScreen* Victoria service in early 2010.



**We have established a Management Committee to bring in expert guidance and advice!** The Chief Investigators of the Cohort Project recognise the need for input from a range of experts as the Cohort Project develops and progresses.

The CI's on The Project have been joined by:

Professor Margaret Otlowski from the Centre for Law and Genetics, University of Tasmania  
Dr Marianne Hibbert from BioGrid Australia,  
Ms Susan Timbs from the Breast Cancer Network Australia,  
Ms Sue Viney from the *BreastScreen* Victoria Consumer Advisory Committee  
Ms Sue Carrick, Head of National Research Strategy, NBCF.

These experts will provide guidance and advice on a range of issues and we are fortunate to have such a talented group support the Cohort Project

In November, the Chief Investigators met with the National Breast Cancer Foundation Research Advisory Committee and presented the current progress and future plans for discussion. The RAC gave valuable feedback and appreciated the update

Don't hesitate to contact the Cohort Demonstration Project Investigators or Project Manager if you have any suggestions, comments or questions.

Best wishes for a happy festive season and thank you for your support and interest in The Project over 2009

***The NBCF *BreastScreen* Victoria Cohort Demonstration Project Team.***

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