

Dear Colleagues and **lifepool** supporters,

Since our last news update in July, the **lifepool** project has met some important milestones and we are delighted to be able to fill you in.

lifepool website 'live'

The **lifepool** project commissioned DesignGrant Pty Ltd to design an informative and user friendly web site, and with the technical expertise of Peter Mac's webmaster, Christina de Lisle, the **lifepool** website is now up and running. Please log on to www.lifepool.org to see just what they have achieved. As with all new websites, the more often the site is visited, the more visible it becomes to search engines such as Google, so we need your help. Paste the link into your favourite web addresses and visit us often. Current and past editions of our News Update are posted under the 'News' button.

The website will provide information for women considering participation in **lifepool** and, as the project matures, will also provide updates on the research projects using the resource. All our policies and protocols will be made available on the site as part of our commitment to open collaboration with women and the research community.

As with all aspects of **lifepool**, your feedback is most welcome.

Pilot recruitment

The final stage of Phase I of **lifepool**, the pilot recruitment project, is underway. We want to test the information provided by women during our focus group work.

The Pilot recruitment projects have been designed to monitor uptake of the **lifepool** invitation alongside attendance for routine screening appointments at selected BreastScreen Victoria Screening Centres. Our primary aim is to ensure that being invited to participate in **lifepool** does not deter a woman from attending for her biannual screening mammogram at BreastScreen. This will be carefully monitored.

We are also gathering information about impact on workload for BreastScreen Victoria staff and making sure that **lifepool** staff can adequately manage enquiries from women in a timely fashion.

Although the numbers are relatively small at this early stage, the comments we have received from women invited to participate have been extremely positive and supportive. The return rate for **lifepool** documents posted out to women is currently sitting at over 73%.



Lifepool presentation at 'Y study Mammographic Density' meeting

The 'Y Study Mammographic Density' meeting, held in Kingscliffe NSW in August, brought together national and international researchers interested in the link between mammographic density and breast cancer risk. The meeting was convened by John Hopper, a Chief Investigator on the **lifepool** project. Jenny Cawson, Jennifer Stone and Melissa Southey, all Associate Investigators on the **lifepool** project, were on the planning committee and several other members of the **lifepool** team attended.

Mammographic density (MD) is best described as the relative proportion of black (less dense) versus white (more dense) areas on a mammogram. We know that MD varies from woman to woman and also changes for each woman with age. MD is a strong, yet understudied, risk factor for future breast cancer development as well as a strong predictor of how effective mammograms are in detecting established cancers. The data gathered by **lifepool** from each participant's mammogram results will support research into mammographic density on a scale not possible before in Australia.

The Manager of **lifepool**, Lisa Devereux, presented a short talk about the project which was well received and stimulated a lot of discussion amongst the audience.

Talks and posters about **lifepool** will be presented to the research community at every opportunity to enable them to plan projects utilizing the resource to its fullest potential.

We look forward to providing you with another news update in late November. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact any member of the **lifepool** team for further information.

Thanks for your support

The Lifepool Team.

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