



Australian women finding answers

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Hello to all lifepool participants, collaborators and supporters

2010 has been a year of development, testing and consolidation for the **lifepool** project and a great deal has been achieved. Although you may remember many of the details from previous Newsletters, here is a summary:

Researcher Workshops

In the early part of 2010, the National Breast Cancer Foundation hosted a series of Researcher Workshops around Australia. **Lifepool** manager, Lisa Devereux, presented the outline of our health and lifestyle questionnaire to researchers from many disciplines. The groups included clinicians, laboratory-based scientists, epidemiologists and translational researchers. They provided many useful comments and suggestions.

All data gathered from these workshops has gone toward producing the **lifepool** 'Baseline Questionnaire' which our participants are now completing.

Consumer Workshops

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved the establishment and operation of **lifepool**. With the help of the BreastScreen Consumer Advisory Committee and BreastScreen Victoria Information Officers, we gathered together women from our community to put the documents to the test!

The Health Issues Centre facilitated a series of 8 workshops with 71 women from metropolitan and regional Victoria. The results are summarized in our July 2010 Newsletter, available at www.lifepool.org

As a result of this valuable input, our documents were re-written, reviewed and approved by the Peter Mac HREC and used in our pilot recruitment project.

Recruitment Pilot Projects

To date, two BreastScreen Victoria screening centres, at St Vincent's Hospital and Riversdale Road Camberwell, have hosted small recruitment drives to test the way in which BreastScreen Victoria lets women know about **lifepool**. A great many BreastScreen Victoria staff are involved in this pilot work, both at the screening centres and at Head Office, from where all the invitations are posted. We are pleased to report that women from the community are interested and supportive of the **lifepool** project.

Expert Advisory Committee

The **lifepool** Management Advisory Committee have worked extremely hard this year, and continue to provide valuable advice and expertise to the project.

We are fortunate to be supported by consumer representatives from BreastScreen Victoria and Breast Cancer Network Australia as well as other experts in the field of health ethics, law, health information privacy, communication and data management.

More detail about our committee membership and governance is available on our website.

Talking to researchers

We recognise the importance of informing researchers about the **lifepool** project. The resources **lifepool** gathers will increase opportunities for researchers to better understand breast cancer; its causes and cures.

Our chief investigator group as well as the **lifepool** manager present information about **lifepool** regularly; some examples being the 'Y Study Mammographic Density' conference in August 2010 and the Australasian Biospecimen Network conference in early December 2010.

Researchers are already planning research projects around the **lifepool** resources as we hope to have high enough numbers of women participating by the middle of 2011.

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Recognising our supporters

To mark the end of our development phase, we held a small 'Thank you' party in the last week of November. This event gave **lifepool** investigators the chance to thank the many people who have supported this work.

Collaborators and supporters from the following organisations and groups were invited: BreastScreen Victoria, Breast Cancer Action Group, Breast Cancer Network Australia, Cancer Council Victoria, Department of Health, DesignGrant Pty Ltd, Health Issues Centre, Flinders University, Freehills, Melbourne Health, National Breast Cancer Foundation, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, University of Tasmania, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Westmead Institute for Cancer Research and Women from the community who helped with the focus group work.

Although not everyone was able to attend (Phew!), the event further emphasised the unique nature of this exciting and ambitious collaboration.

Bruce Mann & Vicki Pridmore



Ian Campbell (left) with collaborators and guests from BreastScreen Victoria, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, University of Melbourne and community supporters

Invite a friend

Invitations to consider being part of **lifepool** are being posted out to BreastScreen Victoria clients in batches. Recruitment will roll out to other centres in the coming year and we welcome all Victorian women to be part of **lifepool**. If you have not yet received an invitation, or know a woman who would like to learn more about the project, you might like to visit the **website** www.lifepool.org where all the project documents are available. You are also most welcome to **phone** Lisa on 1800 198 082 or **email** lifepool@petermac.org.

Any Victorian woman who has had, or intends to have, a mammogram is encouraged to join us. As a member of the **lifepool** project, you will make a significant contribution toward improving the health of Australian women.

We wish you all a safe, happy summer festive season. We look forward to presenting our progress in 2011 and to keeping you abreast of the research findings enabled by **lifepool** well in to the future.

'Thank you for your support'

The lifepool team

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