



Media Release
February 19, 2017

GRAMS Urges Women to have Free Breast Cancer Screening

Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS) is again urging Aboriginal people to visit BreastScreen WA's mobile service for a free breast cancer screening.

The BreastScreen WA van will be at Geraldton Regional Hospital carpark off Mildford Street from February 16 to March 22.

GRAMS chief executive officer Deborah Woods encouraged Aboriginal women to visit the van for the potentially life-saving screening.

“Breast cancer is the most common life threatening cancer for women and one in eight women in Australia will develop breast cancer in their lifetime,” Ms Woods said.

“Having a screening mammogram (breast x-ray) every two years significantly increases the chance of a woman surviving breast cancer and reduces the amount of treatment required.

“Previous BreastScreen WA visits to Geraldton resulted in several breast cancer diagnoses and biopsies among our Aboriginal women.

“The more women who attend, the better the chance of detecting breast cancer while it is still treatable.”

More than 75 per cent of breast cancers occur in women over the age of 50. Research shows that screening is most effective for this age group.

BreastScreen WA's Medical Director Dr Elizabeth Wylie, said screening mammography was the most effective method for early detection of breast cancer.

“Screening every two years is vitally important to increase the chance of a breast cancer being detected when it is too small to feel or be noticed,” she said.

“Finding a cancer at this early stage often means that the breast cancer is small and more treatable”.

For more information please visit the BreastScreen WA website

www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au

To make your free screening mammogram appointment – book online
www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au or call 13 20 50.

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