

BreastScreen Tasmania – Reporting of Breast Density Levels

Ms HADDAD question to MINISTER for HEALTH

My question is on behalf of my constituent, Alison. Around 50 per cent of women have breast tissue that is fibrous and glandular, otherwise known as 'dense breasts', which puts them at a high risk of breast cancer. While a standard 2D mammogram - which is the routine way to screen breasts for abnormalities including tumours - are an effective tool for women who do not have dense breasts, they are not the most effective way of detecting tumours in dense breasts. Indeed, tumours can be almost impossible to detect using this technology on dense breasts.

Australia's national breast screening program does not currently require women to be informed of their breast density when they have a standard mammogram. The RANZCR (Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists) has emphasised the importance of this information being provided to women. BreastScreen Victoria is now routinely informing women about their breast density levels after undergoing a standard mammogram. This gives women the option of seeking further screening, including contrast mammograms. Is the minister aware of this issue, and will BreastScreen Tasmania consider routinely reporting this information to women in this state?