

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Marcus Vermey MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

The interim Budget tabled last week contains a number of health incentives that will benefit Tasmanian women. My constituent would like to know more details about the work underway to deliver a public diagnostic breast care centre in Hobart and how this investment will benefit women state-wide.

ANSWER:

Construction is underway for the new \$15 million Public Diagnostic Breast Care Centre in Hobart. The Diagnostic Breast Imaging service will be co-located with BreastScreen Tasmania at the new Centre, on Level 6 at the Royal Hobart Hospital's Liverpool Street Clinics.

The Centre will feature dedicated areas for both BreastScreen Tasmania and Diagnostic Breast Imaging, with separate receptions, waiting areas and clinical space, and will also house new, technologically advanced ultrasound and mammogram machines and digital patient information systems.

For the first time, the new Public Diagnostic Breast Imaging service will be able to offer Contrast Enhanced Mammography, a procedure that is effective for finding small breast cancers, particularly in dense breast tissue, which can mask or hide cancers. This will provide even more accurate diagnosis, significantly enhancing breast cancer detection and outcomes.

The Diagnostic Breast Imaging service is being implemented in a phased approach, initially focusing on imaging requests from public hospitals state-wide. Once the service is established in the new location at the Liverpool Street Clinics, Diagnostic Breast Imaging will build service capacity to accept imaging requests from General Practitioners across the State, and offer specialised imaging and tumour localisation procedures.

Although some public diagnostic imaging services are already available in Tasmania through referrals within the Tasmanian Health System, many patients presenting in the community with breast-related symptoms currently face wait times and out of-pocket-costs in the private sector.

By broadening access, the new Public Diagnostic Breast Imaging service will reduce waiting times and remove financial barriers. Importantly, it will also help to ease the psychological, physical, health and financial pressures that accompany breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
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