

NOTES FOR INTERPRETERS

1. BreastScreen is a program for women who don't have any breast problem. Detection of early breast cancer is the aim of the program, which offers free breast x-rays (mammogram) to women over 40 years.
2. The screening centre appointments usually run on time. An average mammogram from start to finish takes about 15 minutes - slightly longer using an interpreter and if the woman has not had a mammogram before.
3. The woman will have been sent a brochure and an information/consent form in the mail. If she has not completed the form, the interpreter will be asked to help complete this (5 minutes).
4. The woman will be asked to change into a gown, removing all clothes above the waist.
5. The radiographer who will take the x-ray explains to the woman what will happen. The interpreter will be asked to translate this. The woman is positioned next to the mammogram machine and each breast in turn is x-rayed from two different angles. In most cases, the mammogram consists of two x-rays per breast.
6. The woman is then asked to wait before dressing, so the radiographer can check that the film quality is good. The films are not examined in terms of whether or not breast cancer is present, just for x-ray quality.
7. The woman will be handed a brochure explaining that she will hear her results within two weeks. The interpreter may need to interpret this sheet.

This information is provided by:
Interpreter Services
BreastScreen Victoria
Last updated: May 2009