

## How can you obtain access to your records?

The results of your screening mammogram will be sent to you and to your nominated GP in writing within approximately 14 days. As this test looks only for breast cancer, BSSA does not report on any benign (non-cancerous) breast changes.

You are welcome to contact BSSA clinical staff (a doctor or nurse) to discuss your results if you wish.

You can contact BSSA staff to amend any personal information that is incorrect or has changed since your last visit.

Copies of your breast x-rays may be made available, with your consent, to any other BreastScreen service that you attend. They will also be provided to your specialist if they are necessary for ongoing treatment.

Copies of your file and/or breast x-rays, if not required by a specialist for ongoing treatment, are available by lodging a Freedom of Information application. In some instances, you may be required to pay a fee.

## Laws applying to information held at BSSA

BSSA complies with the Department of Health Code of Fair Information Practice (June 2006).

You have a right to access your records through the Freedom of Information Act (1991).

The law requires notification of breast cancer to the SA Cancer Registry.

Your personal details will not be passed on to anybody outside of BSSA without your written consent, except as required by law.



## What happens if you do not provide the information that we request?

When you attend a BSSA clinic, we ask for your details and for your signed consent to use that information as described in this brochure.

If you do not give us all the relevant information about yourself, BSSA may not be able to provide you with the best advice about your need for further investigations and future screening.

If your information is not on our database, we cannot contact you to remind you that you are due for your screening mammograms.

If we do not have details about your family history of breast cancer and your personal history of breast disease (benign or cancer), we cannot provide accurate advice about your need for any further investigations or future screening.

Information about investigations and treatment of breast disease following your screening mammogram is essential to enable us to ensure that you receive appropriate care.

De-identified (anonymous) information about investigations and treatment of breast disease following your screening mammogram is necessary to allow us to monitor and evaluate our service so that we can achieve the highest possible standards.

**If you have any queries about our Privacy Information, please contact our Privacy Officer, BreastScreen SA, 1 Goodwood Road, Wayville SA 5034, or phone 08 8274 7100.**



Government of South Australia  
SA Health

April 2010

# BreastScreen SA

## Privacy Information

BreastScreen  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

BreastScreen SA (BSSA) is the accredited South Australian component of BreastScreen Australia. This is an organised national breast cancer screening program for women without breast cancer symptoms and signs. BSSA provides free screening mammograms at two-yearly intervals, primarily for women aged 50 to 69, with the aim of reducing deaths from breast cancer in this target group, through early detection of the disease. If breast cancer is found at an early stage, there is a greater chance of successful treatment.

BSSA maintains the high accreditation standards that are required to achieve the program's aim. Several of these standards relate to the privacy of our clients.

This brochure outlines BSSA's Privacy Information and describes the way that your personal information is handled. Our Privacy Information complies with the Department of Health Code of Fair Information Practice (June 2006).

**If you have any queries about our Privacy Information, please contact our Privacy Officer, BreastScreen SA, 1 Goodwood Road, Wayville SA 5034, or phone 08 8274 7100.**

## **What information is collected and why?**

As screening is primarily recommended for women aged 50 to 69, BSSA has been granted permission to obtain information (names, addresses and dates of birth) from the electoral roll to identify South Australian women aged over 50. This enables BSSA to inform women about their eligibility for free screening mammograms and to invite them to make an appointment to undergo screening.



When you attend for screening, standard data are collected from you, our client, to enable correct identification of you and your records. This includes your name, address and date of birth. BSSA assigns a reference number to each woman. This number is unique to you and to BSSA.

Information about any family history of breast cancer is collected from you to enable BSSA to recommend whether annual or two-yearly screening is needed. It is not practical for us to seek this information directly from your relatives.

Information about current breast symptoms and previous breast problems is collected from you so that BSSA staff can make recommendations about future management after your screening mammogram.

Information about any investigations and treatment following your screening mammogram is collected, with your consent, from your treating doctors to assist BSSA to ensure that you receive the most appropriate care.

Information about any investigations and treatment for breast cancer found between your screening mammograms is collected from the SA Cancer Registry, to enable us to monitor the effectiveness of our service.

## **How is the information used?**

Information containing your personal details is used so that we can contact you when your screening mammogram is due, and to inform you of your results. Your nominated general practitioner (GP) or treating doctors will also be contacted if necessary, to ensure that we provide the best possible service.

Data with all identifying details removed (anonymous data), are analysed to enable BSSA to monitor the quality of its service, and to plan for future needs.



## **How is the information stored?**

Information is stored in a secure central electronic database (computer). Privacy and confidentiality is strictly maintained.

Your file containing your breast x-rays is stored in a secure location with strictly limited access. The x-rays are kept at BSSA so that they are available for comparison with future breast x-rays.

## **Who has access to the information and why?**

BSSA staff have access to information at the level that is required for them to perform their duties and provide the best possible screening mammography service.

Your GP is provided with the results of your screening visit if you have provided us with his/her name and given your signed consent.

Your nominated GP and treating specialist(s) are provided with information about you if you need investigation or treatment for breast disease, to ensure that you receive the best possible treatment.

The SA Cancer Registry is notified of all cases of breast cancer. This is required by law.

De-identified data (data from which personal details have been removed) are used to collect statistics for quality assurance and for monitoring and evaluation of the program. Reports produced from this data may be provided to BreastScreen Australia and government health departments. It is NOT possible to identify individuals from these reports in any way.

