



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Progress Report BreastScreen Australia Evaluation May 2007

The following progress has been made on the BreastScreen Australia evaluation:

- the Terms of Reference of the evaluation were endorsed by Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) in June 2006;
- members have been appointed to the BreastScreen Australia Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) in consultation with stakeholders and jurisdictions;
- the inaugural meeting of the EAC was held on 8 - 9 February 2007;
- an evaluation plan was considered by the EAC at its inaugural meeting and endorsed by AHMAC in March 2007;
- the first evaluation project, a review of methodological options for evaluating the effect of BreastScreen Australia on breast cancer mortality was completed in February 2007.

Project update: Review of the methodological options for evaluating the effect of BreastScreen Australia on breast cancer mortality.

- A key project of the BreastScreen Australia evaluation was a review of methodological options for evaluating the impact of breast cancer screening on mortality. The review was conducted by the National Breast Cancer Centre and the final report presented to the EAC at its February 2007 meeting. The recommendations are based on a review of national and international evidence, in which a systematic approach was used to assess the strategic and methodological approaches taken in each study identified and their potential limitations. Based on the report findings, the EAC approved the implementation of an ecological study design to measure the impact of BreastScreen Australian on breast cancer mortality.