

# Barbara Perry MP

Minister for Local Government

Minister Assisting on Health (Mental Health and Cancer)



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## **NSW women have greater access to latest breast screening technology**

The latest life-saving digital breast screening equipment has now been rolled out to 40 clinics across NSW as part of a \$26 million initiative.

Minister Assisting on Health (Cancer) Barbara Perry said now, in the lead up to breast cancer awareness month, is the ideal time for women to utilise the new digital mammography technology and get a mammogram.

“Now that digital screening equipment is in 40 fixed and mobile BreastScreen NSW clinics from Kogarah to Coffs Harbour, Broken Hill to Bega, women across the State have greater access to potentially life-saving services,” Ms Perry said.

“In addition to the digital screening roll-out, major improvements have been made to the free BreastScreen NSW service, including extending opening hours and locating mobile clinics in more convenient places such as near shopping centres.”

It is important that more women have regular mammograms, Ms Perry said.

“More than 407,000 women aged 50 to 69 years had their two-yearly mammogram in the two years to July 2009 but we want more women to access the services. We want more women to have the best chance of surviving breast cancer through early detection.”

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer and one of the leading causes of cancer deaths amongst NSW women.

One in nine women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime and each year more than 900 NSW women lose their battle with the disease, Ms Perry said.

“The good news is breast cancer survival rates for NSW women are among the best in the world, but I think this technology will help us do even better,” Ms Perry said.

The new digital mammography equipment enables a much higher quality image to be taken of the breast tissue than previously possible with film x-rays, improving the chances of detecting an abnormality in its very early stages.

“Early detection is vital to saving lives and offers greater hope to women that they can beat breast cancer,” Ms Perry said.

Women aged over 40 years and particularly those aged 50-69 years can make an appointment for a free mammogram with BreastScreen NSW by calling 13 20 50.