

# Barbara Perry MP

Minister for Local Government  
Minister Assisting on Health (Mental Health and Cancer)



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October 23, 2009

## **Three new breast cancer screening clinics to open in western Sydney**

Two breast screening clinics will be officially opened today in Western Sydney by Minister Assisting on Health (Cancer) Barbara Perry with another to be opened in the region shortly.

Ms Perry said she hopes the new BreastScreen NSW clinics in Castle Hill, Penrith and Blacktown will help increase rates of screening in the western Sydney region, urging women 50 years and over to have a mammogram every two years.

“Screening rates in western Sydney for women aged between 50 and 69 years is just 49.4 per cent, compared to the NSW average of 54.7 per cent,” Ms Perry said.

The Blacktown and Castle Hill clinics will be opened today with the Penrith clinic to open on November 2.

The clinics, managed by the Breast Cancer Institute’s (BCI) Sunflower Clinic, are three of the eight digital breast screening clinics that have been established in western Sydney by a \$5.9 million NSW and federal government investment.

“Breast screening, early detection and treatment of cancer is proven to save lives. The new Sunflower Clinics offers women potentially life-saving breast screening in handy locations,” Ms Perry said.

“Many women have full time jobs and family commitments and having these services available closer to home, in a familiar environment, is convenient and will hopefully encourage more women to have regular mammograms.

“The three new clinics are all located within Myer stores and operate seven days a week, including Thursday evenings, which means local women can access breast screening services all year round, when it suits them.”

All BreastScreen NSW clinics are fitted with the latest digital screening equipment, rolled out in a \$26 million NSW Government investment. Digital technology will provide doctors with clearer images, faster results and earlier detection - ultimately saving more lives.

Director of the Breast Cancer Institute (BCI), Professor John Boyages, said when a woman is screened in the clinics, the images are transmitted to the BCI Breast Centre at Westmead Hospital where they are read by radiologists.

**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.**