

# Why Do I Need More Tests?

This fact sheet provides some information about what happens now that you have been asked to come to an Assessment Clinic for further tests.

## Why have I been asked to come back?

There is an area on your mammogram (breast x-ray) that needs further investigation. Most women who are called back for further tests do not have breast cancer.

## How much do these tests cost?

All tests at BreastScreen are free.

## Who can I talk to before I come?

If you would like more information, you can call one of our specially trained BreastScreen Counsellors on 13 20 50.

## What will happen at the Assessment Clinic?

On arrival you will meet a counsellor who will explain what is to happen during the assessment visit. You will be asked to read and sign a consent form to have the necessary tests performed. The counsellor will answer any questions you may have about the consent form, and the assessment team will support you throughout your visit. A team of specialist doctors will assess the area that needs investigation.

## What tests will I need?

You may need some or all of the following tests:

- **Specialised breast imaging** – special mammography examinations will be performed. If you have any questions about these please ask your mammographer to explain.
- **Breast ultrasound** - sound waves are used to show more detail of the breast tissue. There are no risks with having an ultrasound and it shouldn't be painful or uncomfortable.

- **Breast examination** – a BreastScreen surgeon will examine both breasts and talk to you about your medical and family history.
- **Breast needle biopsy** - a specialist doctor uses a biopsy needle to take a sample from the part of the breast that needs checking. Local anaesthetic is given before the sample is taken.

## How long will the tests take?

It depends on the type of tests you need. It may be a few hours or the whole day. It's best to allow the whole day. If you need a certificate for work just ask any of our staff.

## What happens next?

Most women will be told that no signs of breast cancer were found and will be invited to come back for screening as usual when you are next due.

## When will I get the results?

Some results will be available on the day. Biopsy results take a few days. Sometimes the test results don't provide enough information and you may need to return for more tests.

## What if breast cancer is found?


Most cancers found by BreastScreen are early and very treatable.

If breast cancer is found, we can make an appointment for you with your GP to arrange referral to a specialist breast surgeon for management and treatment.

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## Tips that might help make your visit easier and more comfortable:

- Bring a support person with you
- Bring some snacks if you have a special diet – we provide free tea, coffee, milo, fruit and biscuits
- Wear a supportive bra and a two-piece outfit (top and pants or skirt)
- Don't wear talcum powder, body lotion or spray deodorant (roll-on is ok)
- Allow extra time to find a car park (see map below) 
- Please ask any of our staff or volunteers if you have any questions.

### Where do I go for the tests?



If you have any questions, call us on **13 20 50** to speak with one of our counsellors.