

Introduction to the 2011 Review of the BreastScreen Aotearoa Programme from the National Health Board

8 December 2011

A review of BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA) operations was undertaken during 2011 which identifies clear pathways to ensuring that a world-class breast screening service continues to be delivered to New Zealand women.

The review was conducted following issues raised by BSA service providers over the future sustainability of a quality nationwide screening service. The Ministry of Health contracted an independent review of the BreastScreen Aotearoa Programme and two documents summarise the review's findings: *Future Directions for the National Screening Unit - Working in Partnership with Lead Providers for a Sustainable Quality Programme* and *People and Culture in the National Screening Unit*.

A number of recommendations have been provided in the report to promote the ongoing sustainability of a quality service. To date no decisions have been made about any of the recommendations, which will be assessed, prioritised, and then considerations will be given as to implementation.

A clinically led steering group chaired by Dr Don Mackie, Chief Medical Officer, has been established to steer the assessment, prioritisation and implementation of the review recommendations. A project director will support this process. The Steering Group will work closely with the National Screening Unit's Clinical Governance Group, staff and sector providers throughout the process.

The Ministry of Health acknowledges the success of the programme to date and the work and support of providers and BreastScreen Aotearoa staff in that success. The Ministry welcomes the opportunity that the report creates to enhance national screening services into the future.

For further information in the meantime please contact:

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