

Estimates Committee 2008
Questions Taken On Notice

(17/6/2008 to 20/6/2008)

Date: 18/06/2008

Output: Health and
Wellbeing Services
Sub Output: Community Health
Services

Subject: Breast Screening - Alice Springs

From: Ms Jodeen Carney MLA to Dr Chris Burns MLA
Minister for Health

Question: **5-10**
Will the minister provide details of the number of screenings at
BreastScreen NT Alice Springs from the date it opened?

Answer:
Answered On: 21/07/2008

QUESTION ON NOTICE 5.10

Will the Minister provide details of the number of screenings at BreastScreen NT Alice Springs from the date it opened?

ANSWER

As shown below, the number of women screened in the national target group, aged 50-69 years, has progressively increased since the service opened in Alice Springs and has maintained a significant increase from 2002 onwards. This corresponds to the time when the service model changed to concentrated block periods for screening.

Screening for the target group is much higher in 2007 than in 1997 which was claimed as the better and more accessible service. The number of women screened in the target group has increased by 62% since 1997.

Whilst there may be variations in the total number of women screened over the past 10 years, the evidence supports the rationale for focussing efforts on the target group, as age is the biggest risk factor in developing the disease. Over 75 per cent of breast cancers occur in women 50 years and over¹.

BreastScreen NT - TOTAL WOMEN SCREENED			
since commencement of program			
		Target Age Group	
		50-69	All Ages
Year	Data	Total	Total
1994	Sum of ALS	0	0
1995	Sum of ALS	0	0
1996	Sum of ALS	415	658
1997	Sum of ALS	405	662
1998	Sum of ALS	576	916
1999	Sum of ALS	527	902
2000	Sum of ALS	591	962
2001	Sum of ALS	558	938
2002	Sum of ALS	611	945
2003	Sum of ALS	631	1011
2004	Sum of ALS	631	931
2005	Sum of ALS	641	898
2006	Sum of ALS	667	883
2007	Sum of ALS	657	860
	Code :		
	ALS - Alice Springs		

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, [BreastScreen Australia Monitoring Report, 2003-2004 \(April 2007\)](#)