

# Medilink

BREAST CANCER SERVICES SPECIAL EDITION

**Medical Professionals' direct link**  
to programs and services at the Wesley

## Wesley leads way in breast cancer care



Wesley Breast Clinic Director Dr Lisa Erzetic

Queensland's most comprehensive breast cancer service, located at The Wesley Hospital, is expanding further with new service innovations designed to benefit GPs and patients.

More doctors joining The Wesley Breast Clinic, new technologically advanced approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of breast disease and additional dedicated breast care nurses are some of the changes resulting in enhanced outcomes for your patients.

The Wesley Hospital's breast care service, one of the largest of its kind in Australia, offers a full range of clinical care for patients with breast problems - including benign and malignant tumours in the female and male breast - all in the one place at Auchenflower in Brisbane.

Director of Medical Services Dr Luis Prado says demand for the hospital's services is growing with some 2,000 women choosing to come to the Wesley for breast cancer treatment last year, and more than 23,000 women attending the Wesley Breast Clinic for screening and diagnostic assessment each year.

"The Wesley Hospital has been the leader in Queensland in the provision of seamless care for people with breast cancer from diagnosis through to treatment for almost 32 years," he said.

*continued next page*

## Queensland's most comprehensive breast cancer service continued from previous page

"We offer a first class service through every step of your patient's breast cancer journey, largely because The Wesley Hospital has the capacity to provide a coordinated pathway for our patients. We can connect them with all the expertise and services they require in the one place - effectively we are a one-stop shop for all cancer services from screening, diagnosis, surgery, treatment and support.

"While other hospitals cover the relatively straight-forward components of breast cancer services, The Wesley Hospital excels in comprehensive services for all patients and their families."

Dr Prado said The Wesley Breast Clinic, since opening in 1982, has established an unparalleled reputation as a specialist in breast cancer detection.

From small beginnings, the clinic had grown from an area in a ward in the main hospital to encompass the entire first floor of the Sandford Jackson Building and, under the guidance of Director Dr Lisa Erzetich, become a model for dedicated breast cancer clinics around Australia, Dr Prado said.

Woman-centred care is a top priority for the hospital and the Wesley has 100 beds dedicated to women's health – breast, endocrine, gynaecology, vascular and plastics.

The hospital's clinical team included 14 specialised Wesley Breast Clinic medical officers, 10 breast and endocrine surgeons and seven plastic surgeons, and this year the hospital expanded its Breast Care Nurse Service to include five dedicated inpatient breast care nurses in addition to the Wesley's nine dedicated Breast Clinic nurses.

The Wesley also works closely with a full range of support services on-site, including Icon Cancer Care for oncology and haematology treatment, Genesis radiation therapy, Wesley Medical Imaging, physiotherapy through the Women's Health Outpatient Rehabilitation program, dietary advice, pharmacy and access to the unique Kim Walters Choices program for all people with cancer. ■

## FAST FACTS

- + All highly specialised breast health services in one location
- + 100 beds in 524-bed hospital dedicated to women's health
- + Breast Clinic to provide screening and diagnostic assessment
- + 10 breast and endocrine surgeons
- + Chemotherapy, radiotherapy and imaging facilities on site
- + Physiotherapy and Choices Wellness Program for post-treatment support
- + Breast cancer research conducted at Wesley-St Andrew's Research Institute
- + Convenient access to multi-level car park for visitors
- + Convenient access to public transport (train, bus, ferry)

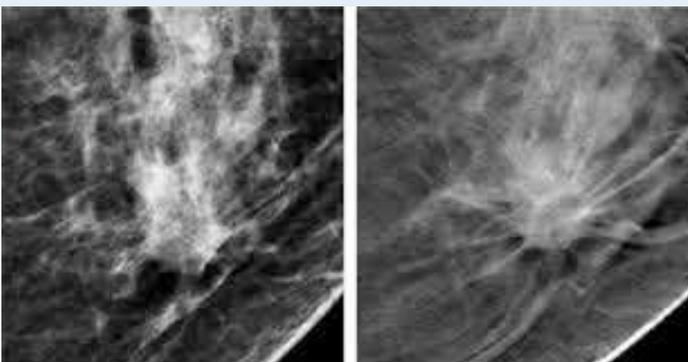
# 3D mammograms latest in imaging technology

Breast tomosynthesis, an exciting new imaging technology in the detection of breast cancer, is coming to The Wesley Breast Clinic.

The clinic will soon install software upgrades onto several of its mammography units which will allow for the production of 3D mammographic images. Breast tomosynthesis produces a 3D image of the breast by creating multiple images or "slices" that allows doctors to examine breast tissue one layer at a time.

"This technology will greatly enhance our current mammographic service," breast clinic director Dr Lisa Erzetich said.

"Recent overseas large centre trials have demonstrated that this technology will improve cancer detection rates as well as reduce the frequency of recalls of patients for further investigation."



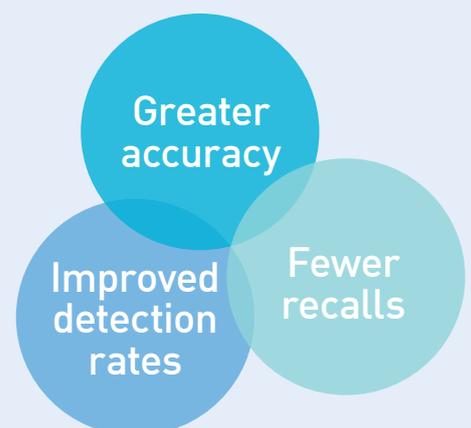
2D standard mammogram

3D tomosynthesis

Acquisition of a dedicated biopsy system will complement the tomosynthesis systems in place, enabling a streamlined approach to tissue sampling of abnormalities detected by this new technology.

The clinic will also be introducing a \$130,000 cabinet x-ray system for specimen radiography, funded from the proceeds of recent fundraising events. ■

## 3D BENEFITS



# Multidisciplinary team experts in accurate diagnosis



[Front] Wesley Breast Clinic Doctors Michelle Delamont, Clare Montwill, Belinda Beattie, Anita Taylor.  
[Back] Jane Ramsbottom, Anne Day, Lisa Erzetich (Director), Letitia Hanson, Carmen Gutierrez, Kirsten Price.

When it comes to experience and expertise, the Wesley Breast Clinic team is hard to match. The clinic's doctors have a remarkable 115 years combined experience between them.

Dr Lisa Erzetich has been with the clinic for 23 years - 11 of those as director - and has seen the service grow to include a team of 14 doctors, some of whom have worked at the clinic for more than 20 years.

"One of the strengths of the Breast Clinic is its expertise. Our pool of clinical knowledge and skill-base is huge due to the combined experience of our medical professionals who are 100 per cent dedicated to breast imaging and health." ■

## BREAST CLINIC MEDICAL OFFICERS

DOCTOR	QUALIFICATION
Dr Lisa Erzetich, Director	MBBS FASBP
Dr Anita Taylor, Deputy Director	MBBS FASBP
Dr Adele Barber	MBBS FRACGP
Dr Belinda Beattie	MBBS
Dr Anne Day	MBBS
Dr Michelle Delamont	MBBS FRACGP
Dr Maxeen Devenport	MBBS FASBP
Dr Elizabeth Evans, Data Manager	MBBS (Hons), MFM (Clin), BA
Dr Julia Fielding	MBBS GAICD
Dr Carmen Gutierrez	MBBS FRACGP
Dr Letitia Hanson	MBBS FRACGP
Dr Clare Montwill	MB BCh BAO FRACGP MICGP
Dr Kirsten Price	MBBS MBA FRACGP DFFP GAICD
Dr Jane Ramsbottom	MBBS FRACGP

## CONSULTING RADIOLOGISTS

DOCTOR	QUALIFICATION
Dr Linda Cockburn	MBBS FRANZCR
Dr Patricia Connor	MBBS B. Sc. FRANZCR
Prof. Alan Coulthard	MBBS BMedSci FRCS(ed) FRANZCR FRCR
Dr Helen Joshua	MBBS FRANZCR
Dr Roger Livsey	MBBS (Hons) FRANZCR
Dr Alan Porter	MBBS FRANZCR FRCR
Dr Jane Reasbeck	MBBS (LOND) DDR (OTAGO) FRANZCR

## BREAST CLINIC BY THE NUMBERS

32

YEARS IN OPERATION

23,000

PATIENTS A YEAR

14

BREAST CLINIC MEDICAL OFFICERS

7

SPECIALIST BREAST RADIOLOGISTS

24

RADIOGRAPHERS/SONOGRAPHERS

13

BREAST AND ENROLLED NURSES

27

NON-CLINICAL STAFF

60+

VOLUNTEERS

# Two sets of eyes on every image

Double-reading of every scan is not a service offered by all breast imaging services.



Wesley Breast Clinic and Wesley Medical Imaging radiologist Dr Patricia Connor

All Wesley Breast Clinic diagnostic clinic patients are seen by one of the clinic's specialised breast doctors, backed up by seven specialist breast radiologists and 24 radiographers/sonographers who are all highly experienced in mammography and ultrasound imaging and breast MRI.

"All diagnostic imaging is viewed twice, by a breast clinic medical officer and a breast radiologist, and in the majority of cases diagnosis is made on the same day," radiologist Dr Patricia Connor explained.

"Full results, together with our recommendations for future management, are discussed with each woman before she leaves the clinic and all findings are sent to her referring doctor.

"Results will also be forwarded to any specialist who will be managing any ongoing care." ■

## Wesley Breast Clinic delivers rapid results

Early detection remains the key to surviving breast cancer, so regular screening mammograms, especially for women over 40, may save a woman's life.

Thankfully the majority of patients who attend the Wesley's screening clinic will receive the good news that no evidence of breast cancer was detected on the day of their visit and most will go home after their appointment knowing they do not have breast cancer, says clinic director Dr Lisa Erzetich.

"Only about 10 percent of our screening clinic patients require further investigation, and fortunately only a small number of those are diagnosed with malignant breast cancer.

"If an abnormality is detected during the screening process, further investigations can be undertaken immediately and are comprehensively explained to the patient by one of our doctors on the spot.

"For those women who have breast cancer, early diagnosis will improve their prognosis."

The Wesley Breast Clinic was one of the first in Australia to offer same-day work-up of

screen detected abnormalities, utilising the full range of the clinic's diagnostic equipment and skills.

"Our diagnostic clinic also sees a large number of women referred by their GP with a suspicious lump or other abnormality or because breast imaging elsewhere has indicated further investigation is required," Dr Erzetich said.

"For these women, the benefit of a referral to The Wesley Breast Clinic is that we have a highly specialised multidisciplinary team who can perform the necessary diagnostic assessment while they wait, including ultrasound and tissue sampling. This is not the case with many other facilities.

"Prompt diagnosis can lessen the anxiety that can result from having to wait days or weeks for a results. We can reassure the patient if no significant abnormality is identified or advise and assist in developing management strategies of a breast cancer or other significant pathology."

Any woman is able to attend The Wesley Breast Clinic for screening without a referral by booking an appointment on 07 3232 7202.

GPs can refer patients for diagnostic assessment on our doctor hotline on 07 3232 7085.

For a fast referral, download a referral template located under GP resources at [www.wesley.com.au](http://www.wesley.com.au). Click on The Wesley Breast Clinic tab then follow the instructions for your practice software. Return referral via Medical Objects or fax 07 3217 8840. ■

### UNPARALLELED SERVICE

- + Mammograms
- + Ultrasound and MRI
- + Breast health education
- + Family history, genetic testing and counselling
- + Tissue sampling
- + Pre-operative treatments including hook wire localisations and sentinel node biopsy
- + Referral to breast and endocrine surgeons and plastic surgeons



# WESLEY SURGEONS AT THE CUTTING EDGE

The Wesley's surgical team brings together some of Queensland's best surgical talent and comprises 10 breast and endocrine surgeons and seven plastic surgeons.



All Wesley surgeons are part of BreastSurgANZ, the prime body that accredits breast surgeons in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Neil Wetzig has performed breast and endocrine surgery at the Wesley for 14 years and heads the hospital's Breast and Endocrine Craft Group.

Wesley surgeons work closely with The Wesley Breast Clinic, nursing staff and other disciplines to provide a patient-centred, co-ordinated approach to breast cancer care. "This has recently been enhanced by The Wesley Hospital expanding its theatre complex and providing a more streamlined breast care service," Dr Wetzig says.

"From the moment of diagnosis women are supported by breast nurses who guide them through the system, through procedures and the post-operative stage. Every woman wants to be dealt with in an individual

manner - some desire rapid action while others requiring time to process their diagnosis and treatment options. At the Wesley we make it possible for women to move through the experience at a rate that suits their personality."

Wesley breast and endocrine surgeon Dr Kate Stringer is proud to have been involved with the service for the last six years.

"I see the benefits the Wesley offers my patients," she said. "From expert assessment at The Wesley Breast Clinic to a streamlined perioperative period and onsite radiology, medical and radiation oncology, the Wesley offers everything on site. There are even onsite genetic counselling services. This reduces stress for women during a difficult and traumatic period in their lives.

"Treatment recommendations are brought together at the Breast Cancer Multidisciplinary Meeting, of which I am

Above: Dr Kate Stringer, A/Prof Owen Ung, Dr Petar Vujovic, Dr Neil Wetzig, Dr Jenny Gough, Dr Melinda Cook, Dr Chris Pyke Inset: A/Prof Ian Bennett, Prof Ian Gough, Dr Clement Wong

a founding member. All of this means my patients are getting the most expert, comprehensive care on one campus." ■

## BREAST PRACTICES

- + Breast conserving surgery
- + Mastectomy (including all types of immediate and delayed reconstruction)
- + Sentinel node biopsy and other forms of axillary surgery
- + Oncoplastic and reconstructive procedures in both women and men
- + Aesthetic breast surgery including augmentation and reduction
- + Management of gynaecomastia

## BREAST AND ENDOCRINE SURGEONS

DOCTOR	QUALIFICATION	CONTACT
Prof Ian Bennett	MBBS FRACS FACS	07 3839 0006
Dr Melinda Cook	MBBS FRACS	07 3353 7027
Prof Ian Gough	MBBS MD MRCP SRCP FRCS FRACS SACS	07 3870 2450
Dr Jenny Gough	MBBS (Hons) FRACS	07 3870 2450
Dr Christopher Pyke	PhD FRACS FACS	07 3255 1088
Dr Kate Stringer	MBBS FRACS	07 3870 2450
A/Prof Owen Ung	MBBS FRACS	07 3870 4422
Dr Petar Vujovic	MBBS FRACS	07 3870 4493
Dr Neil Wetzig	MBBS FRACS FRCS (Eng)	07 3371 5377
Dr Clement Wong	MBBS FRACS	07 3182 3100

## PLASTIC SURGEONS

DOCTOR	QUALIFICATION	CONTACT
Dr Eddie Cheng	MBBS FRACS	07 3870 3960
Dr David Chin	MChir PhD FRCS FRACS	07 3871 3330
Dr William Cockburn	MBBS FRACS	07 3870 0072
Dr Andrew Jenkins	MBBS FRACS	07 3257 7950
Dr Philip Richardson	MBBS(Hons) FRACS	07 3257 1988
Dr David Theile	MBBS MS FRACS	07 3831 8161
Dr Richard Theile	MBBS FRACS	07 3839 8827



Breast care nurse Rachel Reid and Clinical Nurse Manager Isabelle Christie with a patient following breast surgery

## Wesley expands Breast Care Nurse Service

Breast care nurses provide specialist nursing support for women and men who experience breast cancer.

Dedicated breast care nurses have been an integral part of The Wesley Hospital Breast Care Nurse Service for more than 15 years through services offered by The Wesley Hospital Kim Walters Choices Program and The Wesley Breast Clinic.

Recently this service has expanded to integrate this dedicated breast care nursing support with a more streamlined pathway through the hospital system.

The Breast Care Nurse Service is a member of the Breast Care Multidisciplinary team and the service commences when a patient is diagnosed with early or advanced breast cancer. "Patient contact with a breast care nurse begins before admission to hospital," explains Isabelle Christie, Clinical Nurse Manager of The Breast Care Nurse Service.

"Within days of initial diagnosis the patient may be referred to a breast surgeon. There can be many decisions to make and this can be very emotionally overwhelming.

"The breast care nurse can help reduce anxiety during this process and is a point of contact, a familiar face from the time of diagnosis continuing throughout the treatment process. The breast care nurse is a

constant link in the coordination of care."

A breast care nurse makes patient contact before admission to The Wesley Hospital either in person at the Wesley's Pre-Admission Clinic or by telephone. This contact continues on the day of admission / surgery and throughout the hospital stay to provide:

- + Practical and psychosocial support
- + Reinforcement and clarification of information to assist with decision making
- + Information regarding resources and services available
- + Referral to other services such as support programs, regional breast care nurses and breast physiotherapist.

Following discharge from hospital, contact with a breast care nurse is continued at regular intervals throughout adjuvant treatment and recovery. An appointment can be arranged to see a breast care nurse at any time.

**To contact The Wesley Hospital Breast Care Service, call Isabelle Christie on 07 3232 7805 or 0428 636 132 or email: [isabelle.christie@duhealth.com.au](mailto:isabelle.christie@duhealth.com.au)**

## Support after discharge is a high priority

The Wesley has the most comprehensive private oncology service in Queensland.

These services are supported by Cancer Care Coordinator Carlie Nielsen, whose role is to enhance oncology patient care and communication between the patient's team of healthcare professionals.

"Support after discharge is a high priority at The Wesley Hospital," Carlie said. "If a patient is leaving hospital, I make sure this transition is as smooth as possible. Patients often have financial, accommodation and ongoing care concerns throughout their treatment.

"We can provide access to financial help, accommodation assistance and oncology outpatient care programs like the day rehabilitation sessions here at the Wesley.

"For GPs the benefit is they know their patients are being well looked after and their care is coordinated from the time of diagnosis to after they return home."

**To contact the Cancer Care Coordinator, phone 07 3232 7860 or 0418 903 042 email [carlie.nielsen@duhealth.com.au](mailto:carlie.nielsen@duhealth.com.au)**



Cancer Care Coordinator Carlie Nielsen

# Adjunct therapies on one campus

Cancer patients at The Wesley Hospital have access to some of the latest therapeutic treatment options including radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) is the most advanced radiation therapy available in Australia.

"We have had IMRT at the Wesley for about five years and breast IMRT for about four," says Genesis CancerCare radiation oncologist Dr Gail Tsang. "It allows us to customise the beam and radiation dose, sparing critical normal tissue. It is a very accurate, safe and effective way of treating breast cancer."

Genesis CancerCare, located in The Wesley Medical Centre, will soon offer direct access to the next generation of radiation therapy technology with the installation of a new TrueBeam™ linear accelerator at the Wesley early next year.

Icon Cancer Care, located on Level One of The Wesley Medical Suites, is dedicated specifically to cancer and haematological

care and treats around 12 people a day with breast cancer, with the majority of patients referred by The Wesley Breast Clinic and Wesley breast and endocrine surgeons.

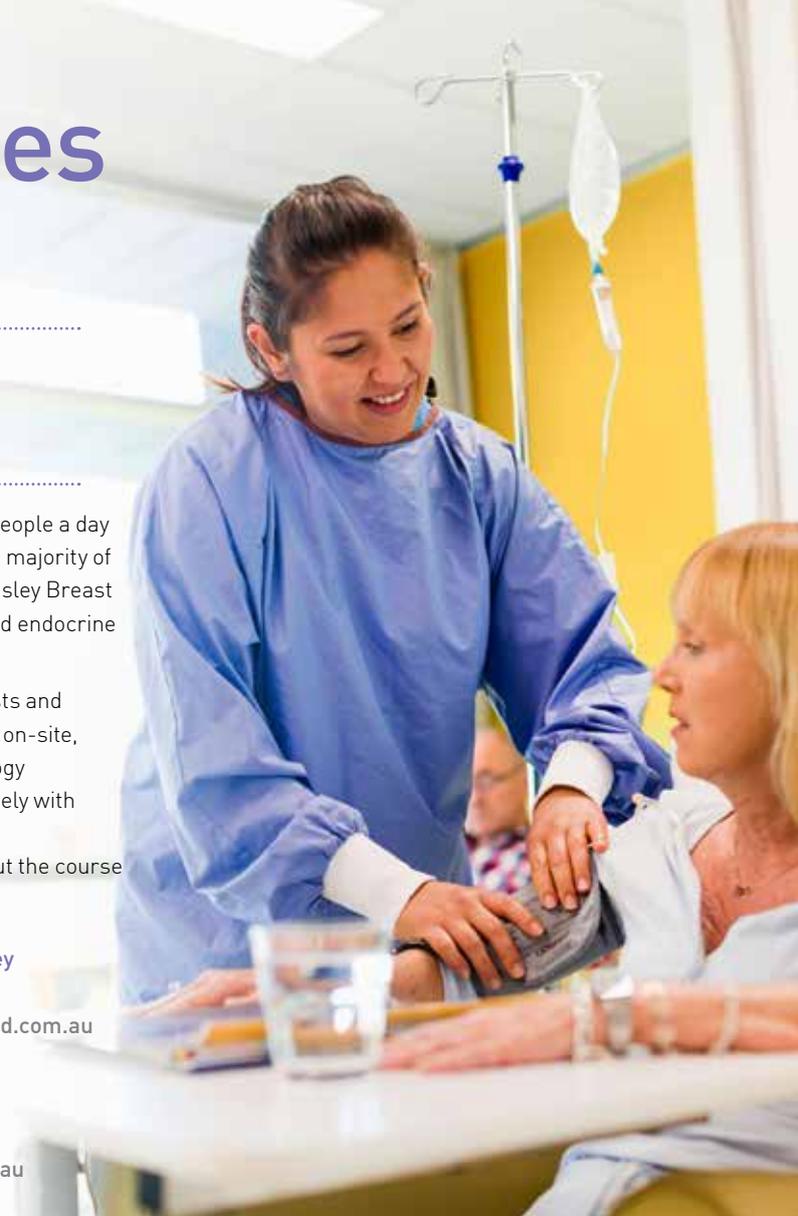
All Icon's medical oncologists and haematologists are located on-site, along with dedicated oncology pharmacists who work closely with nursing staff, patients and their doctors throughout the course of treatment. ■

#### Genesis CancerCare Wesley

Telephone 07 3870 4366  
[www.genescancercareqld.com.au](http://www.genescancercareqld.com.au)

#### Icon Cancer Care Wesley

Telephone 07 3737 4500  
Facsimile 07 3737 4601  
[www.iconcancercare.com.au](http://www.iconcancercare.com.au)



## Collaborative approach to treatment

As part of the Wesley's coordinated approach to breast cancer treatment, Dr Tsang chairs The Wesley Hospital's fortnightly Breast Cancer Multidisciplinary Meeting. The group comprises surgeons, Genesis radiation oncologists, medical oncologists from Icon Cancer Care, a clinical geneticist, Wesley Breast Clinic radiologists and medical officers, pathologists from Sullivan Nicolaidis, physiotherapists, breast care

nurses and representatives from the Choices program.

The collaborative approach has been in operation at the Wesley for almost five years and it was the first such multidisciplinary meeting to be held in the private sector. Dr Tsang says the patient's surgical findings and pathology are discussed, in order to decide the best treatment for that patient, which may be a combination of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and hormones.

"When deciding on a recommended treatment, it is not just one person's opinion. The patient's characteristics, their pathology and anatomy, are discussed in order to tailor-make their treatment. It is not one size fits all, the treatment is very individualised for optimal care and patients are involved in the process. The advantage is you get a multidisciplinary opinion about the best management of the breast cancer."



Dr Gail Tsang, Chair of the Breast Cancer Multidisciplinary Meeting



## Physios on hand

The Wesley Women's Health Physiotherapy Outpatient Clinic is located on-campus and provides excellent continuity of care following breast surgery. Our experienced women's health physiotherapy team are available for personalised and private consultations.

We offer comprehensive assessment and treatment for women following breast surgery, including; general post operative advice and education, cording, seroma management, upper limb range of motion, return to activity and lymphoedema management. Referrals are not required to the clinic and we have HiCaps access.

To make a booking or for further information call 3232 6190. ■

# Focus on wellness after breast cancer

The Kim Walters Choices Program is all about wellness, expert nursing and peer support.

Led by specialist breast and women's health nurse Janine Porter-Steele and a specialist team, Choices has evolved into a comprehensive wellness program for people with all types of cancers.

Choices is a drop-in centre providing support and information to people affected by a cancer diagnosis from the time of diagnosis and beyond.

In particular, it has provided this vital support and information to women, men and their families affected by breast and gynaecological cancers for over 16 years and specialises in wellness after cancer, managing side effects of treatment including menopause and sexuality concerns and survivorship issues.

Choices provides the following services:

- + Help with making important decisions about surgery and treatment
  - + Connection with specialist breast care, psycho-oncology and women's health nurses and expert peer support. In addition, Choices volunteers who have experienced cancer are trained to provide appropriate support
  - + Counselling and physiotherapy services upon referral
  - + Support groups providing up to date information and opportunities to meet other people with similar experiences
  - + Complementary therapies that help with stress management and wellbeing
  - + Post-surgery exercise and rehabilitation classes as well as yoga, pilates and tai chi
- + Advice about broader life-related topics including stress management, sexuality and fertility issues, survivorship, menopause, exercise and nutrition, wellness and mindfulness
  - + A diverse range of additional support services e.g. wig and turban service



Choices Manager Janine Porter-Steele

Choices is offered free of charge regardless of where surgery and treatment have been received and is funded entirely through community support.

**You can contact Choices on free call: 1800 227 271 or (07) 3232 7064. ■**



## Wesley Breast Clinic Urgent Referral Service

Doctor Hotline  
**07 3232 7085**

[www.wesley.com.au/breastclinic](http://www.wesley.com.au/breastclinic)



### Doctor hotline

Call **07 3232 7085** or fax **07 3217 8840** for urgent appointments or email: [wesleybreastclinic@uhealth.com.au](mailto:wesleybreastclinic@uhealth.com.au)

### FAST referrals

Download referral template at [wesley.com.au](http://wesley.com.au) Click on Wesley Breast Clinic tab then follow the instructions for your practice software. Return referral via Medical Objects or fax **07 3217 8840**

### Patient bookings

Call **07 3232 7202** for a prompt appointment or **Practice enquiries** on **07 3232 7067**.