



## **INVITATION to PARTICIPATE**

### ***Improving Breast Reconstruction Equity of Access through Stakeholder consultation and Translation into policy and practice (the I-BREAST study)***

Hello,

My name is Kathy Flitcroft and I am a former nurse and current researcher working with Breast & Surgical Oncology at The Poche Centre (BSOPC) in North Sydney. This group is led by Professor of Surgical Oncology, Andrew Spillane, and is a research-active team of clinicians with a strong interest in breast reconstruction in women who have undergone mastectomy for breast cancer.

We are conducting a study that aims to improve access to breast reconstruction for Australian women, with a particular focus on identifying practical solutions to increasing access to breast reconstruction for all women, regardless of location or ethnicity (the I-BREAST study). This study has been generously funded by The Friends of the Mater Foundation and has the approval of the Human Research Ethics Committee at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney (reference number 14/181).

As you have personal experience of breast cancer treatment, I was hoping you would be willing to spare me around an hour of your time for a face-to-face or telephone interview. I am very keen to hear of your experience with access to breast reconstruction, your views on what the major issues are, and your ideas about the best way of improving access in your local area.

Specifically, I am hoping to interview women who wanted to have BR but have had trouble accessing BR. This may be because you did not know it was available, or it was not available in your area, and you had to travel a long distance for BR. Maybe the costs were too expensive for you to consider it, or you were told by a clinician that you could not have it, you should not have it, or that you had to wait a long time before you could have it due to cancer treatment concerns. You may have faced long waiting lists at hospitals, or you couldn't have the particular type of BR you wanted. Perhaps you couldn't afford to take time off work or to be away from the family, or you had another reason.

My contact details are provided below. If you are interested in participating in the study, please either call or email me. I am happy to answer any queries you may have and, if you are willing to proceed, I will then send you a Participant Information Sheet which contains a consent form.

Your personal details will not be seen by anyone other than me and any information you provide will be anonymous – neither your doctor nor yourself will be identifiable. I will conduct the interview by phone and record it to ensure accuracy of reporting. The phone call will be at my expense and I can call you at a time that best suits you.

Thank you for considering this request.

With best wishes,

Kathy Flitcroft  
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On behalf of the I-BREAST research team:

Dr Kathy Flitcroft – Postdoctoral Research Fellow, BSOPC  
Professor Andrew Spillane – Surgical Oncologist and Director, BSOPC  
Associate Professor Meagan Brennan – Breast Physician, BSOPC