

Abstract Body

In a response to falling participation rates, BreastScreen Queensland is pursuing a number of strategies to improve participation. As the operational hours of BSQ services have been identified as a barrier to some women participating in screening, one of these strategies was the provision of incentive funding for out-of-hours screens (early mornings, evenings and Saturdays), to make screening more accessible and convenient for clients.

The number of out-of-hours screens increased from 15,920 in 2015-16 to 21,881 in 2016-17 an increase of 37%. Out-of-hours screens comprised about 6% of all screens in 2014-15 and 2015-16, and about 9% of all screens in 2016-17.

Comparing the numbers of out-of-hours screens in 2015-16 with 2016-17 - there were substantial increases in most services. However, the change over time was not uniform, ranging from a threefold increase in one service to a change of less than 5% in others. In two services, there was a small decline in the number of out-of-hours screens.

Most of the growth in out-of-hours screens was before 8am on weekdays. Comparing 2016-17 with the previous year, there were 4,360 more screens before 8am. There were relatively small numbers of additional screens after 5pm (771) and on Saturdays (854).

The profiles of clients attending out-of-hours and during standard hours are generally similar. However, clients aged 40-49 years were 23% of out-of-hours screens and 18% of screens conducted during standard hours.

Information about barriers and enablers for the provision of out-of-hours screens was also collected in a small qualitative survey of staff across Queensland. The results of this evaluation will be used to inform future out-of-hours strategies and incentives.