

Impact of Out of Hours Incentive on BreastScreen QLD Activity

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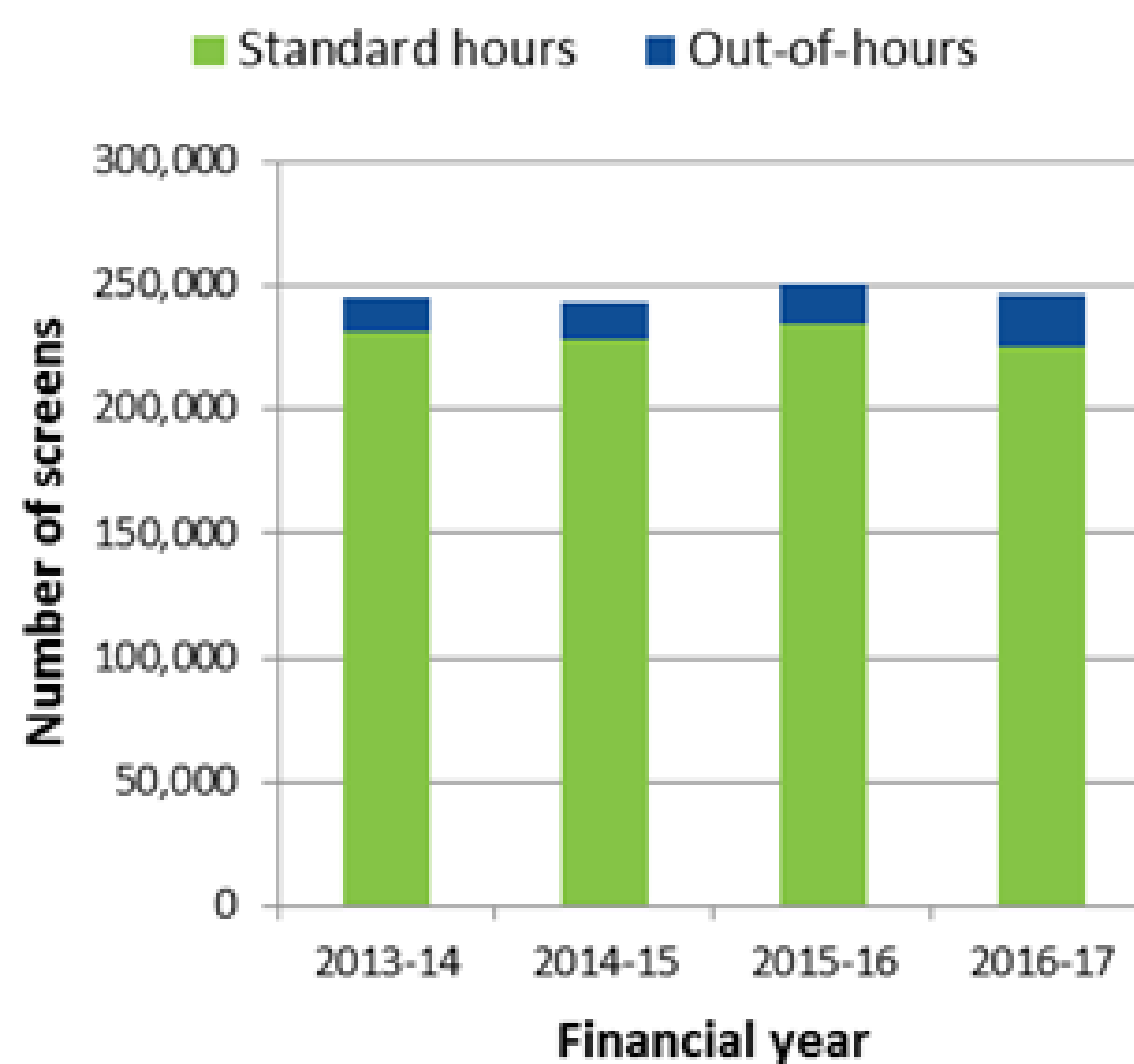
BACKGROUND

In a response to falling participation rates, BreastScreen Queensland (BSQ) 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 (\$15 per out of hours screen in 2016/17) for out-of-hours screens (early mornings – before 8am, evenings – after 5pm and Saturdays), to make screening more accessible and convenient for clients.

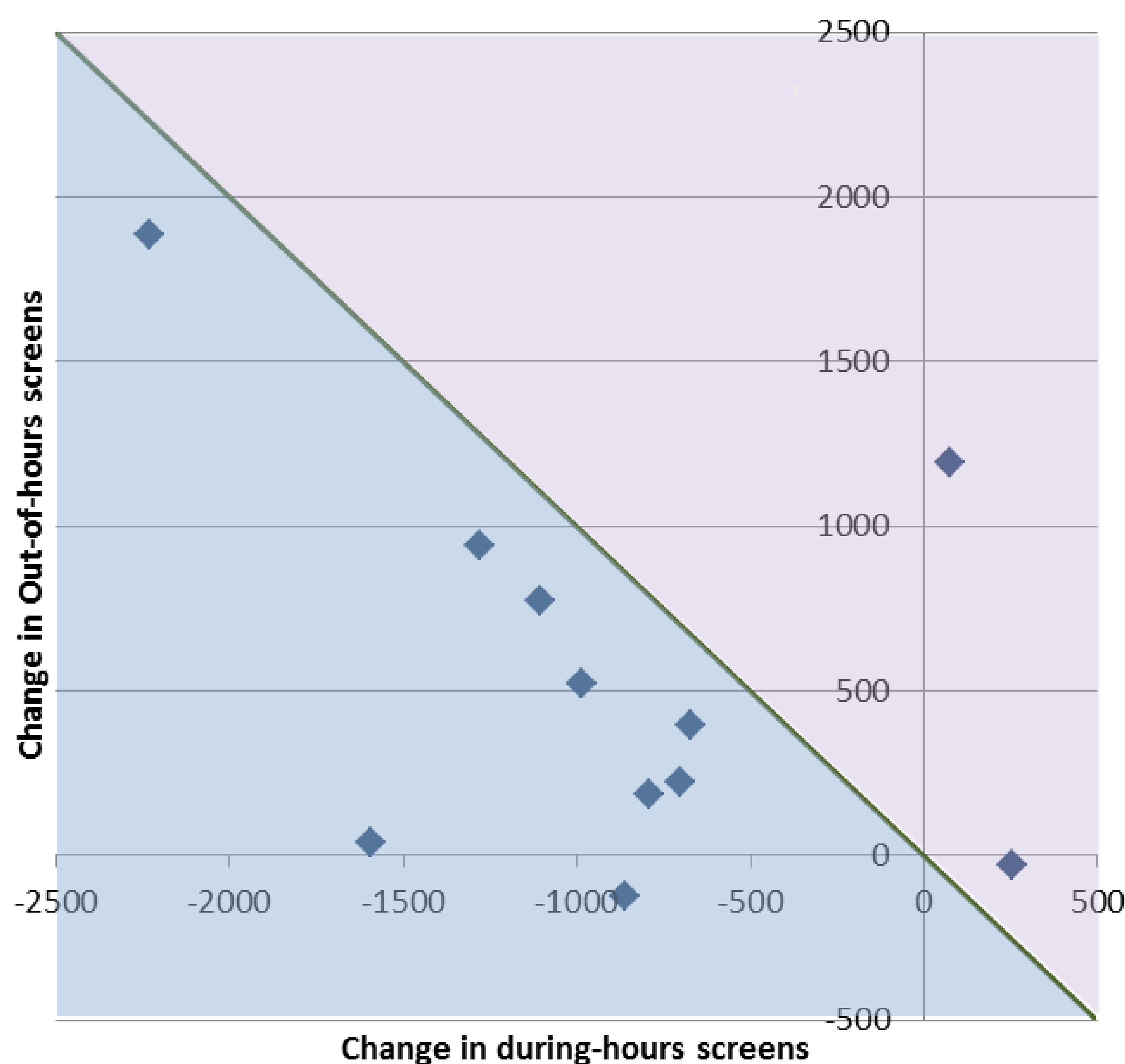
RESULTS

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. There were substantial increases in most services. However, the change 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 were generally similar. However, clients aged 40-49 years were 23% of out-of-hours screens and 18% of screens conducted during standard hours.

Standard hours and out-of-hours screens, 2013-14 to 2016-17



BSQ services: Change in Out-of-hours screens and Change in During-hours screens, 2015-16 to 2016-17



The **mauve area** of the plot represents the situation where the increase in the number of out-of-hours screens was greater than the decrease in standard-hours screens.

- From 2015-16 to 2016-17, only one BSQ service increased the number of out-of-hours screens while still maintaining the number during standard-hours. While this service maintained the total number of standard-hours screens from 2015-16 to 2016-17, the number of standard-hours screens was lower in 2016-17 than in 2014-15.

The **blue area** of the plot represents the situation where the increase in the number of out-of-hours screens was less than the decrease in the number of standard-hours screens. For example:

- From 2015-16 to 2016-17, in a metro service, the number of out-of-hours screens increased by about 1,900, but the number of standard-hours screens decreased by about 2,200. In two services the number of out-of-hours screens actually decreased by a small amount from 2015-16 to 2016-17. At the same time, the number of standard-hours screens increased in one of these services but decreased in the other.

CONCLUSION

The total number of screens fell (by 1.6%) but the number of out of hours screens increased by about 6,000 (an increase of 37.4%). It is therefore possible that the provision of out of hours screening had an impact by mitigating further reduction in participation. Therefore, on the basis of the feedback from BreastScreen Queensland (BSQ) services and the analysis of out-of-hours screening activity it is recognised that the incentive funding model should continue in some form.

There are clear challenges for BSQ services in providing the required workforce to enable out of hours screening, particularly on weekends. Providing out of hours appointments is also reliant on client demand which is not uniform across the state.