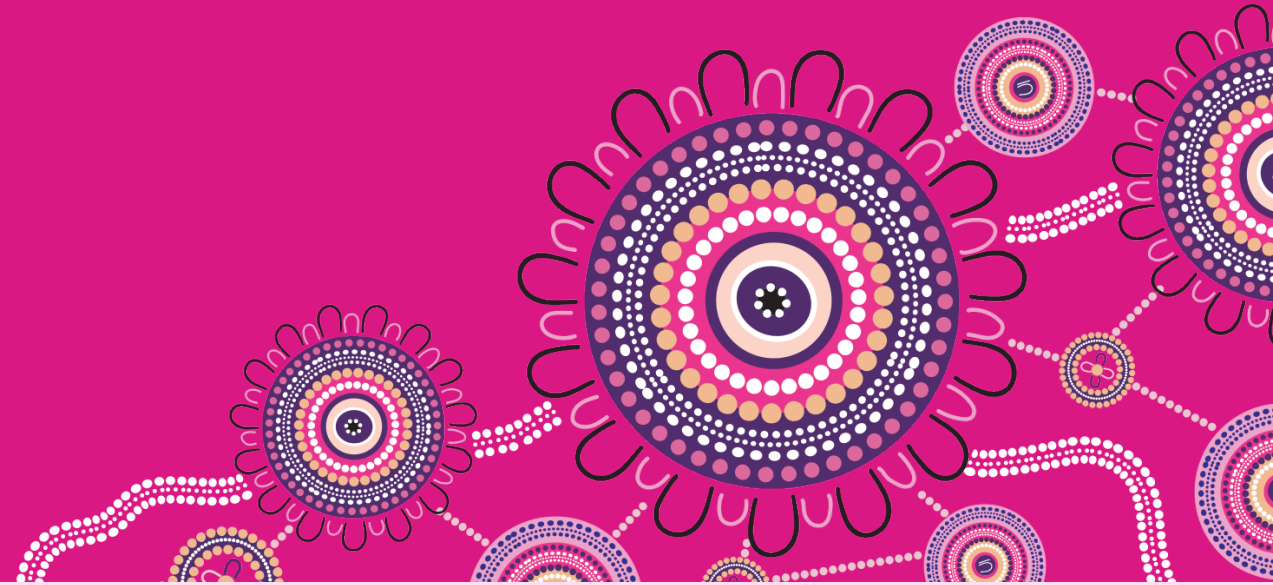


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# PUTUWA

## Aboriginal women breast screening age project 2021-2023



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PUTUWA: to warm your hands by the fire and gently  
squeeze the fingers of another person

Gadigal.

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Trudy Phelps

Relationship Manager

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March 2024



# Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. I pay my respects to Elders past and present.



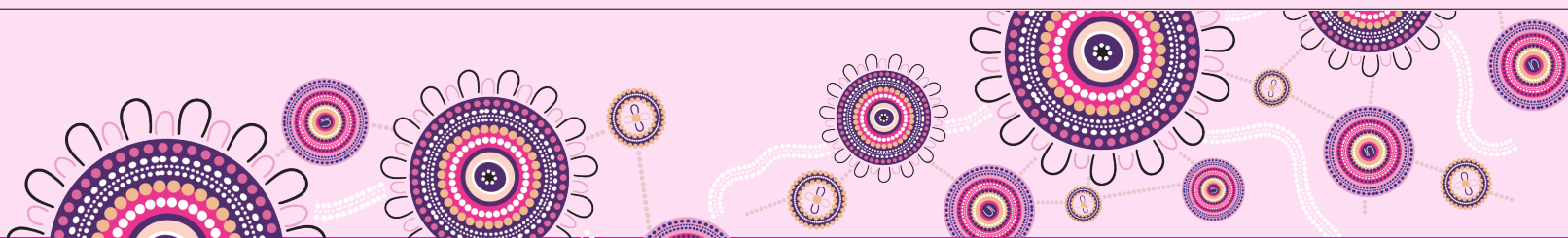
# Aboriginal women breast screening age project 2021-2023

## Rationale

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are diagnosed at a younger age with higher proportions of breast cancer diagnosed before the screening target age and more advanced stage disease.

BreastScreen NSW participation rate for Aboriginal women 50 - 74 years at June 2021 was 44.8% compared to 49.5% for all women in NSW and had been consistently lower over time.

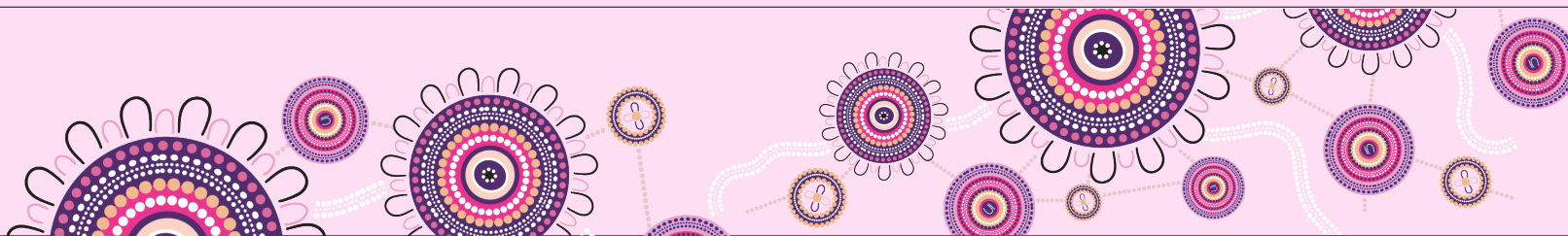


# Aboriginal women breast screening age project 2021-2023

## Aim

Pilot broadening the BreastScreen NSW target age range for Aboriginal women 40 – 49 years in NSW.

Increase participation of all eligible Aboriginal women aged 40 – 74 years in culturally safe routine breast screening.



## Phase 1. 2021

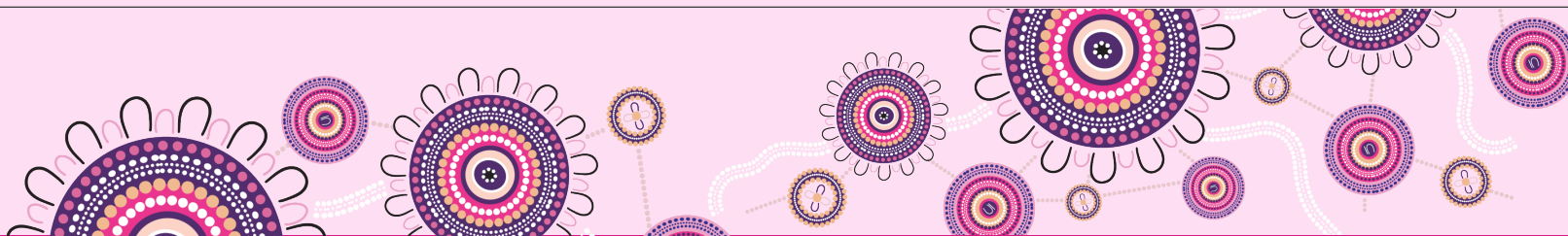
- Governance framework
- Research protocol
- Literature review
- Project planning
- Evaluation planning

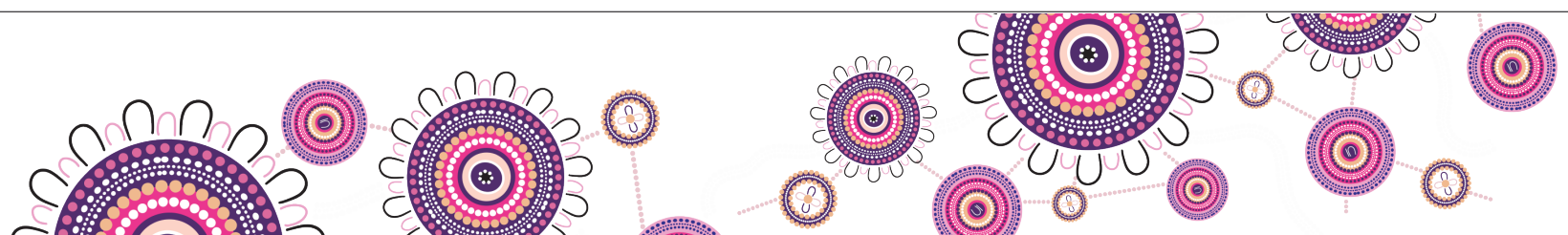
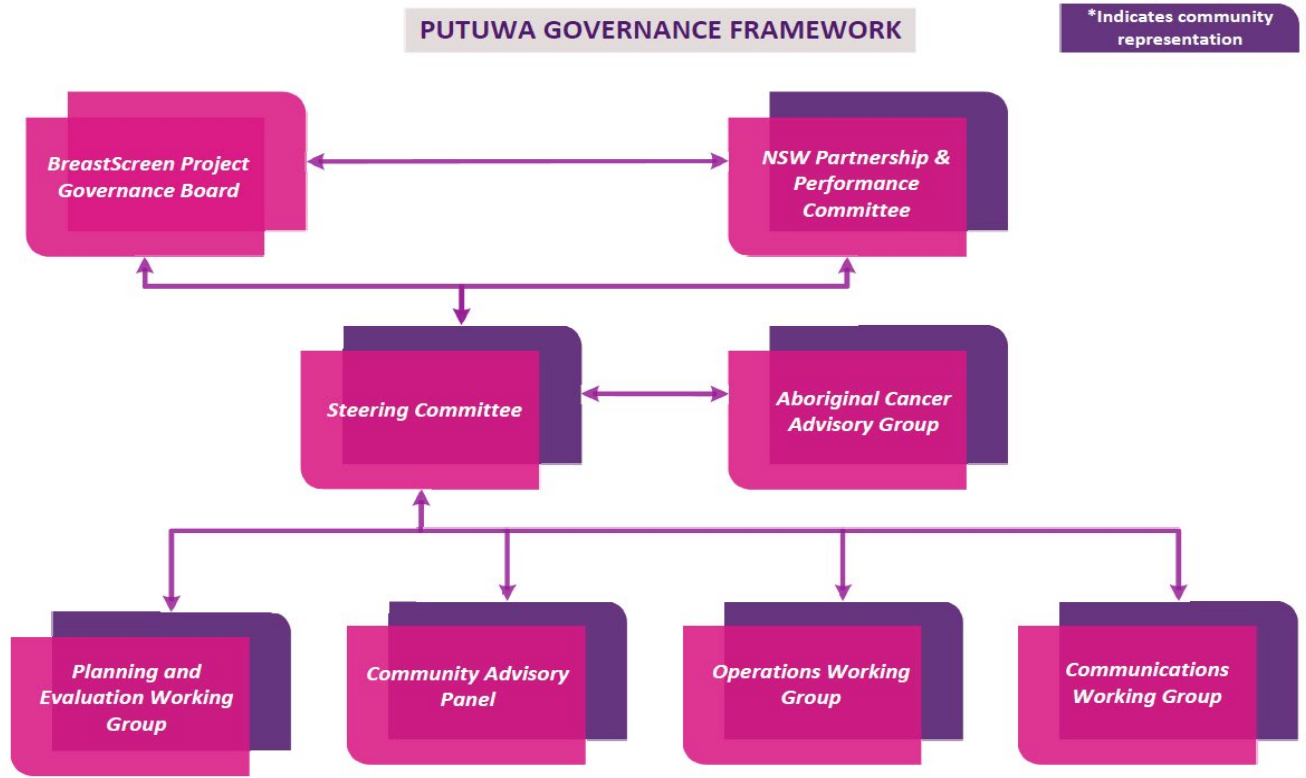
## Phase 2. 2022

- Stakeholder consultation
- Ethics approval
- Service operations adjustment
- Cultural safety baseline
- Communications planning

## Phase 3. 2023

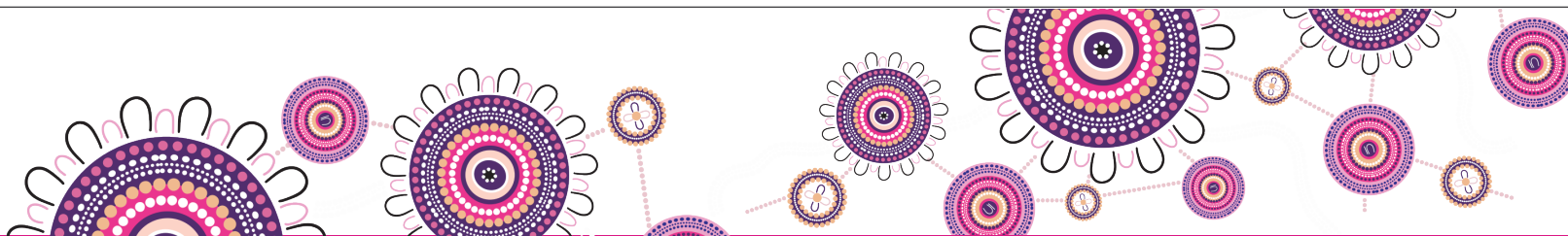
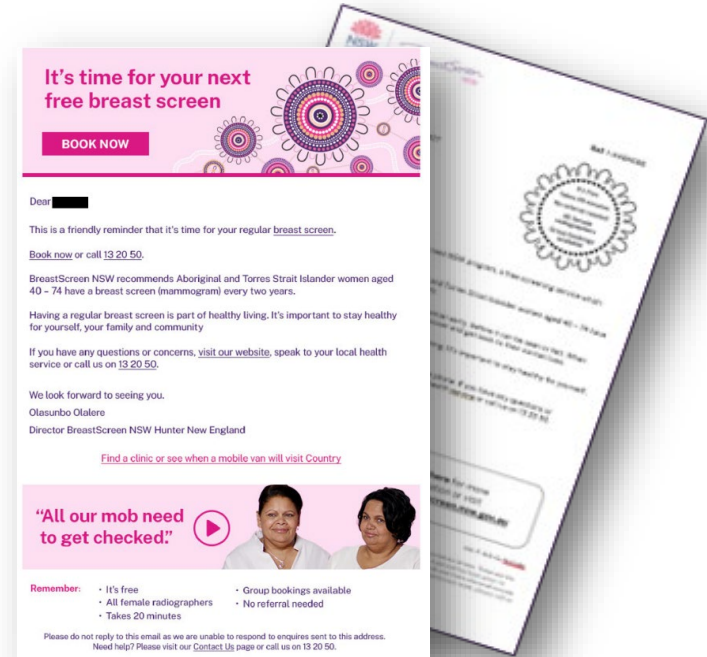
- Invitations
- Cultural safety audit
- Implementation of communications
- Evaluation





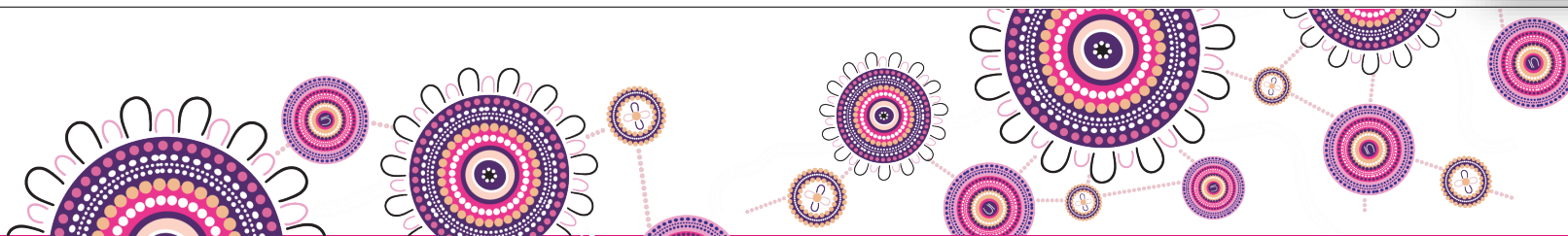
# Objective 1: To identify and deliver culturally sensitive solutions to support invitation and reminder processes for Aboriginal women 40 – 49 years

- ➔ Changes to the BreastScreen Information System to support new invitation processes
- ➔ Audit of invitation flowchart to optimise integration
- ➔ Development of new letter and email invitations (Phase 1) content and design
- ➔ Changes to the online booking system to support Aboriginal women to book from 40 years
- ➔ Data limitations



**Objective 2: In partnership with Screening and Assessment Services and key Aboriginal agencies, enhance the cultural safety of the BreastScreen NSW program**

- ➔ Aboriginal artwork competition “Biyani”
- ➔ NSW Health Aboriginal Cultural Engagement Tool
- ➔ Changes to the BreastScreen NSW Registration Form
- ➔ Oversight of cultural safety staff training
- ➔ Merchandise including scarves for women to support women during screening
- ➔ Targeted print and digital assets





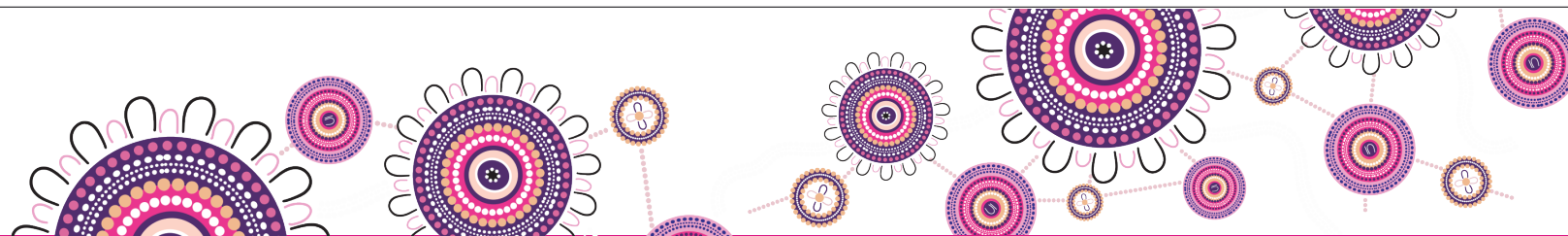
# Artwork 'Biyani', by proud Kamilaroi and Jerrinja woman, Jasmine Sarin.

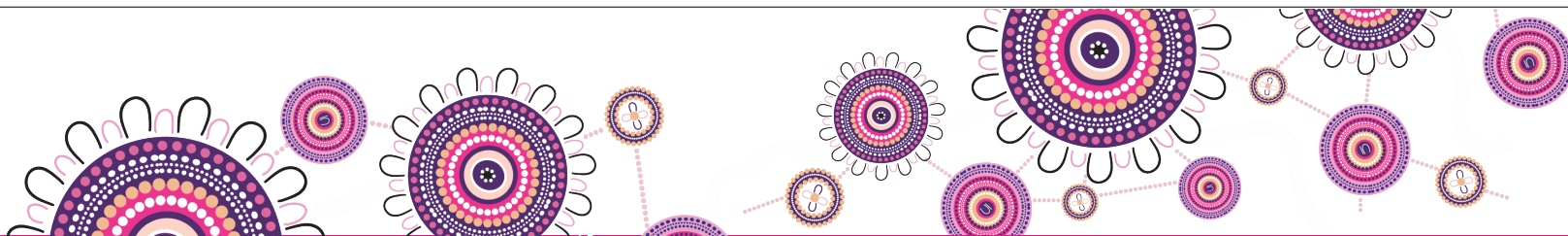
Biyani is a Dharawal word to describe a curative operation performed by women to cure illness in other women.

This artwork reflects the journey we are all on as women. Some become mothers, aunties, grandmothers, sisters. The community we live in supports our health and wellbeing. We talk about women's business, health and wellbeing, and part of that yarn means talking about breast screening and breast cancer.



- ➔ Co-design of key messages for Aboriginal women, Aboriginal health workforce & primary care
  
- ➔ Communication with:
  - ACCHO networks and management
  - Directors of Aboriginal Health
  - Primary Health Networks & RACGP
  
- ➔ Co-delivery of community education and screening events with ACCHOs and other community partners





# Breast screening guide for GPs

Routine mammography is the most effective way to detect breast cancer early.



## All asymptomatic women over 40 are eligible for breast screening\*

- Women aged 50 to 74 are invited every two years.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are recommended to screen from 40 years.
- For women aged over 74, it is recommended that GPs discuss with patients whether routine breast screening is a health priority.
- Find information on [screening intervals and breast cancer risk assessment here](#).



## Booking an appointment

- Book online at [book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au](http://book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au)
- Call 13 20 50.
- Call 13 14 50 for interpreter assistance.
- For screening locations, visit [breastscreen.nsw.gov.au/mammogram-appointment/locations](http://breastscreen.nsw.gov.au/mammogram-appointment/locations)
- No referral required.



## Screening appointment

- Takes 20 minutes.
- All female radiographers.
- Patient consent and details are required.
- At least two breast imaging specialists independently read the mammograms.
- Results are provided in approximately two weeks.
- With patient consent, the GP is provided with results.



## Recall for investigation

- The patient may be asked to return for further tests.
- Investigations may include mammography, tomosynthesis (3D), ultrasound, clinical examination and needle biopsy.
- With patient consent, the GP is provided with results.
- On diagnosis of breast cancer, the patient will be advised to discuss treatment options with their GP and request a referral to a breast specialist.

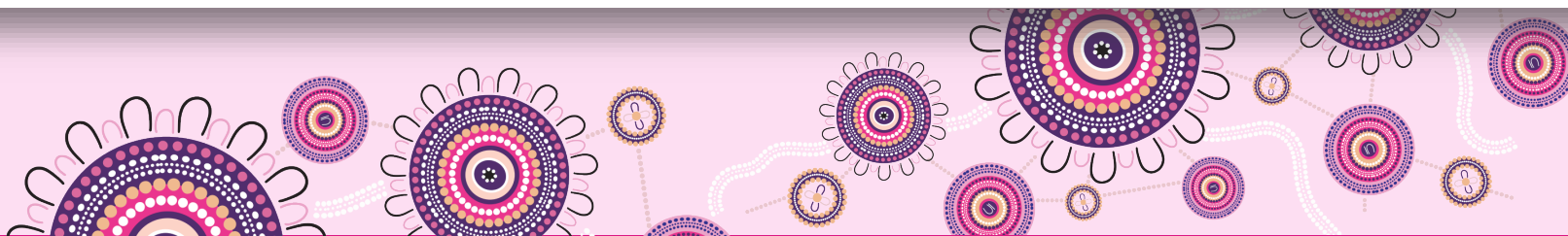


## GP follow up

- GPs are urged to place a rescreen reminder in their records for the patient's next mammogram.
- Learn how to increase screening participation rates at your practice by visiting the [Primary Care Quality Improvement Toolkit](#).

\*Symptomatic women should be referred to diagnostic breast imaging and/or a breast surgeon.

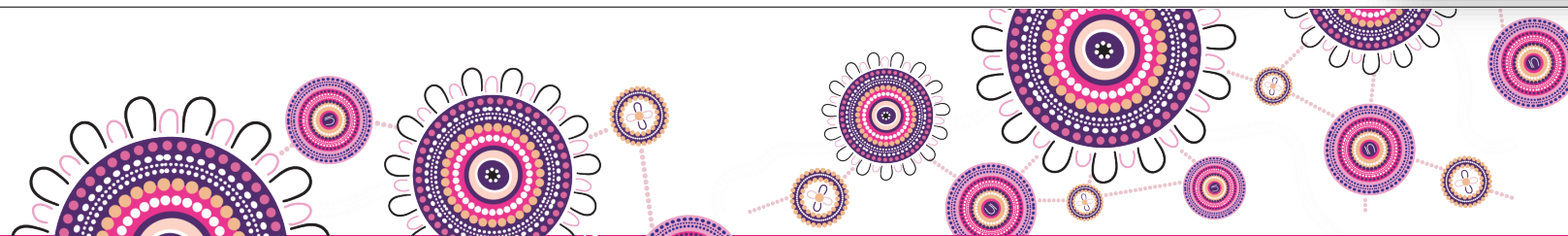
For more information, visit [breastscreen.nsw.gov.au](http://breastscreen.nsw.gov.au)



## Objective 4: To evaluate the planning and implementation of the project over a 12-month period to assess inputs, outputs, effectiveness and sustainability.

Inside Policy, an Aboriginal owned and run research agency has been working with the Institute to ensure that the evaluation includes **mixed-method design** that is utilised to collect data and information related to the evaluation through the following five components:

- Document and data review of project related implementation information: **85+** documents reviewed, analysed, and synthesised.
- Consultations with PUTUWA project key stakeholders: 24 PUTUWA key stakeholders interviewed.
- Qualitative research with Aboriginal women in NSW: 143 people interviewed.
- Review of the SAS Aboriginal cultural self-assessment engagement tool pre and post project implementation.
- Review of the attendance of Aboriginal women for each BSNSW SAS services.



# Key Evaluation Question (KEQ)

Process	<b>KEQ 1</b>	Has PUTUWA been implemented as planned?
	<b>KEQ 2</b>	How could the ongoing implementation of the project be supported in the future?
Outcome	<b>KEQ 3</b>	Have there been improvements in the cultural safety of the BreastScreen NSW services?
	<b>KEQ 4</b>	How has the project contributed to the evidence on the benefits of early engagement with breast screening for Aboriginal women?
	<b>KEQ 5</b>	What are the experiences and perceptions of Aboriginal women who have or not screened with BreastScreen NSW?
	<b>KEQ 6</b>	Has the project strengthened the relationship between BreastScreen NSW and key partners to deliver initiatives?
	<b>KEQ 7</b>	Has there been any impact on BreastScreen NSW participation rate for Aboriginal women since the project began?

# Challenges

DATA

COVID

THE REFERENDUM



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Thank you

