Identifying critical success factors for mammographic screening participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

Cancer Australia is embarking on a new project which focuses on one of the identified priorities in our National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Framework 2015. The Cancer Framework identifies a priority area of action is to “increase access and participation in cancer screening and immunisation for the prevention and early detection of cancers”.

The aim of this new project is to identify critical success factors and effective approaches to increasing mammographic screening participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women across Australia.

The objectives of this project are to identify:

- key factors contributing to successful participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in mammographic screening to inform best practice care.
- culturally appropriate service delivery options, resources and campaigns considered to be effective in promoting participation in mammographic screening for Indigenous women.

In May 2016, Cancer Australia contracted a team led by Professor Margaret Kelaher at The University of Melbourne, Centre for Health Policy to carry out this work to be completed by June 30, 2017. There are five phases to this project which are:

**Literature and evidence review:** review of published and unpublished evidence to build on the current evidence base regarding successful mammographic screening initiatives for increasing the participation of Indigenous women.

**National survey:** covering metropolitan, regional and rural locations to identify:

- what services, resources and campaigns have been undertaken to increase mammographic screening participation, and
- examples of the critical success factors working to increase mammographic screening participation for Indigenous women.

**Qualitative research:** interviews with targeted health service providers and communities across Australia; and interim workshop of key stakeholders to gather evidence on what constitutes a successful service, resource or campaign

**Analysis of evidence:** synthesising data and examples of effective programs to summarise the critical success factors across various services and activities to increase Indigenous women’s participation in mammographic screening.

**Final Report:** including presentation of findings to the Project Steering Group.

A Project Steering Group has been established and comprises members with clinical, academic and community knowledge and experience with a focus on mammographic screening for Indigenous women. The group will provide high level strategic advice and expert guidance to Cancer Australia and the University of Melbourne, to support the achievement of the project objectives.