

Tara S

fyi-request-10068-02b6f38d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201902476

Dear Ms Tara S

Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request of 12 April 2019 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following:

"I would like some information regarding the Mobile Breast Screening Unit that is used in the Otago/Southern region.

Particularly:

- why is the MBSU not dispatched to Wanaka? (it used to be - why was this stopped?)*
- who is the person responsible for this decision?"*

BreastScreen Otago Southland delivers the breast screening service in the Southern District Health Board (DHB) region. Providers such as BreastScreen Otago decide the best way to deliver screening services using the facilities available in their region. As the population grows, more permanent healthcare facilities may become available in a region, as in this case.

BreastScreen Otago Southland decided that offering screening appointments at the new medical imaging facility in Frankton would offer a better service to women across the Southern DHB region. Previously, screening was provided in Wanaka via the mobile unit for 10 weeks every two years. The mobile unit will be used to offer screening to other areas across the region where a fixed site (clinic) is not as accessible.

While this change will mean that women in Wanaka will need to travel to Frankton for their screening mammogram, they will have more flexibility on when they will attend their screening appointment as screening is available throughout the year.

Having a fixed site in the Queenstown District also allows for the future possibility of offering assessment clinics for women who are recalled from screening, and saving women from having to travel to Dunedin or Invercargill for assessment.

All providers are contractually obliged to meet the BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA) National Policy and Quality Standards. Standard 1.2.4 states that:

Mammograms are provided at fixed or mobile sites to ensure:

- 90% of eligible women will be within 60 minutes' travelling time of a screening unit (mobile or fixed)*

- *95% of eligible women will be within 90 minutes' travelling time of a screening unit (mobile or fixed)*
- *99% of eligible women will be within 120 minutes' travelling time of a screening unit (mobile or fixed).*

BSA is satisfied that BreastScreen Otago Southland is operating within these standards.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Please note that this letter, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Woodley', written in a cursive style.

Deborah Woodley
Deputy Director-General
Population Health and Prevention