



**OVERLANDER CHRONICLES**  
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**To: Act Government**

**Submission for Budget 2024/2025**

**Breast Cancer Awareness and Funding for Young Canberrian.**

**Introduction:** Hello my name is Belinda Lee from Overlander Chronicles 50 Peaks for Breast Cancer. I'm writing to you today to discuss the inadequate funding for breast cancer screening for young people in the age group of 18 to 49 years. Currently mammograms and ultrasounds are not free and mostly conducted at private clinics.

**Why I'm interested in funding for this:** In October 2022 I noticed a lump in my right breast I went to the doctor who confirmed the lump and referred me to get a mammogram and ultrasound but was shocked at the wait time (1 month) and the cost (\$590) upfront expense with the current cost of living crisis I thought this would be a less of a priority on young peoples to do list.

Currently in Australia 1 in 7 women and 1 in 500 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer, by the time a woman reaches the age of 75 this increases to 20%. There has been less focus on early detection within the age group of 18 to 49 years. Two woman every day get diagnosed with breast cancer and are aged 20 to 39 years and in 2022 breast cancer is estimated to be the most diagnosed cancer in the age group 20 and 39 years, we currently have no national screening program for this age group as it is deemed a less common cancer and It is still the leading cause of premature death in woman today with very unknown statistics on how many women are impacted in the age of 18 to 49 years.

**My proposal is:** To allow extra funding to support services like Breastscreen Australia/ACT to add the age group 18 to 49 years to their 2-year breast screening program that's currently running for 50 to 74 years and to have breast screening fully funded under Medicare via private clinics, with early detection. Survival rate is 98% and with simple and less invasive procedures and no long-term dependency on the health care system like with later stages of the disease, outcomes are much more successful

**Second proposal:** with early detection or for a sooner impact we should have more localized advertising targeted at younger women and men to check their breasts to pick up on early detection and for better outcomes as most people have no idea what they are looking for when it comes to breast changes.

We all know someone in our lives that has been impacted by breast cancer and we are starting to see more and more younger people being diagnosed with the disease. With more funding we could see zero deaths in the future.

Thank you for your time.

**On behalf:**

**19/02/2024**

**Belinda Lee**

**Overlander Chronicles - 50 Peaks for Breast Cancer**

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