


overcoming the barriers

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Presented on behalf of
PapScreen Victoria and BreastScreen Victoria



PapScreen Victoria BreastScreen Victoria Cancer Council Victoria

Cancer Screening Programs

- **PapScreen Victoria:** promotes regular cervical screening for all women in Victoria aged between 18 and 70 years.
- **BreastScreen Victoria:** promotes regular screening of all Victorian women aged between 50 and 69 years of age.

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Priority groups

- Older women
- Koori women
- Lesbians
- Women from diverse cultures
- **Women with disabilities**
- Women who are victims and survivors of sexual assault

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2002 Screened Out! Report

Aim: to discover the barriers that women with disabilities met when they had Pap tests

Consulted:

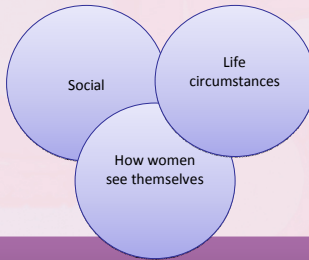
- Women with disabilities (sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or physical)
- Cervical screening providers (GP's)

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Findings:

- Identified 3 broad groups of barriers:



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Social barriers:

Access	Attitudes	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Buildings • Examination table/chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Professionals • Family • Carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Providers • Financial • Information

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Life Circumstances:

Impact of disability	Disrupted lives	Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain• Previous medical experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moving location due to issues related to a woman's disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical and emotional support from friends, family and carers

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How women see themselves:

- Privacy
- Sexuality
- Reminder of bad sexual experiences

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Training and education for disability workers about women's health should be developed as a matter of urgency to ensure that they are aware of the need for cervical screening and can explain it clearly to users of their service

Outcome

'Overcoming the Barriers' teaching resources developed for students undertaking Certificate IV in Disability Studies.

Aim: to highlight the barriers experienced by women with a disability in accessing breast and cervical screening services and provide strategies for disability support workers to assist in overcoming these barriers.

New Approach

- 2008 pilot workshop aimed at disability support workers in the Eastern Metropolitan region.
- Key Learning objectives:
 - Barriers to screening
 - Strategies to overcome barriers
 - Local screening services available

Current workshop format

PapScreen Victoria and BreastScreen Victoria are jointly delivering 'Overcoming the Barriers' workshops to disability support workers in metropolitan Melbourne.

Workshop content

Key topics include:

- The female reproductive system
- Cervical and breast cancer; risk factors
- What is cancer screening?
- Barriers to accessing breast and cervical screening for women with a disability
- Overcoming barriers to screening for women with a disability

Strategies for disability support workers

- Support active and informed health choices
- Practical support
- Ensure privacy
- Help to make examination experience as positive and stress free as possible

Success of workshop

- 54 disability support workers have participated in the 'Overcoming the Barriers' workshop since 2009.
 - 4 workshops
 - Eastern, North West and Metro



www.papscreen.org.au
www.breastscreen.org.au