

Question on Notice
No. 676
Asked on 16 June 2004

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTTALL) –

QUESTION:

With reference to incidences of breast cancer–

How does the Dalby area compare to other areas of Queensland and Australia in relation to the prevalence of breast cancer?

ANSWER:

Queensland Health currently only calculates cancer incidence, not cancer prevalence. Incidence refers to **new** cases of breast cancer that are diagnosed for women within the specified population within a given period. Prevalence is defined in terms of the **total** (new and pre-existing cases) of women who have breast cancer within the specified population at a designated point of time.

The incidence of breast cancer diagnosed in Dalby is not statistically significantly different to the incidence of breast cancer in Queensland generally.

Breast cancer screening rates are higher in Dalby than the rest of the state. For example, for the two year period 2001-2002, the BreastScreen Queensland participation rate for women aged 50-69 years (the target age group) in Dalby was 70% compared to the state average of 58%. Screening was also more common in Dalby for women younger than 50 years and those aged 70 years and over.

The more women who are screened, the more breast cancers will be detected within a specified time period and the better the outcomes in terms of overall survival and less invasive treatment procedures.

Mortality rates were also analysed and showed that the age-adjusted mortality rate in Dalby is not statistically different from the Queensland average.