

BreastScreen Australia Clinical Advisory Group

Professor Vivienne Milch

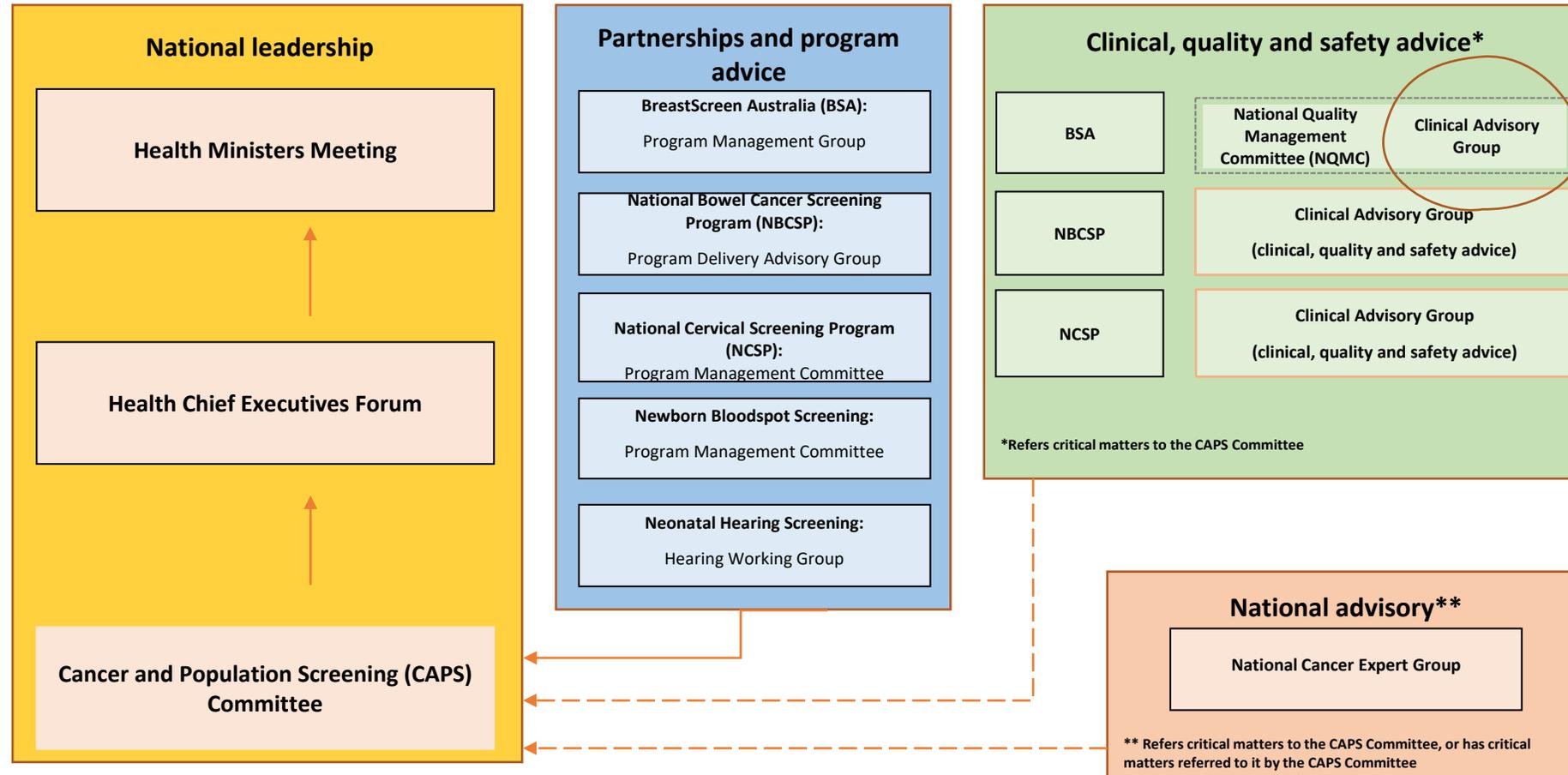
Chair, BreastScreen Australia Clinical Advisory Group

Medical Director & Head, Clinical Policy Advice Branch,
Cancer Australia

Medical Advisor to the Department of Health and Aged
Care on cancer screening policy



National Governance Framework for Cancer and Population Screening

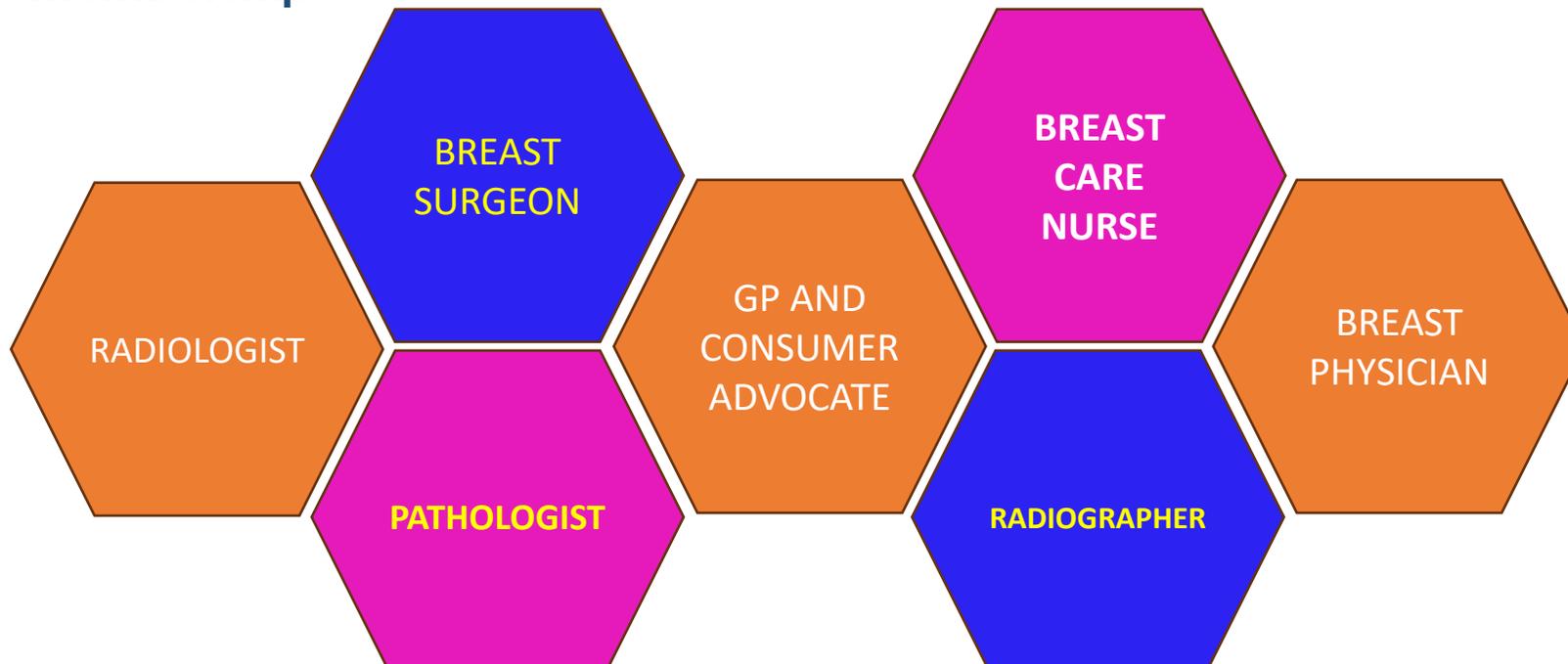


Clinical Advisory Group

Established in March 2023

To provide expert clinical advice to support the delivery of nationally consistent, contemporary, evidence-based and high-quality breast screening and assessment services through BreastScreen Australia.

Membership:



Who can request advice?

BSA Program Management
Group

BreastScreen Services

Department of Health and
Aged Care

Other BSA stakeholders

Maintaining currency:
We also review advice of the previous
Clinical Advisory Committee, developed five
or more years ago



Status of CAG advice

Emerging evidence

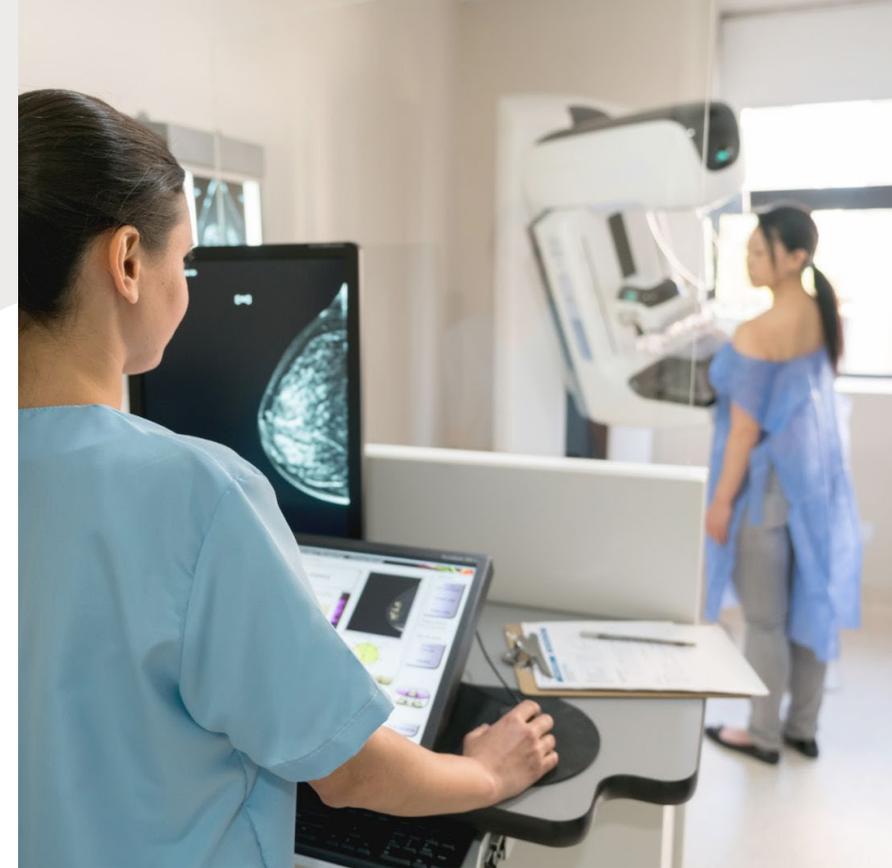
- Clinical evidence not yet been rigorously verified requires further investigation.
- Jurisdictions may adopt emerging evidence or undertake trials or pilots to test the evidence base.
- The clinical advice could be expressed as a position statement or a summary of evidence to inform jurisdictional decisions.

Best practice guidance

- Clinical advice that has a rigorous evidence base and should be encouraged as the care standard nationwide.
- Not mandated, there may be jurisdictional constraints of an operational, budget or service delivery.
- Best practice guidance would not be included in the NAS, although over time it may become national policy.

National policy

- Evidence-based best practice that is agreed to by all jurisdictions.
- Is mandatory to implement nationwide.
- Is reflected in the BreastScreen Australia National Accreditation Standards (NAS) at the appropriate time.



BreastScreen Australia: 2020 Position Statement on breast density and screening

Review of 2020 Position Statement
on breast density and screening

Consultation

Clinical experts and colleges Dec 2023 - Feb 2024

BSA Program Management Group

National Quality Management Committee

Cancer and Population Screening Committee

BreastScreen

AUSTRALIA

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

Breast density and screening: 2020 position statement

Breast density

'Breast density' is a term that refers to the relative amounts of dense breast tissue (glandular and connective tissue), which appears white on a mammogram, compared with non-dense fatty tissue, which appears dark.

Breast cancers also appear white on a mammogram so breast density can affect the accuracy or interpretation of a mammogram.

Increased breast density is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer, although the risk is less than having a first degree relative who is diagnosed with breast cancer before menopause (which doubles the risk) or carrying a BRCA gene mutation (where there is about a three to six times increased risk).

Many women (about one-third of women over 50 years of age) have increased breast density. Breast density is not related to how breasts look or feel and is not based on size or firmness.

Research on breast density and screening

We know that increased breast density can affect the accuracy of mammogram reporting and is a risk factor for developing breast cancer. Other risk factors include overweight and obesity, lifestyle factors, including alcohol, and whether a woman has had children. Age is the biggest risk factor for breast cancer.

At present, there is no randomised control trial data that shows that supplemental testing (e.g. MRI, ultrasound or tomosynthesis) saves additional lives for asymptomatic women with higher breast density and no additional risk factors.

Existing randomised control trial results have shown that mammography continues to be the only population-based screening tool to be effective in reducing mortality from breast cancer for asymptomatic women with dense breasts.

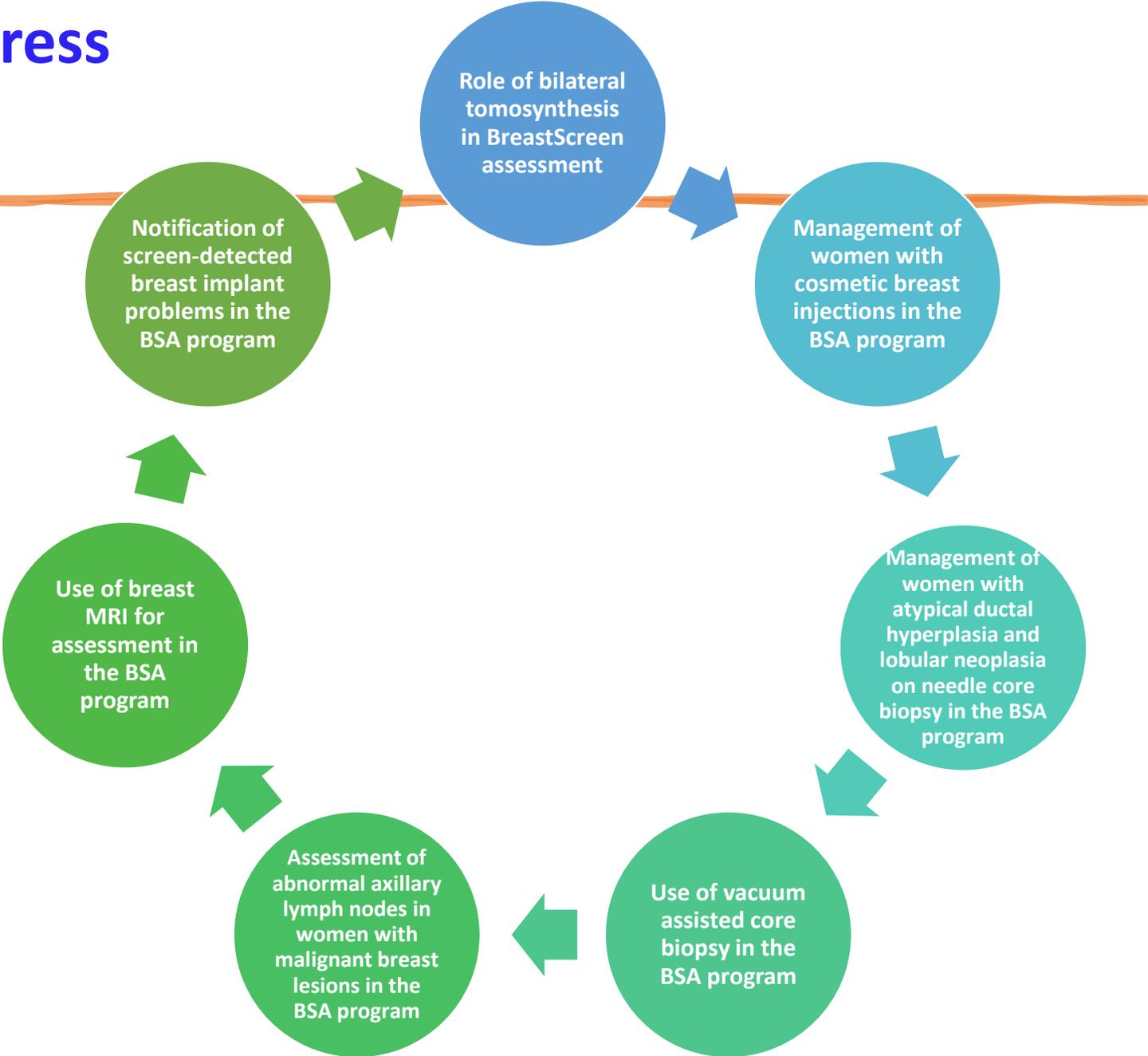
There are also potential risks of providing supplemental testing for women with higher breast density including:

BreastScreen Australia is a screening program for the early detection of breast cancer in asymptomatic women aged 50 to 74. The Program aims to provide women with accurate and useful information so they can make informed decisions about their breast health.

Process and Timeline of Review



Draft CAG advice in progress





Questions?