

Australian women's health declining across key measures, landmark global report reveals

Breast cancer rates rising among younger women as national screening gap widens

Fewer than one-in-four (23 per cent) Australian women underwent preventive cancer screening last year, according to new national findings from the world's most comprehensive annual survey tracking women's health and wellbeing.¹

Conducted by Gallup, and set for release next Wednesday, July 22, 2026, the **Hologic Year 5 Global Women's Health Index** examines women's health across five dimensions – Preventive Care, Individual Health, Emotional Health, Basic Needs and Opinions of Health and Safety – across 144 countries and territories. **The Index shows Australia is moving in the wrong direction, scoring 59 out of 100, above the global average of 54.**^{1,2}

Other Year 5 Index findings include:

- All but one preventive screening rate recorded in Australia has fallen below Year 1 levels;¹
- More than one-in-five Australian women have struggled to afford food in the past year, and one-in-nine have been unable to afford shelter – contributing to a drop in the Index's Basic Needs score from 92 to 84 in five years, one of the steepest declines across all dimensions.¹
- Australian women are also more stressed, worried, angry and sad than they were in Year 1 – with 52 per cent reporting feeling stressed for much of the previous day, and 41 per cent experiencing worry.¹

Launch of the findings will coincide with the screening of **Conquering Breast Cancer** – a new Australian documentary featuring survivors, advocates and clinicians – at Event Cinemas George Street, Sydney, on July 22,³ which breast cancer clinicians, advocacy group representatives and patients will attend. Also playing throughout winter at cinemas nation-wide, the documentary portrays the human cost behind the data – exploring **delayed diagnosis, survivorship, recurrence, and the advocates driving change**.

To learn more about the Australian findings from The Global Women's Health Index and **Conquering Breast Cancer**, tee up an interview.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

BREAST CANCER AMBASSADOR	
Lynette Bolton, 46	Breast cancer survivor, Sydney media personality, Travel Oz host, wife of former Sydney Swans champion Jude Bolton, & mother-of-two, SYDNEY
EXPERTS	
Professor Bruce Mann	Specialist Breast Surgeon, Head of Breast Surgical Research, Director of Research at Breast Cancer Trials & Professor of Surgery, University of Melbourne (VISITING SYDNEY)

Dr. Cleola Anderiesz	CEO, National Breast Cancer Foundation, SYDNEY
Ms Nadia Levin	CEO & Managing Director, Research Australia, SYDNEY
Dr. Talia Avrahamzon	Head of Policy, Research Australia, CANBERRA
Mr Kensi Naicker	General Manager, Hologic Australia & New Zealand, SYDNEY
Dr Jacqui Milne	Breast Radiologist, Brisbane Radiology, BRISBANE
Dr. Dane Cheasley	Senior Research Scientist, Peter MacCallum Centre, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, University of Western Australia, PERTH [VISITING MELBOURNE]
BREAST CANCER ADVOCATES	
Luan Lawrenson-Woods, 54	Award-winning self-health advocate, speaker & host with a history of breast cancer & reconstruction, featuring in <i>Conquering Breast Cancer</i> , SYDNEY
Di Geddes, 59	Registered nurse, author, NDIS provider & mother-of-two whose lifelong fear of breast cancer became reality, MELBOURNE
Elesha Jennings, 46	Active, health-conscious mother-of-one diagnosed with breast cancer at 39 – despite no family history, MELBOURNE

DOWNLOADABLE ASSETS

DIGITAL MEDIA KIT	www.womenshealthindex.com.au
BROADCAST VISION	www.womenshealthindex.com.au/vnr
AUDIO GRABS	www.womenshealthindex.com.au/anr
MEDIA CONTACTS + INTERVIEWS	Kirsten Bruce & Sam Jacobs, VIVA! Communications M 0401 717 566 0422 654 404 T 02 9968 3741 E kirstenbruce@vivacommunications.com.au sam@vivacommunications.com.au

References

1. The Hologic Global Women's Health Index: Australia. Hologic & Gallup; 2026.
2. The Hologic Global Women's Health Index. Hologic & Gallup; 2026.
3. Conquering Breast Cancer – Australia Edition. Moonshine Agency; 2026.