

## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 21 July 2006

### Australia's first website launched for men with breast cancer

[www.nbcc.org.au/men](http://www.nbcc.org.au/men)



***“I had quite a few men say to me ‘that’s a woman’s disease’ and I had to say, no it’s not, you could get it too”.***

Each year in Australia about 100 men are told they have breast cancer.

A diagnosis of breast cancer can be devastating for anyone, but men often face additional shock, embarrassment and isolation upon learning they have a disease they didn’t even know men could get.

The National Breast Cancer Centre has acknowledged the need for specific information for men and in response has developed Australia’s first comprehensive website for men diagnosed with breast cancer or men concerned about a breast change.

“It’s understandable that men diagnosed with breast cancer could feel a deep sense of isolation when so much of the information and support available is targeted towards women,” said Dr Helen Zorbas, Director of the National Breast Cancer Centre.

“Many people don’t realise men can develop breast cancer, but both men and women have breast tissue and men diagnosed with breast cancer need just as much information as women.

“However, it’s vital the information is relevant for men to reduce the sense that breast cancer is only a ‘woman’s disease’,” said Dr Zorbas.

While breast cancer in men is uncommon, it occurs most frequently in men aged 50 years and over. The disease presents most often as a painless lump in the breast close to the nipple but there are other symptoms of which men should be aware (see attached fact sheet).

The National Breast Cancer Centre urges any man who notices a change in the look or feel of his breast to see his GP without delay.

*The National Breast Cancer Centre is funded by the Australian Government and works with women, men, health professionals, cancer organisations, researchers and governments to improve health outcomes in breast and ovarian cancer.*

---

**Media contact:** Bree Stevens 0438 209 833, Jane Salisbury 0400 126 099