

Budget Sensitive – In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Health

Cabinet

Breast Screening Age Extension

Purpose

- 1 This paper supports my discussion today on making a public announcement about expanding eligibility to the BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA) programme to those aged up to 74, a commitment in the Government's 100-day plan.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 **note** that taking the first steps to extend free breast cancer screening to those aged up to 74 is part of the Government's 100-day plan.
- 2 **note** that I received advice from Health New Zealand on expanding eligibility to the Breast Screening Aotearoa (BSA) programme in November 2023.
- 3 **note** that I intend to make a public announcement in the week of the 12th of February on the commitment to extend free breast cancer screening to those aged up to 74 as part of the Government's 100-day plan.
- 4 **note** that funding for this initiative is being sought in Budget 2024 and is therefore subject to the ongoing Budget process.
- 5 **note** that implementation will involve a staged expansion of operational capacity, resulting in an increase in the number of free mammograms a woman can have from around 13 to 16 screens over their lifetime.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr Shane Reti

Minister of Health