

Breast Cancer (2)

The **McGrath Breast Care Nurse** (MBCN) is employed by Queensland Health, the position being funded by the McGrath Foundation - founded by Glenn and Jane McGrath in 2002 after Jane's initial recovery from breast cancer. When Jane was re-diagnosed in 2003 she realized that women from rural & regional Australia usually had no Breast Care Nurse and their care was sometimes fragmented. Sadly Jane passed away after surviving breast cancer for 11 years in 2008.

The **objectives** of the McGrath Foundation are to:

- Raise money to fund Breast Care Nurses positions in rural and regional Australia; &
- Educate younger women to become "Breast Aware".

The **role** of the MBCN is to assist with coordination of the care of breast cancer patients while being supportive of the patient/carer/family and allowing them to continue with their lives as normally as possible.

The aims in this role are to:

- Be there for patients/ carers/ families
- Assist with co-ordination of patients' care during their illness
- Follow patient journey through:
 - Diagnosis
 - Pre & Post Surgery
 - Oncology appointments
 - Pre & Post Chemotherapy
 - Pre & Post Radiation Therapy
 - To Recovery or alternatively to Palliative Care
- To provide healthcare professionals & the community with education about breast cancer care & to participate in health promotion.

The MBCN maintains a sound knowledge of the services available to cancer patients in the district and tertiary centres. The service is for both private and public patients in the Bundaberg and Fraser Coast districts.

Referral is welcomed from healthcare professionals and patients/ carers and families, provided the patient is aware of the referral. You will find the [MBCN Referral Form](#) (Bundaberg) on the GP Links website.

Contact Details:

- Margie Mears – Bundaberg (located at BreastScreen)
☎ 4150 2812 📠 4150 2819
- Angela Wotherspoon – Fraser Coast (located at Hervey Bay Hospital)
☎ 4325 6695 📠 4325 6698 📞 0447 049 308

Breast Cancer Resources Directory

A comprehensive [directory](#) of published breast cancer resources, including DVDs, books, pamphlets and fact sheets, is accessible on the GP Links website.

Unproven Breast Imaging Fact Sheet: The Cancer Council of WA has produced a comprehensive [fact sheet](#) about the alternative (and unproven) methods for screening for breast cancer. This is a valuable tool to assist your discussions with patients.

Do you have an idea, a problem or a solution?

Please contact me on 4151 0814 or ryan@gplinks.org.au .

Dr Therese Ryan GPHLO
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(Previous editions of Desktop Dispatch are available on the GP Links website under the Publications tab)