

**The aim** of the Health and Wellbeing after Breast Cancer Study is to determine the most significant issues affecting the wellbeing of Victorian women following their diagnosis of breast cancer, in order to improve the quality of life of breast cancer survivors in the future.

Visit: [www.afterbreastcancerstudy.org.au](http://www.afterbreastcancerstudy.org.au) to join the study

OR

Freecall  
1800 034 348

### **BREAST CANCER FACTS:**

- *Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women in Australia - in Victoria , about 3000 Victorian women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year.*

Due to its high incidence, a large number of women in the community are living with the consequences of their cancer and its treatment. On a more positive note, the survival rate of women affected by breast cancer has improved in recent years.

- *Various medical, psychological and/or lifestyle issues may arise after diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer.*

These include bone loss, early menopausal symptoms, infertility, depression or changed family/social/financial/work situation. These conditions may impact significantly on wellbeing.

- *At present, we do not know how many women suffer reduced quality of life after breast cancer and its treatment or how they try to deal with this.*

To date, most breast cancer studies (mainly drug trials) have focused on diagnosis, cause and treatment of breast cancer, with little focus on what happens *after* treatment.

### **ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING AFTER BREAST CANCER STUDY :**

- This is a “quality of life”, questionnaire-based study (self-administered at home).
- Every Victorian women newly diagnosed with breast cancer after 1 June 2004 is invited to join the study (including women in rural regions and those being treated in both the public and private sectors).
- It involves the completion of a questionnaire (once a year over 5 years) to determine how women with breast cancer deal with issues affecting their physical, social, economic and emotional status.
- Our aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of women with breast cancer in the future.