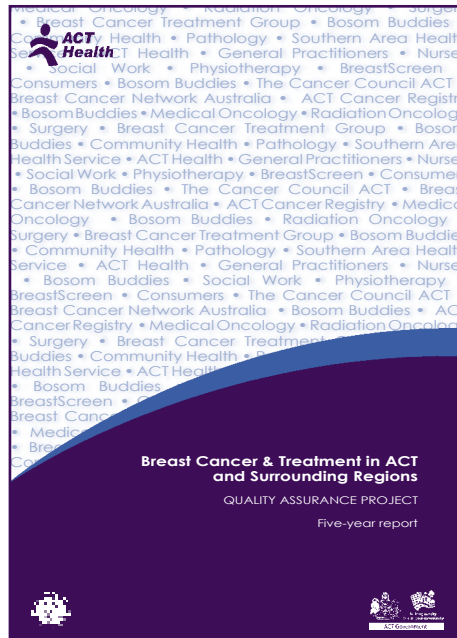


NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2004

The Breast Cancer Treatment Group



2004 has seen the publication of the much anticipated 5-year report of the Breast Cancer Treatment Group of ACT and South Eastern NSW. Much of the work required to complete this report occurred outside “office hours”. While ALL members of the Breast Cancer Treatment Group contributed to the success of this report I would like to especially thank Yanping Zhang, Sally Naylor, Bev Gow-Wilson and Paul Craft for their dedication and determination to complete the report for its launch in Breast Cancer Awareness Week.

Other highlights this year include a number of external oral or poster

presentations on various aspects of the quality assurance project. (details on page 4)

John Buckingham has been instrumental in organising the abstracts for many of these presentations. These include presentations at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne, RACS NSW Registrars Paper Day, the Australia/New Zealand (RACS) Conference in Surgical Oncology in Guangzhou, South China, the 5th Leura Breast meeting in Sydney and The Clinical Oncological Society of Australia - COSA 31st Annual Scientific Meeting in Canberra. Dr Harvey Stern, Plastic Surgeon from Sydney, presented a talk titled “Breast reconstruction – immediate and delayed” in September. Our five-year quality assurance report has shown that few women in our region choose to have breast reconstruction.

This is an area we hope to examine more closely in 2005.

I would like to thank ALL participants in the Breast Cancer Treatment Quality Assurance Project for their continuing support and wish you happiness and good health in 2005.

Jane Dahlstrom

Chair of the ACT & SE NSW Breast Cancer Treatment Group

THANK YOU Bosom Buddies

The Group would like to thank Bosom Buddies for their generous contribution towards the publication of this five-year report and would like to acknowledge Bosom Buddies ongoing support to the project, which is very much appreciated!



Jane Dahlstrom and Pam Robertson

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Report from the Chair of the Data Management Subcommittee

It is with pleasure that I report on another successful year for the Breast Cancer Treatment Group Quality Assurance Project. Members of the group and health professionals throughout the region have continued to support the ongoing collection of breast cancer treatment information, and increasingly, data describing important outcomes of that treatment. Patients with breast cancer have continued to support the project by giving consent for their information to be included. Finally our project team has also continued to enthusiastically pursue a very accurate and complete data collection.

A significant achievement for the Group as a whole was the publication of the "Five-year report" in October

this year. The report represents a huge amount of work by the project team, the Data Management Subcommittee, and all members of the Breast Cancer Treatment Group. The report summarises breast cancer treatment over a five-year period, and chronicles changes in patterns of care over time. We believe that it will be an important resource for clinicians, consumers, and health care researchers.

In addition to the five-year report, members of the Group have presented results from the project at scientific meetings in Australia and overseas in 2004. A manuscript describing the surgical management of early breast cancer has also been submitted for publication.

The quality assurance project will continue. Nearly 2000 women and men with breast cancer have been notified. Importantly, meaningful information regarding some of the long-term outcomes of treatment will start to become available soon. This sort of information becomes progressively more important over time, as trends in treatments given and treatment results become apparent. Some changes in the project data set will be considered during the coming twelve months. Areas of deficiency in the current collection include issues around breast reconstruction and psychosocial support. Focus on these areas will lead to greater confidence that all persons suffering from breast cancer have an opportunity to access all of the services and care they need.

Paul Craft

Chair of the Data Management Subcommittee

Launch of the five-year report

During Breast Cancer Awareness Week on Wednesday 27th October, ACT Health Minister Simon Corbell launched the five-year report at the ACT Legislative Assembly. The project team would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in helping to obtain and gather the data, write the report and support and help us to arrive to that day!

"It is indeed a great pleasure and honour to be publicly launching this critically important and very valuable report during Breast Cancer Awareness Week. This project is a unique one, not only in the ACT, but we believe, also in Australia.

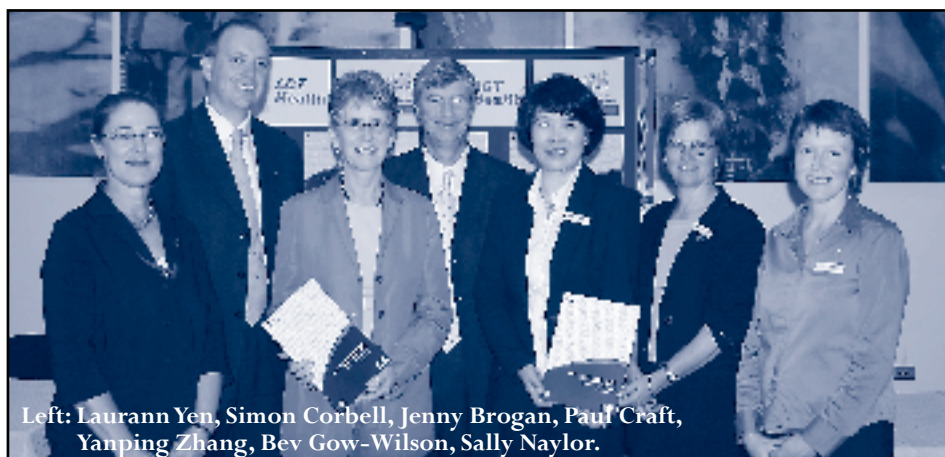
A significant result from this quality assurance project is that this report outlines the findings of breast cancer treatment from diagnosis to surgery to radiation therapy and chemotherapy within this region for the five-year period 1997-2002 inclusive.



This quality assurance project allows us to benchmark ACT breast cancer management with national statistics. We are able to compare against best practice guidelines and gain a better understanding of what is happening in terms of breast cancer in our region.

Projects like this one are important, because they allow us to gather information about breast cancer in our region and provide information to help improve patient outcomes".

If you would like a copy of the report please contact the office on
Telephone: (02) 6205 1542
Fax: (02) 6205 2109

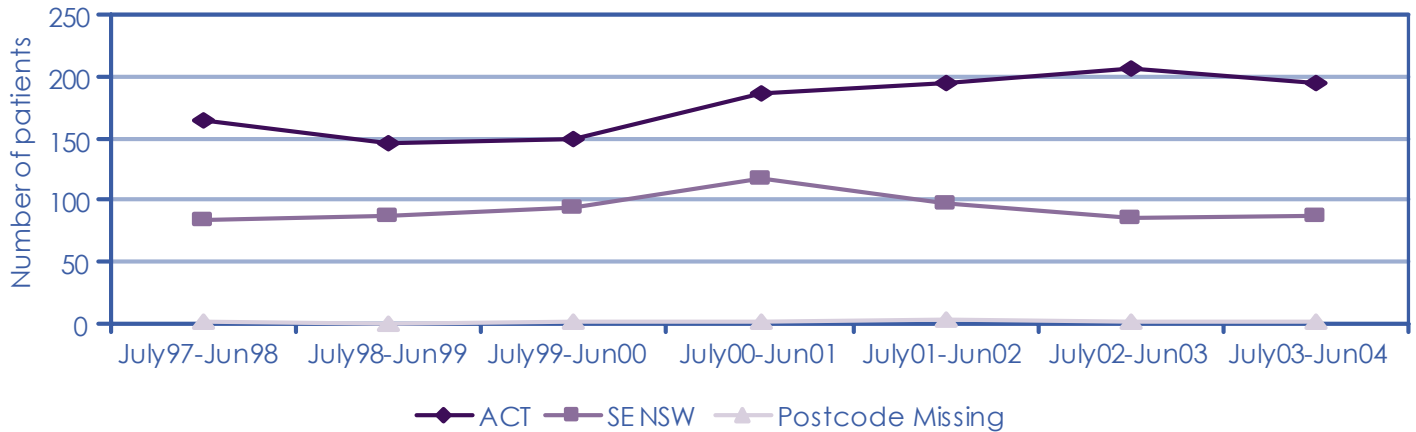


Left: Laurann Yen, Simon Corbell, Jenny Brogan, Paul Craft, Yanping Zhang, Bev Gow-Wilson, Sally Naylor.

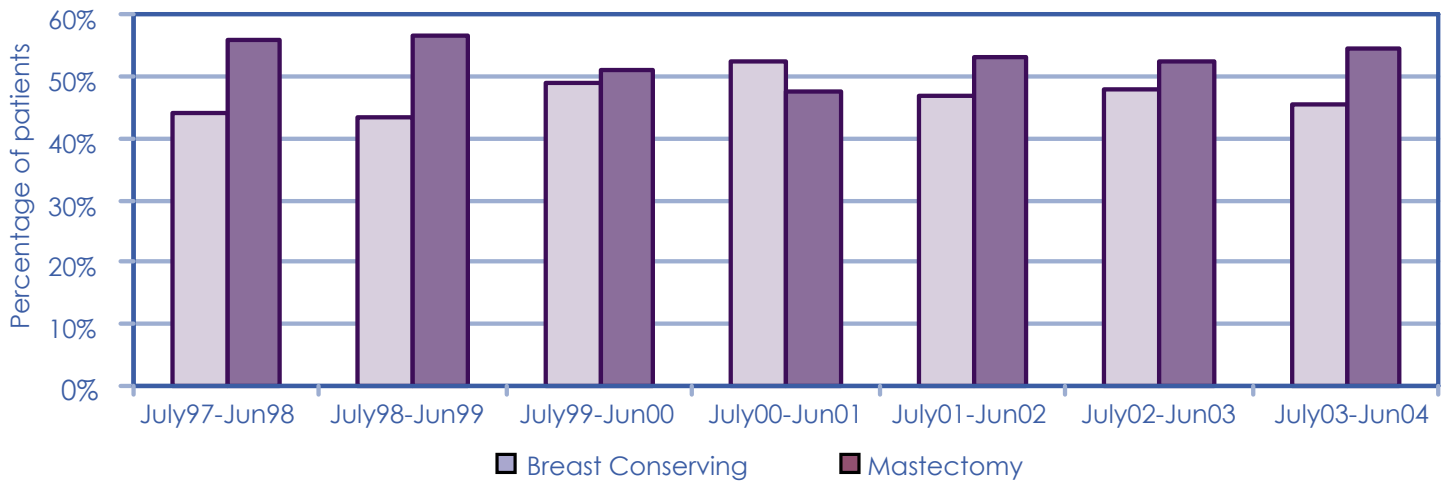
RESULTS: July 1997 to June 2004 on the seven years data collection

To date, 2000 patients have been notified to the Project and we are up to the fourth round of follow up.

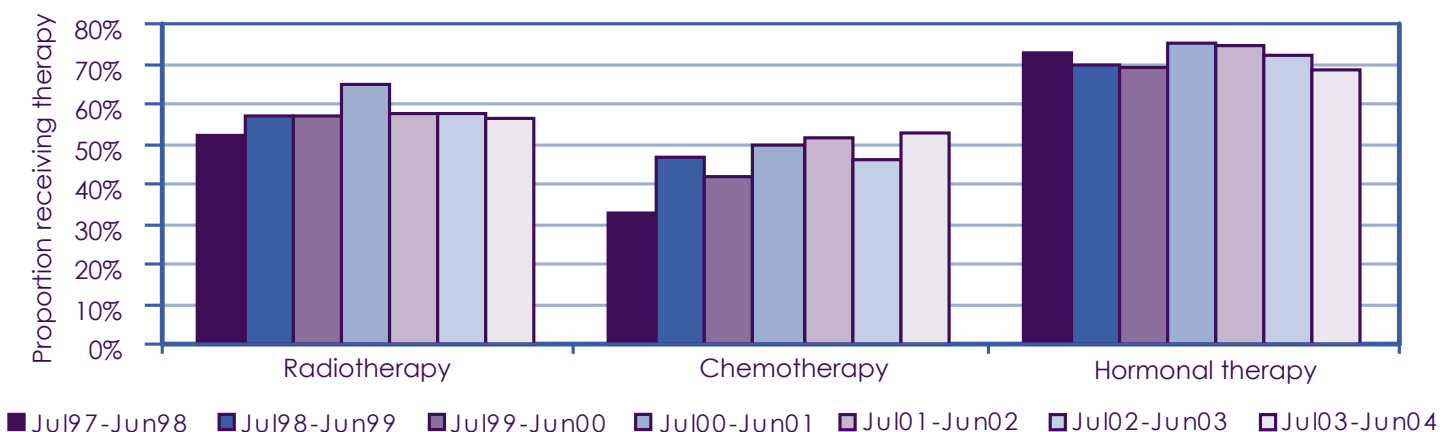
Participation: ACT v/s SE NSW (N=1910)
July 1997 - June 2004



Breast conservation & mastectomy over seven years



Proportion of patients receiving adjuvant systemic therapy



Events Of The Year.....

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- “Surgical management of breast cancer in the ACT & SE NSW”. (Abstract) ANZ Journal of Surgery May Supplement 2004.
- “Surgical management of breast cancer in the ACT & SE NSW”. (Paper submitted) ANZ Journal of Surgery, July 2004.

REPORTS:

- Breast Cancer & Treatment in ACT and Surrounding Regions Quality Assurance Project, Five-Year Report, ACT Health, October 2004.

POSTERS:

- “Surgical management of invasive breast cancer in the ACT & SE NSW” at the
 - Leura V International Breast Cancer Conference, Sydney, November 2004.

- “Surgical management of ductal carcinoma in-situ in the ACT & SE NSW” at the
 - NSW Surgical Registrars Conference, Sydney, August 2004.
 - Leura V International Breast Cancer Conference, Sydney, November 2004.
- “Breast cancer and treatment in the ACT & SE NSW Quality Assurance Project 1997-2002” at the
 - Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) 31st Annual Scientific Meeting, Canberra, November 2004.

PRESENTATIONS:

- “Surgical management of invasive breast cancer in the ACT & SE NSW” at the

- Canberra Surgical Group, Canberra, March 2004.
- Surgeons in Nowra Hospital, Nowra, April 2004.
- Surgeons in Canterbury Hospital, Sydney, April 2004.
- Breast Group Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, April 2004.
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Conference, Melbourne, May 2004.
- Australian and Chinese Surgeons, China, November 2004.
- “Surgical management of ductal carcinoma in-situ in the ACT & SE NSW” at the
 - Surgeons at Canterbury Hospital, Sydney, September 2004.
- Invited Guest Speaker to the Group – Dr Harvey Stern, Canberra, September 2004.

Contact Details

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