John Elferink, Member for Port Darwin
Minister for Health

**NT women’s cancer screening service success**

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The Country Liberals Government is making life safer for Territorians, with more than 1600 women in rural and remote communities across the Territory screened for breast cancer by the 4WD BreastScreenNT bus.

Minister for Health John Elferink said since its launch in 2014 the bus has screened in 16 communities across the Northern Territory.

“Through regular and organised screening we can better detect cases of unsuspected cancer, enabling intervention at an early stage,” Minister Elferink said.

“Over a two year period the bus will visit 20 rural and remote communities as part of its mobile screening schedule, making it simpler for women to access screening services,” Minister Elferink said.

CervicalScreenNT participation rates of 85.7% over a four year period from 2010 – 2014 exceed the national average of 83%.

Minister Elferink said the Cervical ScreenNT program includes reminder letters, data entry on the cervical register and health promotion which recruits women to the program across the Territory.

“Our aim is to reduce the number of women who develop or die from cervical cancer” Mr Elferink said.

“Remote area Health Nurses actively encourage and recruit women to the program which assists the NT to meet and exceed national figures.

“We still have some way to go, with reports by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing women aged 50-69 have had decreased participation rates in the BreastScreenNT program.

“The good news is that women aged 40-49 have increased participation in the BreastScreenNT in 2013-14, bringing up overall participation rates,” Minister Elferink said.

Plans are in place to increase screening rates further through a process of recruitment and education.

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