

**Question on Notice
No. 701
Asked on 12 May 2005**

MS MOLLOY asked the Minister for Health (MR NUTALL) –

QUESTION:

What progress has been made to support preventative health measures in detecting breast cancer in women on the Sunshine Coast in 2005?

ANSWER:

I would like to acknowledge the Member for Noosa, Ms Molloy, who represented me at the opening of the newly purpose designed facility for the BreastScreen Queensland Nambour Service on 14 April 2005. The building provides pleasant surrounds for clients and their support persons. Processes are more efficient and waiting times at the clinic have been reduced. Feedback from clients has been very positive.

As part of the new service a digital stereotactic mammography unit has improved the comfort of women undergoing tissue sampling procedures and improved the accuracy of those procedures. Many more women have been able to obtain a diagnosis without the need for an operation.

Flexibility of hours to ensure equity of access to working women i.e. Saturday morning appointments have proved very popular. The participation rate of women in the target 50 to 69 year age group is steadily increasing towards the 70% goal (currently 64%). As well as fixed screening sites at Nambour, Caloundra and Caboolture, the relocatable unit visits other sites throughout the region to support the local population needs.