

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Mammography Chair improving access to life-saving screening

Portland District Health is celebrating the arrival of a new Mammography Chair, helping ensure breast screening and other medical imaging services are more accessible, inclusive and comfortable for people living with mobility challenges.

The chair was funded through a combination of community fundraising, and the grant from United Way Glenelg.

The specialised chair allows patients who are unable to stand for extended periods, or who experience pain and mobility limitations, to undergo mammograms and other imaging procedures locally at Portland District Health. Previously, many patients had to travel to Hamilton or Warrnambool to access suitable equipment, creating additional costs, inconvenience and, in some cases, delays in diagnosis.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Carr said the project demonstrates the power of community partnerships working together to improve health outcomes.

“We are thrilled to see the Mammography Chair now in service at Portland District Health. This is about removing barriers and ensuring everyone in our community can access essential health services with dignity and confidence.”

Portland District Health identified that hundreds of people each year may face challenges accessing medical imaging due to mobility limitations, often requiring travel outside the Glenelg Shire for scans. The new chair will enable more residents to access services closer to home while supporting earlier diagnosis and treatment.

Nicole said the impact of the chair extends beyond convenience.

“Early detection saves lives. By making breast screening and other imaging services more accessible, we hope more people will feel comfortable accessing the care they need when they need it.”

The chair will also improve workplace safety for radiography staff by reducing the physical demands associated with assisting patients during imaging procedures.

United Way Glenelg congratulates Portland District Health and all funding partners who contributed to making the project a reality, helping create a more inclusive healthcare system for the Glenelg community.

Photo: Robyn Parry from Portland District Health gives United Way Glenelg Board Director Lee Gibbons an overview of the mammography chair and the difference it will make to those getting mammograms.

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