



breast cancer  
research centre wa

# RESHAPING THE FUTURE OF BREAST CANCER TREATMENT

**B**reast cancer is the most common cancer affecting Australian women. A comparatively small percentage of men are also diagnosed with the disease each year. While a breast cancer diagnosis strikes fear into the hearts of patients and their families, fortunately it's no longer the death sentence it once was. This is due to huge strides in research uncovering new treatments that are edging towards higher cure rates and longer survival rates. Breast Cancer Research Centre-WA is

recognised as a global player at the forefront of this important research. Since 2000, we've been involved in over 80 local, national and international clinical trials aimed at improving the care and treatment of breast cancer patients. At least 13 of our trials have enhanced breast cancer treatment worldwide. Western Australia is a pioneer in breast cancer research and the work conducted at BCRC-WA is adding to the global understanding of breast cancer care.



## ABOUT BCRC-WA

Established in 2009, BCRC-WA is a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation. We undertake research through our Breast Clinical Trials Unit, the busiest in Australia, with up to 30 trials occurring simultaneously. Our aim is to provide the best treatment, undertake high-quality research, deliver broad-based education, and provide care and support to our breast cancer patients and their loved ones. We rely largely on the ongoing generosity of the Western Australian community to ensure patients have access to new and potentially effective medications and the most up-to-date management and care. As a clinician-driven and founded organisation,

we bring together the expertise of oncologists, surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals. In April 2014, we launched the Helen Sewell Tumour Bank, Western Australia's first breast-cancer specific tumour bank, in partnership with Western Diagnostic Pathology. Tumour banks have been established by international world-class cancer centres in a collaborative effort to understand cancer and ultimately improve survival rates. BCRC-WA is a unique Western Australian organisation with most of the funds we raise going directly to the patients on our clinical trials, and to ongoing resources and support services to enhance breast cancer care.

## OUR BREAST CLINICAL TRIALS UNIT

*Of the 80+ clinical trials in which we've been involved, 13 have had an important practice-changing impact on the care of breast cancer patients worldwide. These trials have demonstrated higher cure rates and increased survival rates.*

Our Breast Clinical Trials Unit is led by oncologist Professor Arlene Chan, a dedicated breast cancer specialist since 1988, who collaborates with experts all over the world to bring new treatments to patients. The scientific merit, methodology and originality of each trial we undertake has the potential to benefit patients and to add to the understanding and treatment of breast cancer worldwide.

At BCRC-WA, we conduct and initiate our own clinical trials in the management of early and

advanced breast cancer. BCRC-WA is also a recognised member of the Breast Centres Network (affiliated with the European School of Oncology), and member of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance community.

Clinical trials are the only way to find out which new approaches to cancer treatments work better than the existing ones.

Our aim is to further the global knowledge of breast cancer and its treatments through our clinical trials.

*"I've had the privilege of caring for more than 4000 women with breast cancer. Many of these women are now cured because of their involvement in clinical research or as a result of evidence based clinical trials."*

**PROFESSOR ARLENE CHAN,  
DIRECTOR OF BCTU, FOUNDER AND  
VICE-CHAIR OF BCRC-WA**



## OUR NEW CENTRE

*In 2020, we'll open our long awaited, fully comprehensive breast cancer centre where patients will be able to access a range of care and support options.*

At the centre, patients will be able to access a range of support services necessary for their breast cancer treatment and beyond.

Our team of medical experts will work together in one building streamlining individual care and lessening stress for patients. Services will include breast nurses, physiotherapists, genetic services and psychological support.

### THE CENTRE WILL ALLOW US TO:

Build on our established infrastructure to design and conduct clinical trials and increase our capacity to do more innovative research which will help us continue to increase survival rates

Provide education to other healthcare professionals further consolidating our international and national reputation as a major breast cancer research unit in Australia

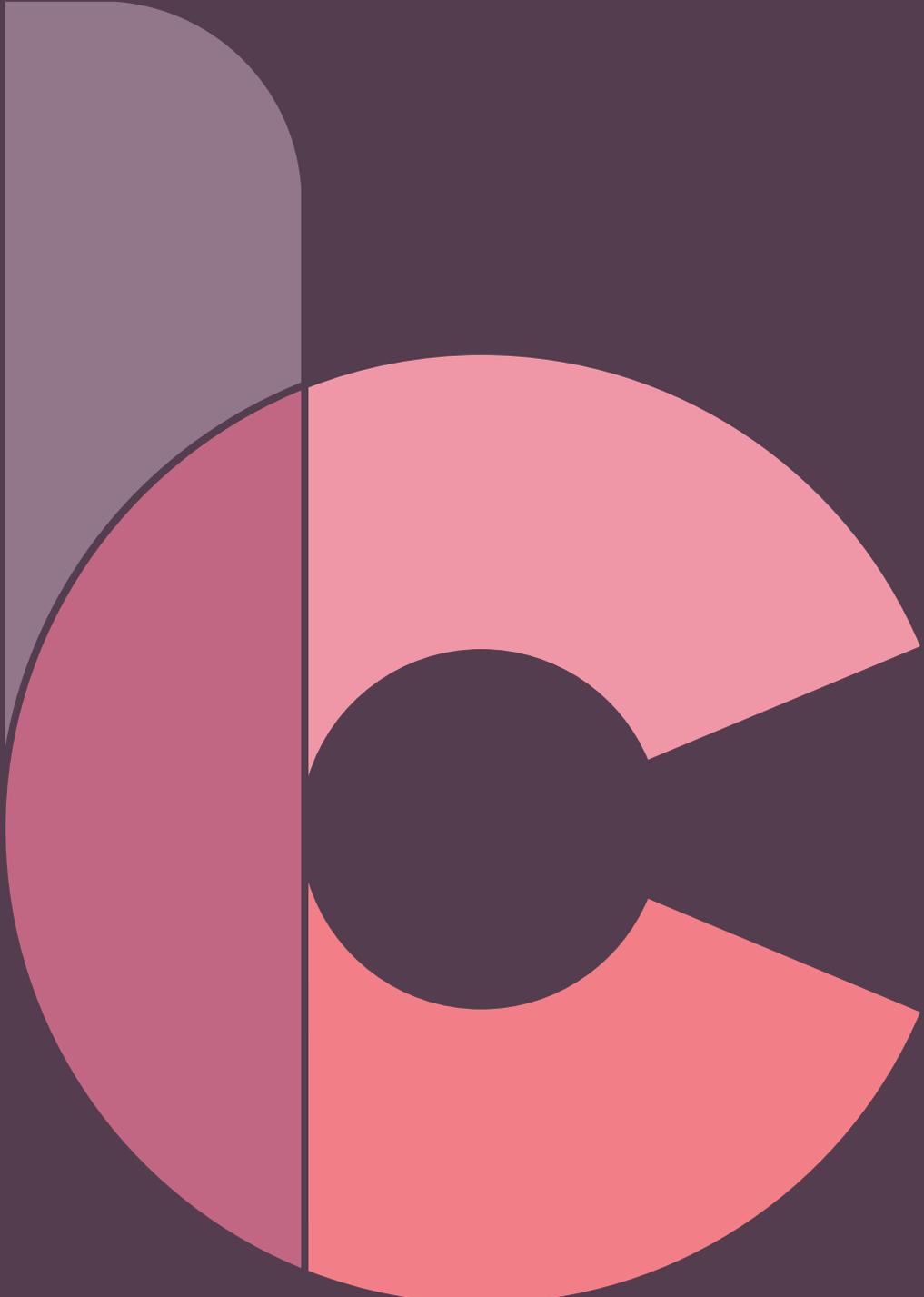
Serve as a tertiary centre of breast cancer excellence, supporting community-based and rural health care clinicians who treat breast cancer patients

Ensure current world best standard of care to patients with early or metastatic disease

Continue and expand on collaborations with local, national and international breast cancer researchers

Establish an ongoing fellowship program for the training of breast cancer specialists





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