

MEDIA RELEASE

NBCF Researcher Dr Jennifer Stone Awarded 2017 Mavis Robertson Fellowship

Prestigious award to further progress life-changing breast cancer research

26 April, 2017: The *Women in Super Mother's Day Classic* has awarded the 2017 Mavis Robertson Fellowship to **National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF)** funded researcher Dr Jennifer Stone from the University of Western Australia.

The Mavis Robertson Fellowship was established in 2011 and is awarded to Australia's best and brightest female researcher who also demonstrates to be a leader in breast cancer research. A pioneer of the superannuation movement, Mavis Robertson was a founder of the *Women in Super Mother's Day Classic* fun run/walk and a Trustee of **NBCF** for over ten years. The annual *Mother's Day Classic* fun run/walk provides the single largest donation to **NBCF**, raising over \$30 million for breast cancer research since 1998.

Dr Stone's research investigates the role that breast density plays in the early detection of breast cancer. Increasing evidence has highlighted the need for women to be told about their breast density. This is because of the impact of dense breast tissue on the effectiveness of a mammogram in finding cancer and is also due to the increased risk of breast cancer arising from high density.

In conjunction with BreastScreen WA, Dr Jennifer Stone's study aims to find out what women with breast density do to quantify perceptions, intentions and post-screening behaviour. The study will provide a basis for BreastScreen programs to report measures of breast density to participants in future.

"This research has the potential to reduce the incidence of breast cancer and significantly improve breast cancer outcomes in those with the disease via early detection," said Dr Stone.

"Future funding is pivotal to the success of my research. It will provide the staff and resources in which to conduct the research needed to inform a tailored screening program," she continued.

As part of the Fellowship, Dr Stone will receive up to \$10,000 to help her further progress her academic and professional goals, leadership skills and networks.

NBCF CEO, Professor Sarah Hosking congratulated Dr Stone and thanked Women in Super and *Mother's Day Classic* for the immense support.

"High-quality research like Dr Stone's is the only way to stop deaths from breast cancer," said Professor Hosking.

"Through research we can improve the way that breast cancer is diagnosed, managed and treated, while also helping those affected live longer and better lives," said Professor Hosking.

"We are honoured to continue our strong relationship with the *Women in Super Mother's Day Classic*. Each year the *Mother's Day Classic* helps **NBCF** move closer to its goal of zero deaths by 2030," Professor Hosking said.

Mother's Day Classic Foundation CEO, Sharon Morris added her congratulations.



“We are excited to again be awarding the Mavis Robertson Fellowship, named in honour of the Mother’s Day Classic co-founder, and a true pioneer for women in all walks of life,” Ms Morris said.

“During her life Mavis changed the lives of so many people, and now through the funds raised by the Mother’s Day Classic she continues to impact the lives of so many, from researchers such as Dr Stone, to those fighting breast cancer.”

This year’s ***Mother’s Day Classic*** fun walk/run turn will be held on Sunday 14 May across Australia. As the major fundraiser for **NBCF**, this year’s event has a fundraising target of \$4 million to support Australia’s best and brightest breast cancer researchers like Dr Stone.

The Mother’s Day Classic will be held at close to 100 locations, from capital cities to remote towns, all around Australia.

Register and fundraise at <http://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/register/>

For further information or to arrange a media interview, please contact Sophie Cooley, Senior Marketing Manager at the National Breast Cancer Foundation on 02 8098 4800/0417 421 683 or sophie.cooley@nbcf.org.au

About the National Breast Cancer Foundation:

The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) is the only national body that funds life-changing breast cancer research with money raised entirely by the Australian public. Breast cancer is the most common life-threatening cancer facing Australian women, with eight women dying from the disease each day – mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and friends.

Research is the only way to prevent deaths, and improve how breast cancer is diagnosed, managed and treated. By funding only world-class research, NBCF is working towards a goal of zero deaths from breast cancer by 2030.

NBCF research has helped develop better therapies, greater understanding of possible ways to stop the spread of breast cancer to other areas, and improved quality of life for patients and their families. Since its establishment in 1994, NBCF has awarded more than \$140 million to around 470 Australian-based research projects to improve the health and well-being of those affected by breast cancer. With no Government funding, this money has been raised entirely by the Australian public.