Pap tests and mammograms: are there urban/rural differences in take-up in women?

Julie Byles¹, Xenia Dolja-Gore¹, Jenny Powers¹, Deb Loxton¹, Annette Dobson²

¹University of Newcastle, ²University of Queensland

Professor Julie Byles is Director of the Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing, a Priority Research Centre at the University of Newcastle, and co-Director of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health. As a clinical epidemiologist, Professor Byles has interests in risk assessment, and measurement of health outcomes. As a gerontologist and Fellow of the Australian Association of Gerontology, Professor Byles’ research interests in ageing include the role of health services and preventive activities in maintaining quality of life for older people, and in determining physical, psychological and social factors associated with optimal physical and mental health of men and women as they age.

Women who live in rural and remote areas report poorer access to screening tests such as Pap smears and mammograms. In this presentation we will compare the probability that women living in urban, regional and remote parts of Australia are having Pap tests and mammograms according to current guidelines, and factors other than area of residence that may contribute to poorer uptake of these services.