

Prostheses Suppliers

The following stores are able to fit you with a suitable prosthesis and for a bra if required. It may be necessary to make an appointment. A free home service may be available if you are unable to visit the store yourself.

NB: Breast prostheses and mastectomy bras are GST free.

Metropolitan Outlets	Country and outer metropolitan outlets
Four Seasons Breastcare Consulting Tel: (08) 9322 2907 Myer Perth Tel: (08) 9265 5600 David Jones Perth Tel: 13 3357	Albany Satin & Lace Tel: (08) 9841 1606 www.satinlace.com.au Lingerie on York Tel: (08) 9842 2777
Breastcare WA Tel: FREECALL 1300 791 137 www.breastcarewa.com.au	Bunbury La Femme Tel: (08) 9791 8651
Femme de Femme Tel: (08) 9381 5883 www.femmedefemme.com	Geraldton La Femme Tel: (08) 9964 4277
Ready made or custom made swimwear: Daneechi Swimwear Manufacturers Tel: (08) 93 88 1767 www.daneechi.com	Mandurah Nite Magic Lingerie Tel: (08) 9535 3026 Port Kennedy Bratown Tel: (08) 9593 4210
Wendy's Swimwear Tel: (08) 9325 5295 www.wendysswimwear.iinet.net.au	<i>Above information correct at time of going to print September 2009.</i>

Breast Prostheses

Information for women following breast surgery



For further information contact:



Statewide for the cost of a local call
Weekdays 8am - 8pm

Cancer Council WA
A non-government, community supported organisation

www.cancerwa.asn.au



 **Funded by
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Western Australia

Introduction

Obtaining a breast prosthesis is an important part of your recovery after breast surgery.

It is important that you are able to be fitted with a prosthesis that suits your body and lifestyle. A wide range of prostheses and bras are available from a variety of specialist lingerie stores who have trained staff to ensure the correct product and fit.

About Breast Prostheses

Wearing a breast prosthesis can be an important factor in your recovery from surgery by allowing you to regain a natural shape and wear clothes comfortably and attractively. A well fitting prosthesis is important for your posture, balance and comfort as well as your feeling of well-being.

Initially a temporary breast prosthesis, made of lambs wool, can be worn during the healing time following surgery. These are available free of charge from the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20.

A permanent prosthesis is usually made of silicone gel and is worn inside the bra to simulate the natural contours of the breast. They are available in a range of sizes, shapes and weights to meet a woman's differing needs.

You can usually be fitted for a permanent prosthesis about six to eight weeks after surgery provided any swelling has decreased and the area is well healed. If you have had radiotherapy as a follow-up treatment, you may need to wait up to an additional four weeks before being fitted with a prosthesis, as the area may still be sensitive.

For some women who have had conservative breast surgery (lumpectomy) an adjustment to the bra may be required. Sometimes the contour of the bra is difficult to fill and may require a partial prosthesis. A trained fitter can help you with this.

Wearing Your Prosthesis

There are many types of bras and camisoles available which already have pockets inserted to hold the prosthesis and as such it may not always be necessary to purchase a mastectomy bra, however it is important that the bra is well fitting. Pockets can be sewn into a bra to hold a prosthesis. Your prosthesis supplier can advise you.

Many people find their regular bathers need little or no adjustment. Again, pockets can be added if required. Specially designed fashionable swimwear is available which includes bra pockets for the prosthesis, wide straps and a higher neckline.

Care of Your Breast Prosthesis

As a prosthesis is made of waterproof silicone gel, it may be worn in your bathers for swimming, however some manufacturers recommend that the prosthesis is not worn in a sauna or spa.

A trained fitter will be able to advise you about this. Most prostheses have a one to two year warranty, however they usually last longer than two years.

Breast Prostheses Reimbursement Program

Women who are permanent residents of Australia, have a current Medicare entitlement and have had a mastectomy as a result of breast cancer, are eligible to claim reimbursement through Medicare at any time after surgery.

You are able to claim up to \$400 for each new or replacement breast prosthesis. You will need to complete a claim form which is available from any Medicare office or from their website at medicareaustralia.gov.au and attach your receipt as proof of purchase.

Subsequent reimbursements can be claimed no earlier than two years from the date of the last purchase. This applies for each prosthesis for each breast. For more information visit the Medicare website as above, call the Cancer Council Helpline, 13 11 20, or visit any Medicare office.

Note: If you currently receive financial assistance from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) or if you have private health insurance you may be entitled to further financial assistance to purchase your prosthesis. Please contact DVA or your health fund for more information.