

Mackay joins \$2m mission to transform breast cancer care with fun run

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Dr Wendela Schimmer and the Savi Scout machine at Mater Private Hospital Mackay. Pictures: Mater Private Hospital

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The 2026 Mater Chicks in Pink International Women’s Day Fun Run will help raise vital funds to ensure local patients don’t have to travel to Brisbane for gold-standard care.

Funds raised from the event will directly benefit the Mater Private Hospital Mackay, following previous community efforts that secured world-class Savi Scout radar technology for local surgeries.

The Savi Scout is a radar localisation system that pinpoints tumours, improving precision and accuracy for surgeons by limiting the amount of tissue that needs to be removed.

“We’re very lucky to have it in Mackay, because it’s very advanced technology,” Mater Mackay breast surgeon, Dr Wendela Schimmer, said.

“It’s the same technology being used in Brisbane at tertiary centres and enables us to provide comprehensive breast cancer care here, close to people’s homes.

“It’s a major step forward for local patients.”

Mater Private Hospital Mackay general manager Karen Wade said almost 30,000 people across Queensland would take part in the fun run on Sunday, March 8, and she encouraged the Mackay community to join the statewide “sea of pink”.

Those participating can map their own 5km walk, run or jog that just needed to be done between March 1 and 8.

“Most of us know a friend or family member who has had breast cancer, and this is a great way to demonstrate our support as a community,” Ms Wade said.

“We’re hoping to raise \$2m across the state for Mater Chicks in Pink and support their incredible work.”