APPENDIX

Sample interview questions (note: this list is provided as a guide only; the questions were modified to suit the experience and perspective of the interviewee)

- Can you tell me the story of your involvement in breast cancer screening, starting from when you first got involved and taking us up to the present?
- Thinking back to the late 1980s and early 1990s, when breast screening was being introduced in Australia, did you have any particular views on it then? Have they changed?
  - Prompt for current views: I know you have written about breast cancer screening in... Can you expand on that?
- Would you like to see any changes to the current program?
  - Prompt: What would your ideal program be?
- What would it take to make such changes happen?
  - Prompt: Who do you think should be making decisions about breast screening and what should that process look like?
- There are many different ideas about breast cancer screening. Can you comment on these?
  - Prompt: There are some who hold very extreme views about breast cancer screening. How do you respond to these ideas? What do you think drives those views?
- (If the topic hasn’t yet surfaced) Recent studies suggest that some invasive cancers found at screening would never have come to clinical attention in that person’s lifetime; for example, Marmot and colleagues suggest that for every 1 life saved by breast screening there are 3 invasive cancers overdiagnosed. What are your thoughts on this issue?
  - Prompts: What level of overdiagnosis do you work with (eg is it – non-existent; exists but not a problem; a problem but not as great as the Marmot report suggests etc)? Should screening programs take responsibility for reducing overdiagnosis or should it be addressed elsewhere, for example, at the treatment stage?
- Obviously you can’t read the future, but given your expertise and experience, what do you think will happen within the Australian breast screening program?