Most Australians know at least one woman who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. That’s because 1 in 9 Australian women will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 85 making it one of the most deadliest cancers in women.

Gwendoline Smith decided one day out-of-the-blue to have a breast examination at a mobile unit. This day changed her life - she was diagnosed with breast cancer and has since spent her life in and out of hospital trying to beat the disease.

*Breast Support* is her story describing the experience of breast cancer in a unique down-to-earth and amusing way. Gwendoline describes not just the physical and medical experience of breast cancer, through diagnosis, surgery, recovery and rehabilitation, but the emotional and psychological experience too.

In a book memorable for its wit and self-deprecating humour, she answers some of the questions women frequently ask: what to wear to a breast examination; how to tell friends and family that you have the disease; how to be positive and maintain a cheerful outlook. She also offers insightful advice on esteem and self-confidence when facing the loss of an essential part of what it means to be feminine. Her book does not forget partners either: there are many messages in this book for husbands and boyfriends. There is also a separate chapter for women in lesbian relationships.

Supporting Gwendoline’s superbly written text are contributions from her surgeon and other medical specialists who tell the story from their point of view. The text is therefore a unique combination of personal story and insider information, offered with both a light touch and professional expertise.

*Breast Support* is fully endorsed by the Breast Cancer Foundation and is sure to be an essential resource in any woman’s recovery from breast cancer.

**AUTHOR:**
Gwendoline Smith, M.Soc.Sc (Hons), Dip. Clin. Psych., is a clinical psychologist who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 and has been undergoing treatment and reconstructive surgery ever since. She also suffers from severe depression and has treated many people suffering from depressive and other psychiatric disorders. Her earlier books include *Depression Explained* and *Sharing the Load*. She is a strong public speaker and lecturer and lives in Auckland.