



the peak body and leading voice
for sonographers

For immediate release
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Australian Federal Budget confirms better access and affordability of ultrasound

The Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) welcomes last night's Federal Budget commitment which will see the end of the Medicare freeze on a multitude of diagnostic imaging services, benefiting the nine million Australians who access these vital services every year.

"The Australasian Sonographers Association applauds the government for committing to index ultrasound for the first time in 20 years," the ASA's CEO **Jodie Long** said.

The indexation is due to start 1 July 2020 and will then be expanded to all ultrasound and diagnostic radiology services over the following three years.

This is the first significant step to supporting Australians to access and afford vital ultrasound services.

The announcement will benefit many patients such as

- Women needing ultrasound for diagnosis of breast cancer
- Women needing pelvic ultrasound for diagnosis of ovarian cancer
- Australians needing carotid ultrasound to assess the risk of stroke
- Australians needing stress echo to diagnose heart disease.

"Thank you to Greg Hunt for being the first Health Minister in 20 years to put patients' needs first and recognise how important having access to ultrasound is for the ongoing health and wellbeing of Australians," said Jodie Long.

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Media contact: Aurelia Crabtree – General Manager, Marketing and Communications

03 9552 0000

About the ASA

The Australasian Sonographers Association is the peak body and leading voice for sonographers in Australasia and leads the profession in delivering excellence in sonography to the community.

Advocating for the role of sonographers in the healthcare system and ensuring sonographers are known as the experts in ultrasound across the community are key roles for the association, as well as promoting patient access to safe and quality medical diagnostic ultrasound, best practice in medical sonography and providing sonographer education and research.

For further information please visit www.sonographers.org



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