



Guaranteeing Medicare – Diagnostic imaging

The Australian Government will invest \$37 million to modernise diagnostic imaging by replacing outdated equipment, improving the patient journey for those in need of radiology services, and continuing to support private radiology oncology providers.

Among these modernisation measures are:

- a one-off funding pool of \$20.7 million over 2 years will be established to assist private diagnostic imaging providers to replace older diagnostic imaging equipment in rural and remote areas with up to 50% of the cost to replace older equipment
- \$7.2 million over 2 years to fund development of a streamlined electronic referral solution, which will assist in the determination of the need for diagnostic imaging
- \$3.1 million to make enhancements to the diagnostic imaging register location specific practice number to improve data integrity and granularity, and
- \$6 million over 4 years for continued support through the Radiation Oncology Health Program Grants (ROHPG) for private radiation oncology providers to assist with high-cost cancer treatment equipment.

Why is this important?

Diagnostic imaging is a critical part of modern medicine, contributing to the timely detection of a range of illnesses and injuries which greatly improves the chance of a positive outcome for more than one million patients each year.

These measures will improve access to modern, high quality imaging services across Australia.

A funding pool which will distribute grants worth up to 50% of the costs for up-to-date diagnostic imaging equipment for providers in rural and regional areas, will ensure regional areas of Australia can access modern equipment.

Who will benefit?

Australians in rural and regional areas will be able to access safe, modern and high quality diagnostic imaging equipment without necessarily having to travel to metropolitan centres.

All Australians will benefit through a more streamlined, electronic system of referrals, improving the patient journey for those in need of radiology services.

The continuation of private ROHPG arrangements will assist the private radiotherapy sector to remain strong and viable.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government will invest \$37 million over 5 years, from 2020-21.