

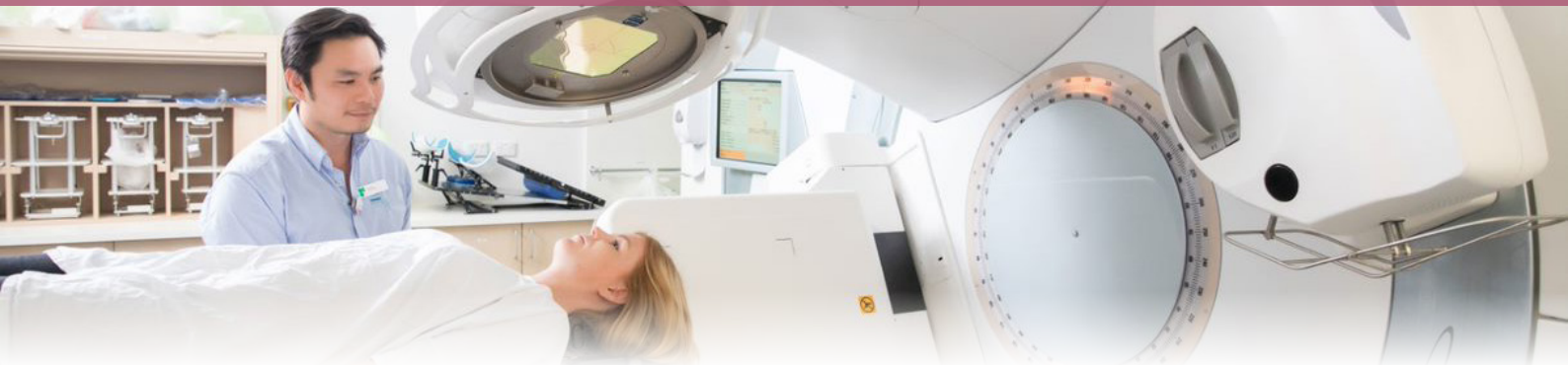


The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Radiologists*

The Faculty of Radiation Oncology

2020 NEW ZEALAND ELECTION SURVEY SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES

Faculty of Radiation Oncology



ENSURING BETTER ACCESS TO RADIATION THERAPY FOR ALL NEW ZEALANDERS

There is strong support from all parties to ensure that every cancer patient in New Zealand has access to high quality radiation therapy.

Radiation oncology is highly dependent on physical infrastructure and equipment, so it is vital that governments plan and allocate appropriate funds to purchase more linacs and build the bunkers needed to house them. RANZCR has been reassured by all responding parties that infrastructure is a key consideration in overall funding for radiation oncology.

- **LABOUR** and **NZ FIRST** reinforced their commitment made as the Coalition Government to purchase 12 new linear accelerators over three years. The first five linacs are expected to cost \$25 million, with funding committed from the \$1.7 billion the Government invested in health capital over two years in Budget 2019.
- **THE NATIONAL PARTY** committed to ensure that necessary linacs as determined by regional strategy and planning collaborations are deployed on time and within scope and budget.
- **ACT** described healthcare has one of the party's major policy areas and are committed to greater use of technologies in the delivery of healthcare services in New Zealand.
- **THE GREEN PARTY** indicated that health funding should keep pace with community health needs and they would consider tax reform as a way of achieving this.

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FUNDED TRAINING POSITIONS FOR RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS AND ENSURING THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF THE RADIATION ONCOLOGY WORKFORCE

RANZCR is disappointed that no party committed to invest the funding needed to future-proof New Zealand's radiation oncology workforce. Data presented by Health Workforce and the Cancer Control Agency confirms RANZCR's assertion that New Zealand is not currently training enough radiation oncologists to meet current or future service demand. In addition, retention of radiation oncologists in New Zealand is a challenge. RANZCR believes it is important to invest in a retention strategy to keep as many of these highly trained doctors as possible in New Zealand.

- **LABOUR** reiterated the establishment of the Cancer Control Agency in 2019 and the Cancer Action Plan 2019–29, which outlines a commitment to investing in workforce, technology and treatment capacity for radiation oncology.
- **THE NATIONAL PARTY** committed to making Health Workforce NZ independent of the Ministry and funding it to provide the information the sector needs, including identifying the looming gaps in our workforce and engaging with tertiary education providers to ensure the pipeline fills those gaps.
- **THE GREEN PARTY** committed to eliminating barriers to tertiary education and envisions a tertiary sector that is well-resourced and is responsive to the evolving requirements of our society.
- **NEW ZEALAND FIRST** would look at the funding implications for RANZCR's requests.
- **ACT** indicated they will announce their health policies on 30 September 2020.