



MEDIA STATEMENT

6 October 2020

RANZCR BUDGET RESPONSE

The Budget impact on clinical radiology and radiation oncology

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) is pleased to see the Morrison Government's 2020 budget recognise the vital role digital health will play now and into the future.

RANZCR President Dr Lance Lawler said, "COVID-19 has presented many challenges and the response has demanded significant time and resources. Crucially, it has emphasised the need to accelerate digital health and transform the way health care is delivered in this country.

"RANZCR has a clear vision for how Australia can harness the benefits of digital technologies and improve the quality of care for patients who need radiology services. The key priorities need to be standardised terminology for radiology tests and procedures, establishment of eReferral, system-wide access to historic images, preparation for imaging guidelines, and the managed roll out of artificial intelligence (AI).

"Patients have demonstrated this year that they are open to online technology being used to access and receive care and it is crucial that our healthcare system can meet the expectations of consumers. We must now progress towards sharing information electronically along clinical pathways in a manner that empowers consumers to choose their provider."

RANZCR welcomes the focus on the regional health workforce. Delivery of health care in regional Australia requires a collaborative team including clinical radiologists and radiation oncologists.

RANZCR also welcomes the extension of breast cancer screening and follow up for bowel cancer screening tests to support early detection.

Previous clinical radiology and radiation oncology commitments

The Government has already committed to a series of ambitious expansions to clinical radiology and radiation oncology services in recent years including:

- the reintroduction of indexation on all radiation therapy services, interventional radiology services and the majority of diagnostic imaging services after a 20-year freeze
- continued support for the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare
- \$63 million to build radiation therapy centres in regional and rural areas
- \$68 million to support the establishment of a proton therapy facility in Adelaide.

Dr Lawler said, "As we emerge from the pandemic, RANZCR looks forward to working with the government to continue progressing initiatives that enhance clinical radiology and radiation oncology services for patients.



The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

“Quality clinical radiology services are critical to ensure that Australians have timely and appropriate access to the imaging they need to diagnose and treat acute and chronic disease.

“Radiation oncology is a highly effective treatment for many cancers and is involved in around 40 per cent of all cancer cures. Investment in this treatment ensures that all Australians are able to access the best quality cancer treatment.”

ENDS

For media enquiries please contact Lucy Hutton, Senior Media and Communications Officer on 0417 435 333

About RANZCR

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) is committed to improving health outcomes for all, by educating and supporting clinical radiologists and radiation oncologists. RANZCR is dedicated to setting standards, professional training, assessment and accreditation, and advocating access to quality care in both professions to create healthier communities.

RANZCR creates a positive impact by driving change, focusing on the professional development of its members and advancing best practice health policy and advocacy, to enable better patient outcomes.

RANZCR members are critical to health services: radiation oncology is a vital component in the treatment of cancer; clinical radiology is central to the diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury.

For more information, go to www.ranzcr.com and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).