



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **RANZCR Welcomes Medicare Funding for Game-changing Breast Marker Clips**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) is excited to confirm that the federal health budget introduces a new MBS item for breast marker clip insertion for breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, alleviating the financial burden of breast cancer patients and improving cancer treatment outcomes.

Made from tiny titanium or stainless-steel markers in a size of smaller than a sesame seed, breast marker clips are generally placed during a breast biopsy procedure to clearly identify the location of a potentially cancerous lesion. They are an essential part of optimal breast cancer diagnosis and treatment but were underutilised due to the lack of Medicare funding.

Approximately 50% of patients who undergo a breast lumpectomy are likely to need a marker, with about 2% of those patients requiring two or more markers. Without Medicare funding, this has imposed an extra out of pocket cost to patients who are already experiencing the stress of a cancer diagnosis.

RANZCR President, Clin A/Prof Sanjay Jeganathan said, 'I'm thrilled that Medicare can now fund breast marker clips for breast cancer patients who need them. Clinical radiologists use breast marker clips which are highly visible on imaging to locate a cancerous site precisely for surgical removal. It can avoid unnecessary loss of tissue. This is a highly positive change that will benefit breast cancer patients in the long term.'

RANZCR has been advocating for breast marker clips to be funded by Medicare with the College's [pre-budget submission 2023](#).

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***For media enquiries please contact Jie Cao, Senior Media and Communications Officer on +61 417 435 333***





# The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

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## 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](http://www.ranzcr.com) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).