



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

6 July, 2012

WESTMEAD HOSPITAL LEADS THE WAY WITH THE LATEST IN CANCER TECHNOLOGY

The Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, today officially launched a first for radiation treatment in Australia, with a new state-of-the-art \$7 million linear accelerator and treatment room at The Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre at Westmead Hospital.

The 'TrueBeam' linear accelerator provides cutting-edge treatment for cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy by allowing for greater accuracy in treating cancers, at a faster speed.

Minister Skinner said that the TrueBeam ensures safer treatment for patients, which allows for a more accurate detection of tumours, and the subsequent reduction in radiation exposure to surrounding tissues.

"Westmead Hospital will house the equipment, which was designed in conjunction with Apple and BMW, in a purpose-built treatment room featuring the latest lighting technology", Mrs Skinner said.

"The machine is capable of delivering treatment four times more rapidly than older machines, therefore ensuring less risk in the case of patient movement."

The Member for Parramatta, Geoff Lee, said it was exciting for Westmead Hospital to be the first in the state to have access to this new technology.

"The TrueBeam technology is a first in NSW radiation oncology departments and will provide the community of Parramatta and Western Sydney with the best available tool to help fight cancer," Dr Lee said.

The Member for Granville, Tony Issa, said caring for patients is the number one priority for the NSW Government and this new equipment will help to make them feel comfortable while they are having their treatment.

"It's great to see the treatment room and photographic ceiling – which reminds patients of lying on the grass and looking up at the sky, making them feel less worried," he said.

In a statement from the Danish Court, Her Royal Highness, Princess Mary, said she was aware of the progress at the Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre, Westmead, and was pleased to hear of these developments.

Westmead Hospital's, Director Radiation Oncology, Associate Professor Phillip Yuile said a linear accelerator uses radiation beams to treat patients with cancer. This new state-of-the-art equipment can deliver treatment which is more accurate to provide a safer and more effective treatment for patients.

"Our staff recognise that patient care involves more than just medicine – the ability for a patient to feel calm and relaxed while undergoing treatment, is an important focus for us at Westmead.

"This technology provides treatment above what is achievable with conventional linear accelerators, so it is a very valuable asset for one of the State's busiest hospitals.

"This new technology will enable more accurate, faster and safer treatment for people who are facing a life threatening illness", Associate Professor Yuile said.

Westmead Hospital's, General Manager, Brad Astill said Westmead Hospital has achieved a worthy reputation as one of the leading hospitals in the world and continues to act as a principal referral and teaching hospital in Western Sydney.