



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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CANCER TREATMENT FIRST FOR LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL

In a first for NSW, a \$3.8 million machine which will treat cancer patients with precise radiation therapy has been installed at Liverpool Hospital's Cancer Therapy Centre, the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner announced today.

The tomotherapy machine combines a CT scanner and linear accelerator to treat tumours with high energy x-rays, while at the same time imaging the treatment area to ensure the highest accuracy.

Mrs Skinner said the tomotherapy machine is a first for NSW and only the third to be used in Australia.

"The new machine is housed in one of two new bunkers at the newly expanded Cancer Therapy Centre as part of the NSW Government's \$390 million Liverpool Hospital redevelopment," Mrs Skinner said.

"By combining CT imaging and radiation treatment in a single device, this tomotherapy machine will provide more effective treatment for complex patient cases.

"The tomotherapy machine allows the radiation dose to be precisely shaped to treat the tumour and surrounding healthy tissues. As a result, treatment can be given to a large area and imaging can be done in real time."

"It is a wonderful device for patients and their families who can now be treated in a way that minimises side effects and time spent in hospital.

The Member for Menai, Melanie Gibbons said the tomotherapy device will provide many benefits for local patients and their families.

"We're seeing a greater demand for cancer services in our area and this tomotherapy machine is a welcome addition to the treatments provided by Liverpool Hospital," Ms Gibbons said.

Professor Geoff Delaney, Director Cancer Services, South West Sydney LHD, said he was thrilled tomotherapy was now available at Liverpool Hospital to treat select types of cancers.

"Our aim is to provide the highest quality health care to south western Sydney and this tomotherapy machine will manage treatment for an expected increase in cancer patients locally," Professor Delaney said.