



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 13 September 2013

LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL AT FOREFRONT OF CANCER TREATMENT AND RESEARCH

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Menai Melanie Gibbons today inspected Liverpool Hospital's new \$3 million Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine.

Liverpool is the first hospital in Australia to have a high strength MRI unit devoted to radiotherapy planning.

The machine allows radiation oncologists to improve the way they plan radiotherapy treatment. It will also be used to undertake cancer research.

"This state-of-the-art machine puts Liverpool Hospital at the forefront of cancer therapy and research. It will deliver the highest quality treatment to patients.

"Every day, the skilled, determined professionals who work in the NSW health system strive to deliver the highest quality treatment, care and outcomes for their patients. A machine such as this assists them enormously in their pursuit of excellence," Mrs Skinner said.

Ms Gibbons said she was proud the MRI would deliver enhanced treatment for cancer patients in south western Sydney.

"Cancer patients from our community - as well as the many referred from elsewhere in the state - will benefit enormously from this MRI machine.

"Liverpool Hospital has come a very long way in 200 years and this is another example of why it is so highly regarded by patients."

South Western Sydney Local Health District director of cancer services Professor Geoff Delaney said in the past a patient might not be scanned in the same position in which they would receive treatment. This means internal organs can sometimes be in a slightly different position during treatment than during the initial scan.

"Locating this new MRI machine in the cancer centre means we can set patients up for the scan in the same position they would receive radiotherapy treatment, allowing treatment to be even more accurate than in the past," Professor Delaney said.

"This gives us an enhanced view of the tumour and helps better target the radio

surrounding tissue, which helps us to better understand the exact extent of the tumour. In addition, MRI allows assessment of the biology or make-up of the tumour.”

Professor Delaney said MRI is a safer scan as it does not emit any radiation, compared with CT scans that are also often used in radiotherapy planning.

South Western Sydney Local Health District research director Professor Michael Barton OAM said the scanner would be used for cancer research at the Ingham Institute, located on the grounds of Liverpool Hospital.

“One core area of research is the development of imaging tests that will deliver sophisticated information about the results of a patients’ treatment in order to better match treatments to each individual. This will enable more precise and effective treatments for cancer patients that will ultimately lead to better health outcomes,” Professor Barton said.