



The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health

Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck
Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

28 March 2019

Devonport to receive Medicare-eligible MRI licence

Patients in Devonport and throughout the North West will now be able to access lifesaving scans for cancer, stroke, heart and other medical conditions, with the Liberal National Government announcing a new MRI licence for Regional Imaging in Devonport.

This MRI licence means locals will be able to access a Medicare rebate for an estimated 3,354 services a year – saving lives and reducing the costs for patients.

An MRI is a commonly used medical scan which gives a detailed view of the soft tissues of the body such as muscles, ligaments, brain tissue, discs and blood vessels.

It is used by doctors to diagnose and monitor a number of different medical conditions including cancer and trauma or sporting injuries.

Liberal Senator for Tasmania Richard Colbeck said delivering the new Devonport MRI licence would be a major boost health services in the North West.

“This is an exciting new investment in Medicare-supported health services in the region because it will reduce travel times for patients and deliver affordable healthcare choices for families.

“By delivering a strong economy, the Liberal National Government is able to invest in new health infrastructure and services for North West Tasmanians.”

Liberal candidate for Braddon Gavin Pearce welcomed the new MRI licence for Devonport.

“I am very pleased to get this result for Devonport – it is something I have been publicly fighting for because Devonport was the last major Tasmanian population centre without an MRI.

“I lost my wife suddenly and at a young age to cancer so I am glad to see that families in the region will have even better access to Medicare-supported MRI scans and health services in our local area.”

Patients will receive the Medicare-covered MRI services once the unit is established.

Minister for Health Greg Hunt said the Liberal National Government is helping Australians stay healthy and keeping down the cost of healthcare for families.

“Our plan for a strong economy means we continue to deliver record funding for essential services such as Medicare, public hospitals and life-saving medicines,” Minister Hunt said.

“Not only will our new Medicare support ensure patients get better treatment and save money, it will also cut down the amount of time patients travel to get a scan.”

“Our investment in MRI licences of over \$375 million over the forward estimates for 50 new locations around the country delivers on the Government’s commitment to improve access and outcomes for patients.”

“Unlike Labor we have also committed to reduce the cost for patients by indexing targeted diagnostic imaging services including mammography, fluoroscopy, CT scans and interventional procedures.”

“Under the Liberal National Government, Medicare spending is guaranteed and increasing every year from \$24 billion in 2017–18 to \$28.8 billion in 2021–22 to support health care for every Australian.”

“The Government is committed to delivering improved health services which includes increased hospital funding with an extra \$8 billion for hospitals taking it to \$29.5 billion over five years,” Minister Hunt said.

The Liberal National Government’s strong economic management ensures the continued record investment of funding into vital health initiatives including mental health, life-saving medicines, Medicare and hospitals.