



Anna Burke MP
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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 12th May 2011

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING REFORM PACKAGE FOR MONASH MEDICAL CENTRE

Federal Member for Chisholm, Anna Burke MP today welcomed Federal Budget funding for a diagnostic imaging reform package at Monash Medical Centre.

The package provides new Medicare licences for two existing MRI machines at Monash Medical Centre.

MRI uses magnetic fields to generate images that help diagnose illnesses. It is especially effective on soft tissue, making it important for working with diseases such as some cancers and strokes.

Ms Burke said that from November 2012 the newly licenced MRI machines will support Medicare subsidised services for a specified range of conditions like breast and cervical cancer.

“The new services will reduce the costs of scans to patients and bring Medicare-funded services closer to home for those that need them”, Ms Burke said.

At the same time as the additional MRI licences come into effect, the Government will allow GPs to refer patients under the age of 16 to Medicare-eligible MRIs for specific conditions without the need to first see a specialist.

“This change will reduce the costs associated with having a scan and speed up the time taken to get a diagnosis”, Ms Burke said.

In addition to better access, the Federal Budget has committed to bulkbilling in order to make scans cheaper for patients. The Budget increases the bulkbilling incentive for MRI scans to 100% of the scheduled fee.

“This initiative means that not only will patients at Monash Medical Centre have improved access to MRI services, but that these services will be more affordable”, Ms Burke said.

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