

Australia focuses on state-of-the-art equipment to assist cancer treatment

22 November 2021 | News

To ensure access to safe and accurate radiotherapy treatment



The government is strengthening the safety and quality of Australia's cancer treatment programs by securing \$2.5 million for the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) to acquire a new medical linear accelerator (LINAC) for its Melbourne-based laboratory.

Complementing ARPANSA's current LINAC machine, this new secondary device will ensure a continuous supply of life-saving radiation therapy for cancers.

ARPANSA plays a vital role calibrating the radiation measurement devices for Australian hospitals to ensure that correct doses are administered to patients.

ARPANSA also operates the national dosimetry audit program, verifying that contemporary treatment techniques used by radiotherapy facilities are safe and accurate.

In addition, the LINAC machines are used to conduct cutting edge research into the spatial sensitivity of radiation detectors, the dosimetry of small clinical radiation fields and advanced auditing.

The LINAC will enable ARPANSA to ensure safe radiation treatment for every radiation oncology patient in Australia.

The Minister for Health, Greg Hunt said about 70,000 Australian cancer patients would be treated with radiation this year.