

Communiqué

Particle Therapy Symposium, 24-25 November 2022

The participants in the National Particle Therapy Symposium 2022:

- acknowledge the collaborations amongst clinicians and researchers in particle therapy within Australia and internationally that continue to develop, aiming to ensure the achievement of the best possible outcomes for patients, clinicians, researchers, and the broader public;
- celebrate the construction of the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research in Adelaide;
- recognise the progress made by Australian clinical and research communities in developing a coherent, national plan for particle therapy facilities through:
 - the announcement of funding to construct the Queensland Cancer Centre in Brisbane, with its inclusion of proton therapy
 - the current evaluation of an unsolicited proposal for a Hybrid Particle Therapy facility on the Westmead precinct in New South Wales which includes a dedicated research room;
- support Victoria's proposal for a proton therapy centre within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct;
- welcome the proposal for proton therapy in a new comprehensive cancer centre in Western Australia;
- draw attention to the progress made by the clinical and research communities in developing a highly skilled particle therapy workforce to ensure its successful introduction in Australia;
- note that in 32 countries, there are 119 operational particle therapy facilities, including 14 offering carbon-ion therapy with only 7 of those offering protons, carbon and other ions;
- endorse the growing list of indications for proton and carbon ion therapy based on evidence and experience from the growing number of particle therapy facilities internationally;
- support the ongoing research to further develop the evidence for the benefit of proton and carbon ion therapy
- emphasise that Australian patients, including those with a range of life-threatening tumours and paediatric cancers, could significantly benefit from particle therapy in Australia;
- celebrate the establishment of a national clinical quality registry to gather relevant proton and photon clinical and dosimetric data and patient reported outcome data to support follow up, outcomes analysis, clinical decision making, and future clinical trials;
- recognise the progress towards a nationally coherent and uniform referral network for patients within a sustainable reimbursement scheme;
- reinforce their commitment to ensuring that access to particle therapy in Australia is available to those most in need based on internationally accepted clinical indications and research protocols;
- recognise the benefits from national and interconnected multi-disciplinary collaborative research, to realise the innovation potential generated by the investment in a national particle therapy network.
- consider that collaborative research includes the fields of physics, technology, industry, and clinical research and will build on areas that Australia excels in such as MRI-guidance and radiation detectors;
- acknowledge the importance of close involvement with consumers in planning, designing, and delivering particle therapy in both treatment and research domains.
- appreciate the willingness of the international community to support and engage with Australian colleagues at the National Symposia and other events such as PTCOG

The delegates to the 2022 National Particle Therapy Symposium represent consumers, government agencies, health services, research organisations, and universities across Australia, New Zealand, and overseas. The Westmead Precinct hosted the Symposium with contributors outlined below:

