



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

AMANDA RISHWORTH MP
Federal Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE MRI UNIT FOR MORPHETT VALE

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon and Member for Kingston Amanda Rishworth today announced that an additional Medicare-eligible magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) service will be provided to the residents of Adelaide's southern suburbs.

Earlier this year, the Government confirmed 15 locations for new Medicare-eligible MRI services, including Morphett Vale and applications were invited from potential providers for assessment.

The Commonwealth funding has been awarded to Benson Radiology who will provide the service from their Main South Road premises in Morphett Vale.

The Department of Health and Ageing will work with Bensons Radiology following the purchase and installation of an MRI unit and recruitment of staff to have the Medicare-eligible MRI services available in the second half of 2009.

The Minister for Health and Ageing said that she was especially pleased that Bensons Radiology has agreed that all Medicare-eligible patients will be bulk billed and that no patients will incur out-of-pocket costs.

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

"The Government recognises the value offered by convenient and affordable MRI services to patients and communities throughout Australia," the Minister said.

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth welcomed the MRI licence and said residents in Adelaide's southern suburbs would benefit from the new licence.

“It is pleasing that the Government's commitment to provide an additional licence has allowed Benson Radiology to purchase a new machine to be located Adelaide's south,” said Ms Rishworth.

Enabling people to claim Medicare-eligible services at the proposed Benson Radiology MRI unit at Morphett Vale is part of the Government's comprehensive plan to deliver better health care to working families – and an important step towards building a better health system for a modern Australia.

For all Media inquiries, contact Ms Roxon's office (02) 6277 7220