



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

12 July 2004

### **TEMPORARY CHANGE TO TREATMENT**

Patients undergoing radiotherapy treatment at Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre will temporarily travel to Liverpool Hospital from Monday July 19 for appointments while the Linear Accelerator at Macarthur is taken off-line for essential repairs.

South Western Sydney Area Health Service (SWSAHS) Director of Radiation Therapy, Anthony Arnold, said the cancer service had a number of strategies in place to make the transition as smooth as possible for the 20 or so patients affected.

Staff are working towards minimal disruption for patients to ensure that no patient is adversely affected.

“We are offering patients return taxi fares or reimbursement of parking fees at Liverpool Hospital,” he said.

“In addition, our seven radiotherapists will be transferred to Liverpool for the duration so patients will be treated by the same people to help ease the transition.”

All patients from Campbelltown Hospital needing to use the service had been personally contacted about the temporary change and had been extremely understanding and supportive.

“We owe them a big thank you for their cooperation,” Mr Arnold said.

The repairs involve replacing a faulty wave guide in the Centre’s \$3 million Linear Accelerator, a massive, highly sophisticated seven tonne machine used to treat a range of cancers.

SWSAHS Director of Radiation Oncology, Dr Geoff Delaney, said the manufacturers, Siemens Medical, had given a strong commitment to fixing the problem as soon as possible.

“The President of the company came out personally from the United States to apologise and assure us that the highest priority will be given to repairing the machine,” Dr Delaney said.

“Work will begin in a few days time.”

Installation procedures were already underway for a second machine which was due to be delivered in November, he said.

“This will assist in better meeting the needs of cancer patients in the Campbelltown and Wingecaribee areas,” he said.

**Issued by South Western Sydney Area Health Service Public Affairs  
9828 5700.**

Caption for pic: Macarthur Therapy Centre’s \$3m Linear Accelerator.