



Symposium Communique

7-8 October 2021

The participants in the 2021 National Particle Therapy Symposium:

- Emphasise the need for a continued, unified and collaborative approach for the introduction of particle therapy in Australia, and for the best combination of particle therapy facilities, aimed at achieving the best possible outcomes for patients, families, clinicians, researchers and the broader public.
- Recognise the progress on the construction of the Australian Bragg Centre (ABC) for Proton Therapy and Research in Adelaide due for completion and clinical delivery in 2025.
- Recognise the need for more than one facility in Australia and the progress made by the Australian clinical and research communities in developing a coherent, national plan for particle therapy facilities, including the ABC, proton therapy facilities in Victoria and Queensland, and a proton and carbon-ion therapy facility in New South Wales; and welcome the participation of representatives who provided updates from Western Australia and New Zealand.
- Emphasise the importance of utilising and expanding the National Particle Therapy Network to oversight a nationally coherent and uniform patient referral process and portal, multi-disciplinary panels and a clinical quality register. The Network will ensure all cancer patients who may benefit from particle therapy are able to access high quality therapy in a transparent, timely and equitable manner.
- Support establishing a national clinical registry that would facilitate the evaluation of patients who may benefit from particle therapy, expedite the patient treatment review process, support future research and clinical trials, and enable international research collaboration and benchmarking.
- Recognise the progress made in developing professional training, certification and credentialing of health professionals who will deliver particle therapy in Australia.
- Welcome the announcement of Medicare funding for proton beam therapy for limited indications (Australian Commonwealth Medical Services Advisory Committee Application 1638).
- Acknowledge the need to expand the list of funded indications based on clinical outcomes evidence as it develops as well as comparative dose planning, and to participate in generating this evidence via clinical trials and treating to research protocols.
- Highlight the importance of engaging patients and consumers in the development of particle therapy facilities in Australia, as well as the practical aspects of accessing the treatment such as transport, accommodation and attention their welfare while dislocated from family, carers and support networks.
- Recognise the need to invest in staff and clinical and non-clinical research to underpin the success of particle therapy in Australia; and that national collaborative efforts will best provide the tools for Australia to lead research in particle therapy, generate innovation potential, and create new jobs in fields of physics, radiation medicine, and in industrial and clinical research.