



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE MRI UNIT FOR SUTHERLAND SHIRE

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon today announced that an additional Medicare-eligible magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) service will be provided in the Sutherland Shire, New South Wales, by PB Imaging Pty Ltd as an agent for Southern Radiology.

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

The Department of Health and Ageing will work with Southern Radiology to help start Medicare-eligible MRI services at Sutherland Shire.

Medicare-eligible MRI services will be available in the first half of 2009 following changes to the Health Insurance (Diagnostic Imaging Services Table) Regulation 2008.

It is especially pleasing that Southern Radiology has agreed that all Medicare-eligible patients will be bulk billed and that no patients will incur out-of-pocket costs.

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.

Enabling people to be able to claim MRI services on the proposed Southern Radiology MRI unit at Sutherland Shire 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