

s22

From: s47E(c), s47F

Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 12:30 PM

To: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F
s47E(c), s47F <[s47E\(c\), s47F@Health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@Health.gov.au)>

Cc: s47E(c), s47F <[s47E\(c\), s47F@Health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@Health.gov.au)>

Subject: MC26-000036: Vic's PBT proposal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Ariane and s47E(c),
s47F

s47E(d)

s47E(c),
s47F

From: noreply@pws.gov.au

Sent: Monday, 5 January 2026 12:11 PM

To: s47E(c), s47F

Subject: MC26-000036 : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

SEC=OFFICIAL

s47E(c), s47F has assigned [MC26-000036](#) to s47E(c), s47F .

Click on the above link to open the record in Microsoft Edge.

Record details*	
Subject	proposal from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (PMCC) to establish proton beam therapy capability in Victoria
Type	For Information Only
Processing Instructions	FYI - once you have noted please return to me to close tks s47E(c), s47F
Milestones	Due for Clearance: 30/01/2026 12:00:36 PM Due to Parliamentary: 30/01/2026 2:00:36 PM Due to Ministers Office: 2/02/2026 5:00:36 PM Critical Date:
Responsible Area	Primary and Community Care Chronic Conditions and Screening Division
Status	Created

*Please note if any fields are empty, the associated field has not been populated in PDMS.

Have a question or would like to organise some training?

Contact the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Branch on 02 6289 4400. You can also visit the MPS [Intranet](#) page for the latest information, news, and events.

Thank you

PDMS Notification Service

Please do not reply to this automated message.

SEC=OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s47E(c), s47F
Sent: Friday, 16 January 2026 3:53 PM
To: HERMANN, Ariane
Cc: CALDOW, Melissa; s47E(c), s47F
Subject: FW: PBT/SAHMRI - notes from meeting with s47F (SA DTF)
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Ariane

s47E(c), s47F met with s47F from SA yesterday and have shared their notes ahead of Monday's meeting. Will see if we get the same information at all levels.

Cheers

s47E(c),
 s47F

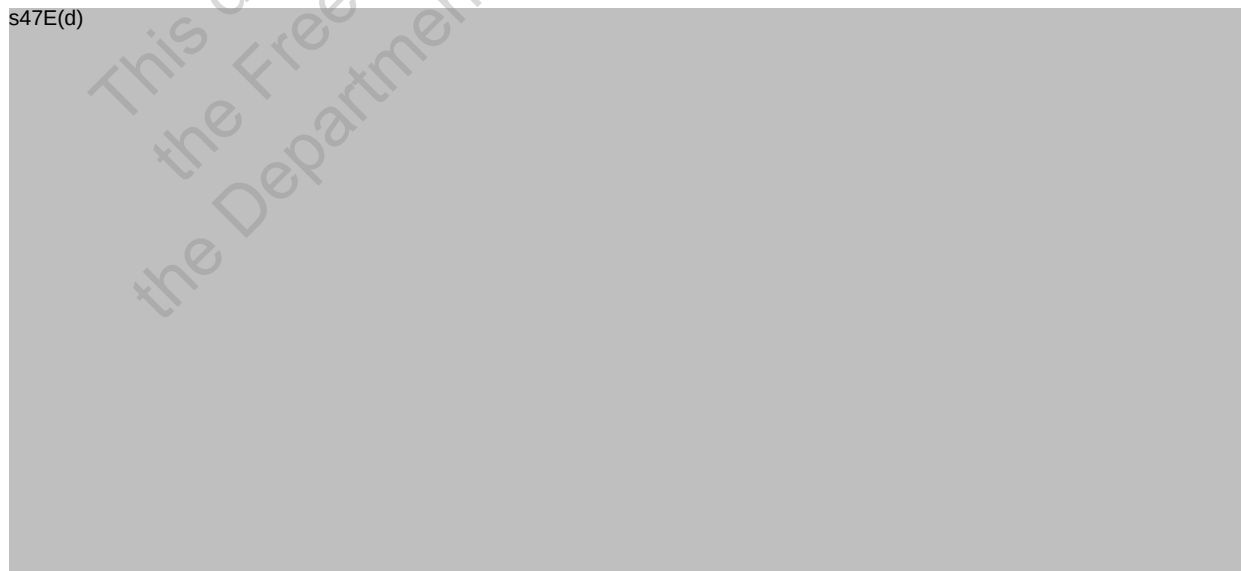
From: s47E(c), s47F
Sent: Friday, 16 January 2026 2:38 PM
To: s47E(c), s47F
Cc: s47E(c), s47F
Subject: PBT/SAHMRI - notes from meeting with s47F (SA DTF) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(c),
 s47F

s47E(c), s47F and I met with s47F from SA yesterday where s47F provided an update on a few areas since we last spoke. Below are some points from the meeting to support preparation ahead of the meeting with s47F on Monday afternoon.

s47E(d)



s47E(d)



Thanks,

s47E(c),
s47F

s47E(c), s47F (she/her)
Cancer Policy and Projects Section

Cancer and Palliative Care Branch | Chronic Conditions and Screening Division
Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
E: s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c),s47F@health.gov.au)
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Ngunnawal/Ngambri Country

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

OFFICIAL

From: s47E(c), s47F
Sent: Thursday, 29 January 2026 11:01 AM
To: s47E(c), s47F
Cc: CALDOW, Melissa
Subject: RE: SAHMRI and ABCPTR [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi s47E(c),
s47F

Confirming I've been in touch with SA Gov – they will liaise with Natasha's team. I can sit in as an observer.

s47E(c),
s47F

From: s47E(c), s47F
Sent: Thursday, 29 January 2026 9:13 AM
To: s47E(c), s47F
Cc: CALDOW, Melissa
Subject: FW: SAHMRI and ABCPTR [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hey s47E(c),
s47F

I will leave this with you to oversee next steps and because you have a strong relationship with SA. Probably good to have one meeting with all the right people as Natasha has suggested, not that we have a role in this part but just to know status and key messaging.

s47E(c),
s47F

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: PLOENGES, Natasha <Natasha.Ploenges@health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 6:01 PM
To: s47E(c), s47F <[@Health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F)>; YOUNG, Duncan <Duncan.YOUNG@Health.gov.au>
Cc: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>; PRATT, Jessica <Jessica.Pratt@health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F <[@Health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F)>; s47E(c), s47F <[@health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F)>
Subject: RE: SAHMRI and ABCPTR [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi s47E(c), s47F

Thanks for the update following your recent meeting with SA Gov.

We'd certainly be happy to meet with them, along with NHMRC and you (or a member of your team). It would be helpful to ensure we're all hearing and sharing the same messages.

Thanks
N

Natasha Ploenges (Ms/She/Her)
Chief Executive Officer
Health and Medical Research Office|Evidence & Research Division
Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

T: 02 5132 3120 | E: Natasha.Ploenges@health.gov.au

Location: Yaradhang Building 10.N.219

Country located on: Ngunnawal Country

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

Medical Research
Future Fund

A decade of investment, a lifetime of impact



OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: s47E(c), s47F [redacted] [@Health.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@Health.gov.au)>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 1:52 PM

To: YOUNG, Duncan <Duncan.YOUNG@Health.gov.au>; PLOENGES, Natasha <Natasha.Ploenges@health.gov.au>

Cc: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>; PRATT, Jessica <Jessica.Pratt@health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F [redacted] [@Health.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@Health.gov.au)>

Subject: SAHMRI and ABCPTR [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi Duncan and Natasha

We met with the SA Government last week to get an update on the SAHMRI and ABCPTR situation as there have been some recent developments.

s47E(d)

We will continue to work with them on the future of PBT in the state and expect a revised proposal shortly.

If you are happy to meet with them, we will provide your details to them to coordinate.

Cheers

s47E(c),
s47F

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 23 May 2025 2:08 PM

To: YOUNG, Duncan <Duncan.YOUNG@Health.gov.au>; PLOENGES, Natasha <Natasha.Ploenges@health.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(c), s47F <[REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F <[REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>

Subject: SAHMRI and ABCPTR [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Duncan and Natasha

I believe our teams have been keeping each other across developments in the SAHMRI space, but sharing the attached correspondence we have been cc'd on between SA Gov and SAHMRI.

s47E(d)

We are expecting to receive a letter from the SA Government at some point in the next few weeks (months?) with a request for additional funding for PBT, s47E(d)

Thanks

Ariane Hermann (she/her)

A/g First Assistant Secretary

Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions Division | Primary and Community Care Group
Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
T: (02) 5132 4475 | M: s47E(c), s47F | E: ariane.hermann@health.gov.au
Location: Yaradhang Building, Level 4
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive Officer | s47E(c), s47F

T: (02) 5132 s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au

Executive Assistant | s47E(c), s47F

T: (02) 5132 s47E(c), s47F @health.gov.au

The Department of Health acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100

C-ECTF-25/25312

The Honourable Mark Butler MP
Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Minister for Health and Ageing
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

12 FEB 2026

Email: Minister.Butler@health.gov.au

Dear Minister *Mark,*

Thank you for your correspondence dated 8 December 2025, in relation to the planning and delivery of the Queensland Cancer Centre (QCC).

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Commonwealth Government for its \$375 million commitment to support the development of a world class cancer centre in Brisbane, which was formalised in October 2023 through a Federation Funding Agreement (FFA). The Crisafulli Government is investing in growing the cancer health workforce, delivering easier access to cancer care, and ensuring the sustainability of Queensland cancer services into the future.

Upon coming into Government in 2024, I became aware that the major hospital projects in Labor's Capacity Expansion Program, including the QCC, were experiencing major delays and cost blowouts. As you have highlighted, on 23 December 2024, I announced an independent review (the Review) of the program.

The Review found that the former Labor government failed to properly plan the QCC project and progressed a schematic design without a business case or project validation report to inform service need and scope. The Review also reported a \$1.05 billion cost blowout and a minimum three-year delay, with unresolved site restrictions and critical infrastructure risks making it challenging to progress works.

Following the Review, the Crisafulli Government released the *Hospital Rescue Plan* including for the QCC to ensure world-class cancer care and emerging therapies are delivered for Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

One of the accepted recommendations of the Review relating to the QCC was to conduct a Clinical Services Demand Review, including for proton beam therapy in Queensland, which is well underway. The findings will inform detailed business cases and planning activities and, ultimately, the project scope, delivery schedule, and timeline for completion.

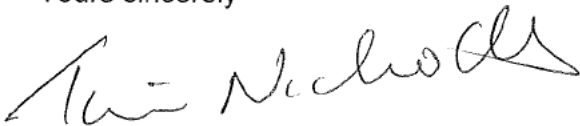
Preliminary outcomes of the review focus on expanding Queensland's capacity to meet the growing demand for personalised cancer treatments including targeted immunotherapies, theranostics, and precision oncology. This aligns with the current scope of the FFA which describes a bilateral commitment to establishing a QCC that supports treatment of all types of cancer including complex and rare cancers and integrates cancer services with research.

Once the cancer service demand review is complete, I will advise on the revised schedule for completion.

Thank you again for writing to me and for your commitment to delivering better cancer outcomes for our communities. I appreciate your support and continued partnership in this matter.

Should you or your department require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for s47F [REDACTED], Deputy Director-General, System Policy and Planning Division on telephone s47F [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au) to be available to assist you.

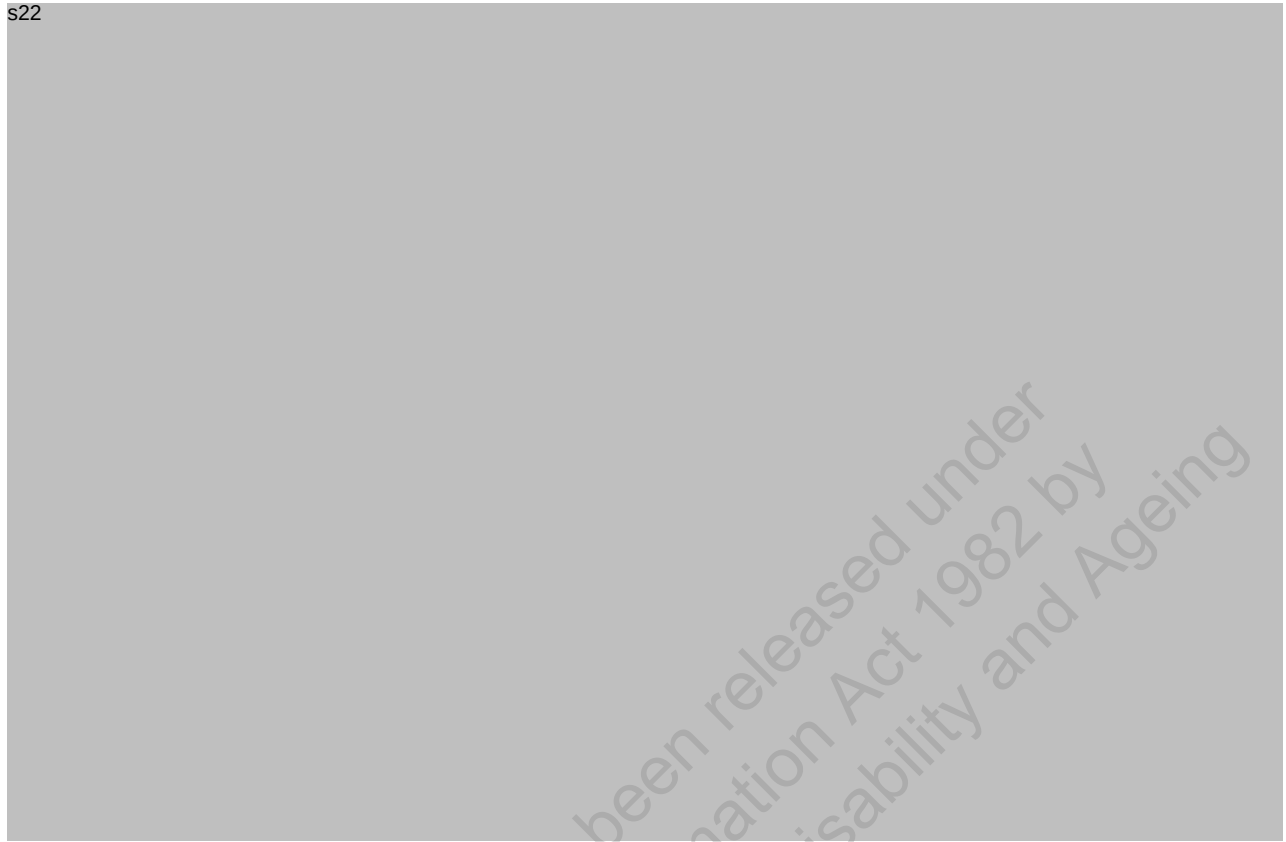
Yours sincerely



Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Member for Clayfield

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s22



OFFICIAL

From: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 1:47 PM

To: CALDOW, Melissa <Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au>; DEVELIN, Liz <Liz.DEVELIN@Health.gov.au>

Subject: FW: A7749982 - Letter to the Hon Mark Butler MP [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi both

Formal letter now received from SA Gov re PBT. SA Gov have not responded to the Minister's request to reconsider the costings and this is an exact repeat of their original letter in June 2025.

AH

OFFICIAL

From: s47F [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 9:22 AM
To: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: A7749982 - Letter to the Hon Mark Butler MP [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

From: Minister Butler <Minister.Butler@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 9:14 AM
To: s47F [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: A7749982 - Letter to the Hon Mark Butler MP [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F [REDACTED]
 Please see attached, received to the public inbox late last week. I will send this for an M response, but let me know if you want anything else done with it.
 Thanks

s47F [REDACTED]
 Departmental Liaison Officer
 Office of the Hon Mark Butler MP
 Minister for Health and Ageing
 Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme
 s47F [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au> | s47F [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@protected.health.gov.au>
 s47E(d) [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au> | s47E(d) [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@protected.health.gov.au>
 21 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide SA 5015
 Suite MG.51 | PO Box 6022, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

OFFICIAL

From: DTF:Treasurer <treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 12:42 PM
To: Minister Butler <Minister.Butler@Health.gov.au>
Subject: A7749982 - Letter to the Hon Mark Butler MP

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Good morning

Please find attached correspondence from the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining.

Regards

Office of the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP

Treasurer

Minister for Energy and Mining

State Administration Centre, Victoria Square / Tardanyangga, Adelaide SA 5000 / Kurna Country

GPO Box 2264, Adelaide SA 5001

✉ Treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au | ☎ 08 8226 1866



The Department of Treasury and Finance acknowledges Aboriginal people as the state's first peoples, nations and Traditional Owners of South Australian land and waters. We recognise that their unique cultural heritage, customs, spiritual beliefs and relationship with the land are of ongoing importance today, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging leaders of the future.

Information contained in this email message may be confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional privilege or public interest immunity. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this document is unauthorised.

OFFICIAL

The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP



**Government
of South Australia**

A7749982

Hon Mark Butler MP
Federal Minister for Health and Ageing
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Treasurer
**Minister for Energy and
Mining**
Level 8
State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 2264
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 56203 Victoria Square
Tel 08 8226 1866
treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2025, regarding the Commonwealth Government's approach for a national proton therapy service.

As you are aware, the South Australian Government has committed significant resources to support a national proton therapy service in South Australia, including most recently supporting the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) navigate the challenges arising from the previous supplier's failure to deliver against contracted obligations, and identifying and assessing alternative options for a future proton therapy service.

In responding to your request that the South Australian (SA) Government reconsider its financial contribution to the project, I would like to update you on several important matters.

s47B(a), s47B(b)



s47B(a), s47B(b)



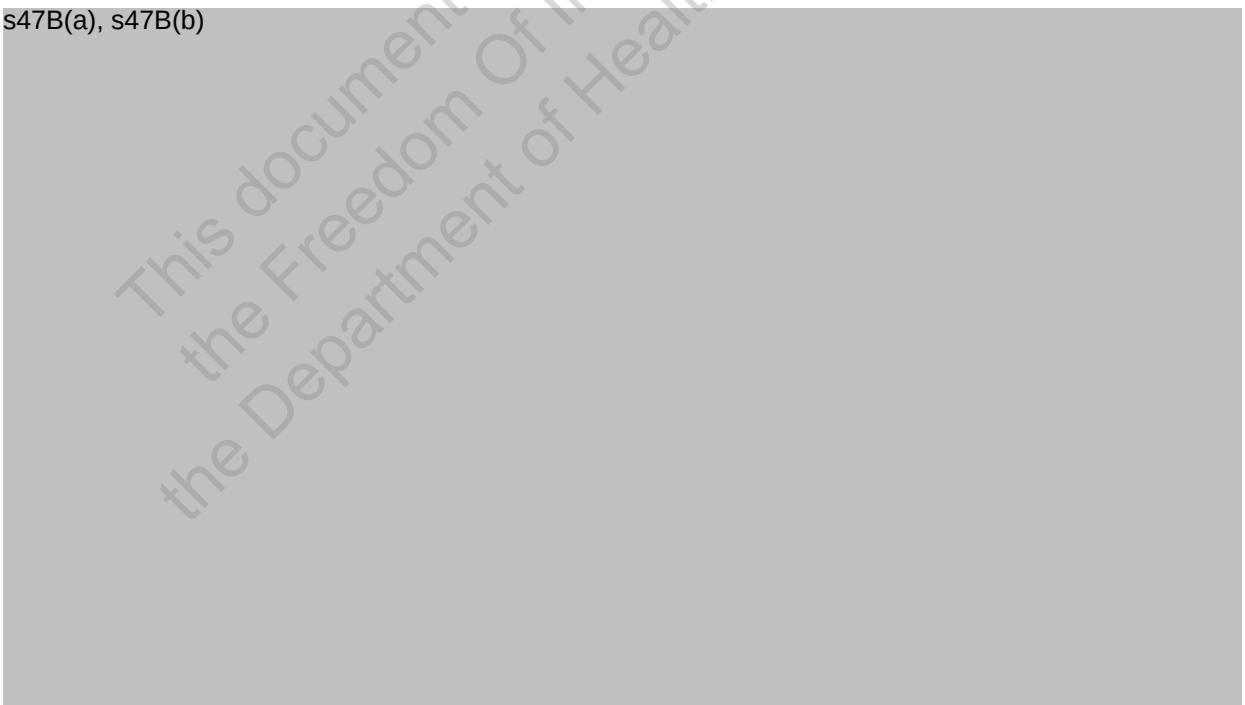
A new national proton therapy project in the Bragg Centre

It remains the SA Government's position that utilisation of the completed, purpose-built clinical facility in the ABC is the fastest path to bringing lifesaving proton therapy treatment capability to Australia.

Proton therapy in the ABC also avoids duplication of building infrastructure in other locations, so is also likely to be the most cost-efficient solution, enabling financial resources to be directed towards the procurement and commissioning of required system infrastructure.

The capability in SA to deliver this project is also recognised nationally and delivery by an SA Government entity meets the Commonwealth Government's previously indicated preferred governance model. A proton therapy project at the ABC can also support treatment of the widest range of cancer types, including paediatric cancers, and will therefore result in the greatest public benefit compared with more narrow proton therapy clinical concepts elsewhere in Australia.

s47B(a), s47B(b)



Closing

I would like to confirm that the SA Government remains committed to the delivery of a national proton therapy initiative in the ABC bunker but recognises that such a national initiative, serving a national patient cohort, is reliant on the Commonwealth Government funding for the project.

While I acknowledge that the Commonwealth Government has a range of issues to consider, it would be desirable for all involved, including clinicians working on the project, to have clarity on a way forward as soon as possible. At a minimum, this would require the Commonwealth identify a mechanism for funding lifecycle costs.

Representatives from the Department of Treasury and Finance are available to engage with Commonwealth officials to ensure any work South Australia has undertaken to support a national proton therapy service is made available for consideration. The scoping and planning work of officials is able to continue to occur through the forthcoming caretaker period, as appropriate.

We look forward to working with the Commonwealth Government to advance the national proton therapy initiative at the ABC.

Yours sincerely



Hon. Tom Koutsantonis MP
Treasurer

19 / 02 / 2026

cc: Hon Chris Picton MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing

OFFICIAL

The Hon Ryan Park MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast



Ref: M25/8559

The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Ageing
Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme
minister.butler@health.gov.au

Proton beam therapy capability in NSWDear Minister 

Thank you for writing about establishing proton beam therapy (PBT) capability in NSW.

I acknowledge the Australian Government's advocacy on this matter, and previous contribution to support PBT establishment in South Australia.

NSW Health is committed to working with the Australian Government to improve health outcomes for people living with cancer.

I am advised that the previous proposal for a hybrid (proton and carbon ion) particle therapy and research facility at Westmead did not progress due to the high cost and uncertain utilisation.

NSW Health is coordinating a comprehensive Health Technology Assessment (HTA) on particle therapy. This work will be led by the University of Sydney as an independent evaluator and is expected to be completed by 31 December 2026. An Expert Advisory Group (EAG) is being established to provide guidance, support and oversight of the HTA.

The HTA will build on work completed by SAX Institute and Medical Services Advisory Committee, evaluating the clinical benefits of particle therapy, including proton beam and carbon ions, compared to conventional radiotherapy.

It will provide information on the clinical efficacy, safety, cost-effectiveness and economic impact of particle therapy in the context of NSW and the overall cancer treatment landscape.

I am advised that the HTA will inform NSW's policy position on particle therapy, guiding research, clinical care, infrastructure and investment decisions in the context of broader cancer service planning. Until the final report is completed, NSW Health has no active plans for establishing a PBT facility.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely



Ryan Park MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast

OFFICIAL

From: s47E(c), s47F
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 2:20 PM
To: CALDOW, Melissa
Cc: s47E(c), s47F
Subject: Notes for Liz: Meeting with Victoria - PBT [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Vic PBT - technical report.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi Mel,

Please see below a set of notes to help support Liz with the Victorian meeting on Proton Beam Therapy later this week. Also attached is the Victorian technical report for background reference.

Many thanks to s47E(c), s47F for pulling these together quickly. If there's anything else you need, or if you'd like any additional information please let me know.

Kind regards

s47E(c), s47F

Director Cancer Projects and Policy
 Cancer and Palliative Care Branch

Chronic Conditions and Screening Division | Primary & Community Care Group
 Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

T: +61 02 5132 s47E(c), s47F

M: s47E(c), s47F

E: s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@health.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

From: s47E(c), s47F [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@Health.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 1:17 PM
To: s47E(c), s47F [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@Health.gov.au)>
Cc: s47E(c), s47F [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@Health.gov.au)>; s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](mailto:health.gov.au)>

Subject: Meeting with Victoria - PBT [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(c),
s47F

As discussed, please find attached and below some notes to support Liz's meeting on Wednesday with Victoria:

s47E(d)

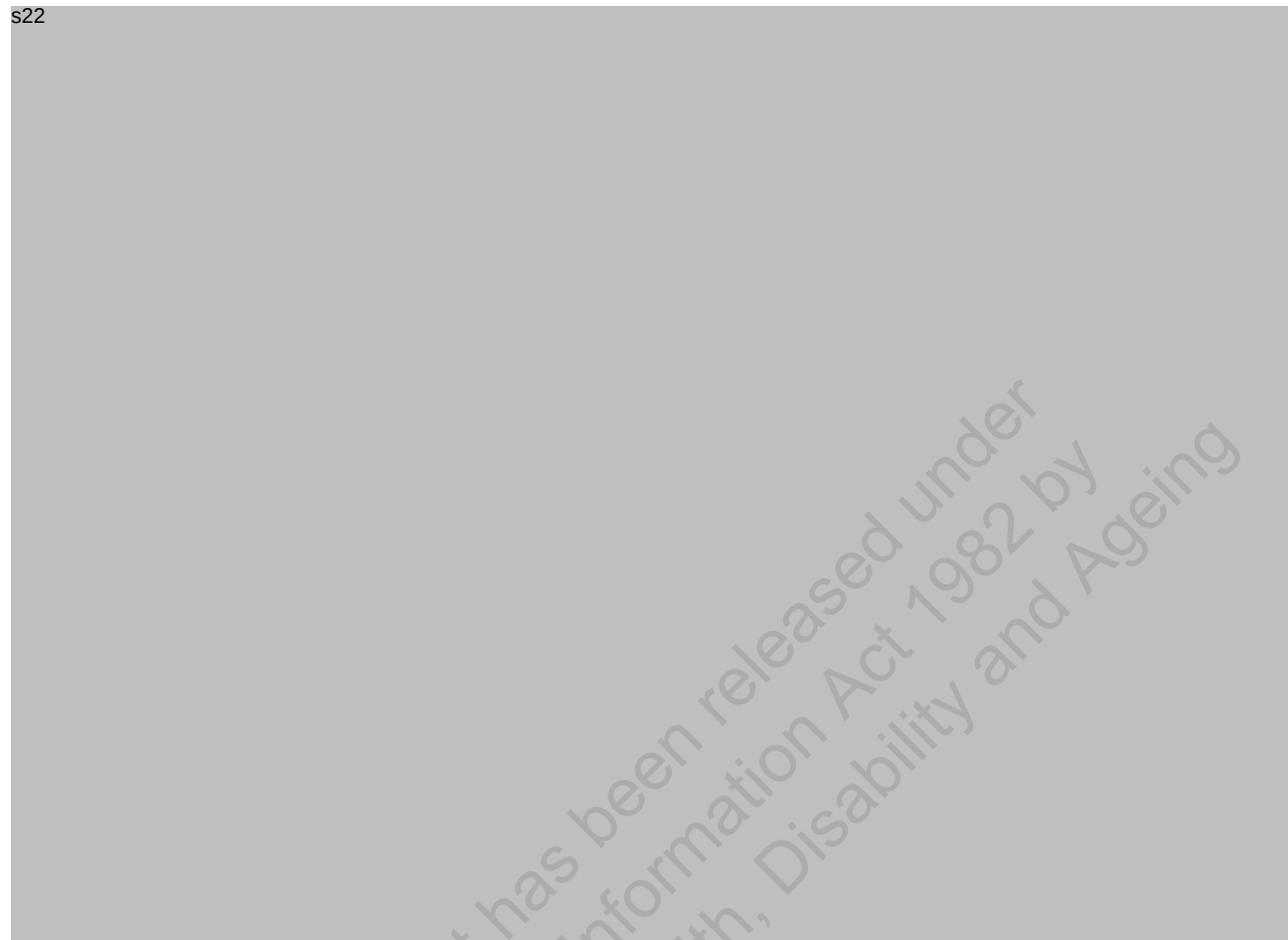


This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s47E(c),
s47F

OFFICIAL

s22



OFFICIAL

From: s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 3:38 PM

To: CALDOW, Melissa <Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>

Subject: FYI: Media article on Queensland Comprehensive Cancer Centre - 30 March
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Mel

FYI - *Courier Mail, Brisbane* published an article today about the Queensland families travelling overseas for proton beam therapy due to the absence of a local facility, including the delay with the Queensland Cancer Centre (see attached)).

Thanks to s47E(c),
s47F for helping put all the info together.

Background:

- The QCCC was an election commitment initiative announced in the October 2022-23 Budget under the *Comprehensive Cancer Centres* budget measure.
- The Commonwealth committed \$375 million over 6 years from 2022-23 to support the establishment of a world class cancer centre in Brisbane, to be owned and operated by the Queensland Government and located within the Herston Health Precinct at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.
- This project has experienced delays with only \$2m paid to date.
- In Feb 2026, Qld Minister Nicholls responded to Minister Butler, stating that the findings of a recent independent review will inform business cases and planning activities and, ultimately, the project scope, delivery schedule, and timeline for completion (see attached MC26-00308).

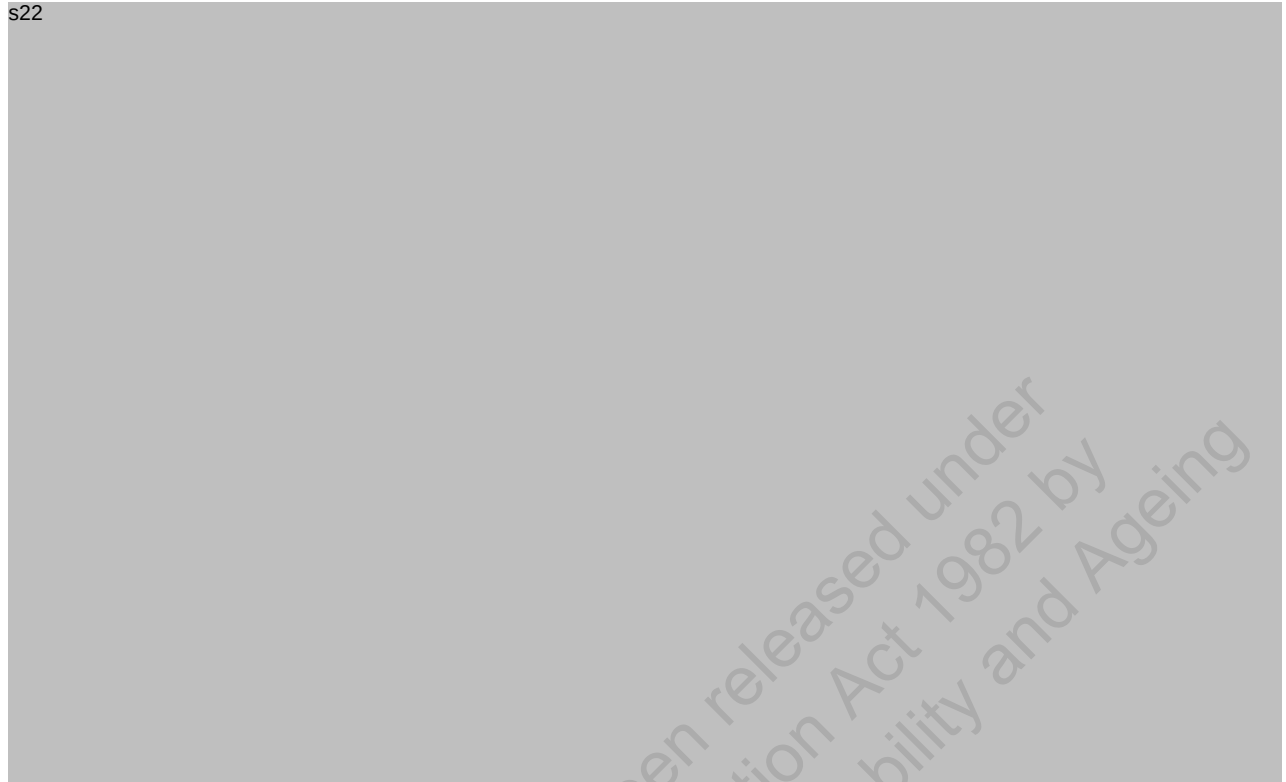
Kind regards

s47E(c),
s47F

OFFICIAL

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s22

**OFFICIAL****From:** CALDOW, Melissa**Sent:** Thursday, 2 April 2026 10:19 PM**To:** Vivienne Milch s47E(c), s47F <[s47E\(c\), s47F@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@canceraustralia.gov.au)>**Subject:** RE: Proton Therapy in Perth [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Agree Viv I think the advocacy will only increase.

We met with Victoria today to discuss PBT. It was an interesting conversation. I am off next week but will update you when back.

Mel

Melissa Caldwell (she/her)**A/g Assistant Secretary****Cancer and Palliative Care Branch**

Chronic Conditions and Screening Division | Primary Care, Community & First Nations Group

Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

T: 02 5132 1823 | M: s47F | E: Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive Assistant: s47E(c), s47F | T: 02 5132 s47E(c), s47F <[s47E\(c\), s47F@health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@health.gov.au)>

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

From: Vivienne Milch s47E(c), s47F [@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:Vivienne.Milch@canceraustralia.gov.au)
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2026 8:01 AM
To: CALDOW, Melissa <Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(c), s47F [@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:Vivienne.Milch@canceraustralia.gov.au); s47E(c), s47F
s47E(c), s47F [@Health.gov.au](mailto:Vivienne.Milch@Health.gov.au); s47E(c), s47F [@Health.gov.au](mailto:Vivienne.Milch@Health.gov.au)
Subject: RE: Proton Therapy in Perth [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL

Thanks so much Mel for your speedy response to both these queries about PBT.

I suspect these enquires will become more intense over time. Let's hope we have a resolution of this situation soon.

Regards
Viv

Professor Vivienne Milch
MBBS (Hons), MHPol
Medical Director
Head, Clinical Policy Advice Branch

Cancer Australia
 Level 14, 300 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia
 Locked Bag 3, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 Australia
s47E(c), s47F
canceraustralia.gov.au

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Click [here](#) to subscribe to Cancer Australia Connect and keep up to date with our news.

DISCLAIMER

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not disclose or use the information contained in it. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete the e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments which does not relate to the official business of Cancer Australia must be taken not to have been sent or endorsed by Cancer Australia. No warranty is made that the e-mail or attachment(s) are free from computer virus or other defect.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: CALDOW, Melissa <Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 10:08 PM

To: Vivienne Milch s47E(c), s47F @canceraustralia.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(c), s47F @canceraustralia.gov.au>, s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Proton Therapy in Perth [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi Viv

Nothing further from our end. s47C

s47C. We wrote to WA for an update on their project plan, but never asked them about their intention to establish PBT (see attached). s47C

s47C

Standard words below (recycled from the QTB and HIB):

- The Australian Government is committed to securing PBT in Australia and is working closely with state and territory governments to ensure we have this national capability.
- The 2017-18 Budget provided \$68.0 million to support establishment of Australia's first PBT facility in South Australia.
- There have been several delays to the project since its inception, stemming from issues related to site identification and construction, supply chain and labour disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine, and equipment vendor issues.

- The Government is working closely with the SA Government on the future of the project, including work undertaken by the SA Government to investigate potential alternative technology vendors who may be able to deliver a PBT system using the existing infrastructure.

If we want to be a bit more pointed:

- Based on the *Strategy for Proton Beam Therapy for cancer patients in Australia*, feasible locations for a PBT facility include South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.
- The Western Australia Government has not approached the Australian Government with a proposal to establish a PBT facility in its jurisdiction.
- I encourage you to contact WA Health on its intention to have this capability in the state.

Regards

Mel

Melissa Caldow (she/her)

A/g Assistant Secretary

Cancer and Palliative Care Branch

Chronic Conditions and Screening Division | Primary Care, Community & First Nations Group

Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

T: 02 5132 1823 | M: s47F | E: Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive Assistant: s47E(c), s47F | T: 02 5132 s47E(c), s47F [@health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@health.gov.au)

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

OFFICIAL

From: Vivienne Milch s47E(c), s47F [@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@canceraustralia.gov.au)>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 2:09 PM

To: CALDOW, Melissa <Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(c), s47F [@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@canceraustralia.gov.au); s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s47E(c), s47F@Health.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: Proton Therapy in Perth [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL

Hi Mel

We have received an email from a Paediatric and Adult Radiation Oncologist in WA about the implementation of a proton therapy facility in Perth.

Do you have any light to shed on this? We would appreciate your advice in standard words for responding to this person. Should we suggest that he contact his WA jurisdictional lead? (s47F
 ??)

Regards
 Viv

Professor Vivienne Milch
 MBBS (Hons), MHPol
 Medical Director
 Head, Clinical Policy Advice Branch

Cancer Australia
 Level 14, 300 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia
 Locked Bag 3, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 Australia
 s47E(c), s47F
canceraustralia.gov.au

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Click [here](#) to subscribe to Cancer Australia Connect and keep up to date with our news.

DISCLAIMER

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not disclose or use the information contained in it. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete the e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments which does not relate to the official business of Cancer Australia must be taken not to have been sent or endorsed by Cancer Australia. No warranty is made that the e-mail or attachment(s) are free from computer virus or other defect.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s47F [REDACTED] <s47F@health.wa.gov.au>
 Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 3:33 PM
 To: Enquiries <Enquiries@canceraustralia.gov.au>
 Cc: Media Officer <Media.Officer@canceraustralia.gov.au>
 Subject: Re: Proton Therapy in Perth

Some people who received this message don't often get email from s47F [REDACTED] <s47F@health.wa.gov.au>. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi

Could someone get back to me regarding the implementation of a proton therapy facility in Perth

Kind regards

s47F [REDACTED]

s47F [REDACTED]

Paediatric and Adult Radiation Oncologist
Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group
 Department of Radiation Oncology
 Hospital Ave, Nedlands WA 6009
 T: s47F [REDACTED]
 E: s47F [REDACTED] <s47F@health.wa.gov.au>
scgh.health.wa.gov.au

One team, many dreams.

Care / Respect / Innovation / Teamwork / Integrity





We acknowledge the Noongar people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work, and pay respect to their elders both past and present. North Metropolitan Health Service recognises, respects and values Aboriginal cultures as we walk a new path together.

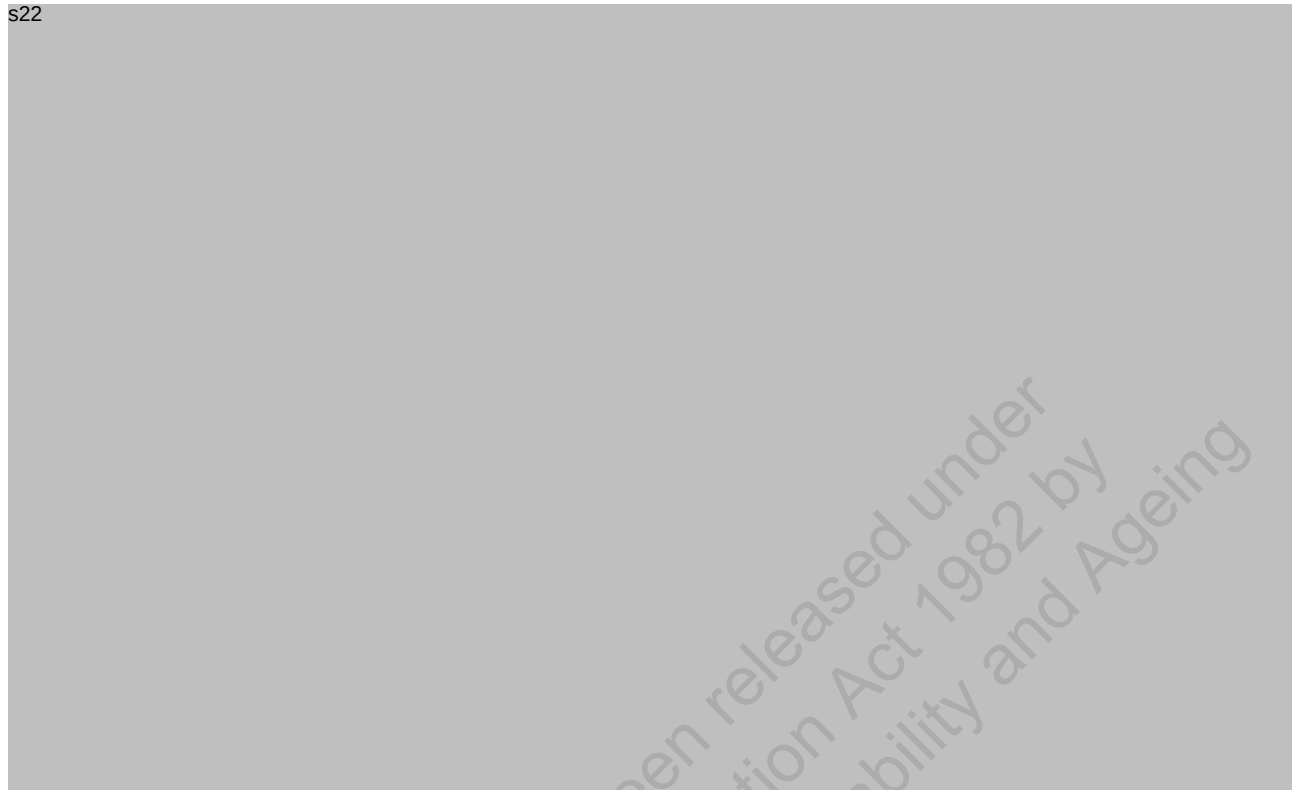


DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this email message is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, copying or retention of this document is unauthorised. If you have received this document in error, please delete and contact the sender immediately.

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1992 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s22



OFFICIAL

From: s47F [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 6:57 PM
To: DEVELIN, Liz <Liz.DEVELIN@Health.gov.au>
Cc: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>; s47F [redacted]
 s47F [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au)>; CALDOW, Melissa <Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au>;
 s47F [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au)>; s47F [redacted]
 s47F [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au)>; s47F [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Proton Beam: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Liz,

Thanks for following up on this.

The review is progressing and should be complete in coming months. We will let you know when we have both a completed review and advice on proton beam therapy.

Kind regards,
 s47F [redacted]

s47F | Deputy Director-General
 System Policy and Planning Division
 Queensland Health
 Level 14, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
 M: s47F



From: DEVELIN, Liz <Liz.DEVELIN@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 4:46 PM
To: s47F <s47F@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: s47F <s47F@health.qld.gov.au>; HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>; CALDOW, Melissa <Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au>
Subject: Proton Beam: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

This email originated from outside Queensland Health. DO NOT click on any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

I am writing to follow up on correspondence between our Ministers (attached) regarding the planning of the Queensland Comprehensive Cancer Centre (QLD CCC). Minister Nicholls noted in his letter that a Clinical Services Demand Review is underway, and the review findings will inform a detailed business case and planning activities, including the project scope, delivery schedule and timeline for completion.

It would be helpful to clarify whether you have an indication of when the review is expected to be completed, and any initial views you may be able to share on whether proton beam therapy would be included in the project scope.

Look forward to hearing from you and happy to discuss.

Kind regards,

Liz

Dr Liz Develin
Deputy Secretary

Primary Care, Community & First Nations Group
Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
T: 02 6289 2833 | M: s47F | E: liz.develin@health.gov.au
This email comes to you from Ngunnawal Country
Location: 6.N.211
PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

OFFICIAL

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

Disclaimer: This email and any attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information and may be protected by copyright. You must not use or disclose them other than for the purposes for which they were supplied. The privilege or confidentiality attached to this message and attachments is not waived by reason of mistaken delivery to you. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not use, disclose, retain, forward or reproduce this message or any attachments. If you receive this message in error, please notify the sender by return email or telephone and destroy and delete all copies. Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

Queensland Health carries out monitoring, scanning and blocking of emails and attachments sent from or to addresses within Queensland Health for the purposes of operating, protecting, maintaining and ensuring appropriate use of its computer network.

The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP

Government
of South Australia

A8191114

Treasurer

Minister for Energy and
Mining

Minister for Public Sector

Level 8

State Administration Centre

200 Victoria Square

Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2264

Adelaide SA 5001

DX 56203 Victoria Square

Tel 08 8226 1866

treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

The Hon Mark Butler MP
Federal Minister for Health and Ageing
Minister.Butler@health.gov.au

Dear Minister

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF FUNDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN BRAGG CENTRE FOR PROTON THERAPY RESEARCH

Further to my letter of 19 February 2026, I am writing to update you on matters associated with the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research (ABCPTR) and seek your agreement to extend the current interim funding arrangements for the ABCPTR, until 30 June 2027.

As you are aware, on 16 May 2024 and 25 February 2025, the former Treasurer, the Hon Stephen Mullighan MP, wrote to you seeking to apply a portion of unused grant monies from the *Project Agreement for Proton Beam Facility*, to fund the continuation of ABCPTR's activities to 30 June 2026, which was subsequently supported by you.

This was done in recognition of there being a significant investment in nation-leading clinical expertise assembled in Adelaide to deliver the project, the retention of which was seen as critical to de-risk any future project in SA. It also enabled continuing the important work of the clinical team which undertakes the bulk of comparative planning for proton therapy treatment under the Commonwealth Government's Medical Treatment Overseas Program (MTOP).

It was anticipated that there would be further direction about an alternative national proton therapy project by this time. However, we understand that this is still under consideration by the Commonwealth Government. The South Australian Government is prepared to continue to support ABCPTR while the Commonwealth Government considers its preferred approach to proton therapy going forward. Consistent with recent arrangements, I seek your approval to release further unused funds (currently \$11.18 million) from the Commonwealth Grant to extend ABCPTR funding a further 12 months.

s47B(a), s47B(b)

s47B(a), s47B(b)

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted, appearing as a solid grey block.

Accordingly, the ABCPTR 2026-27 Draft Budget (refer attached) does not seek funding for these items, but seeks only the continuation of core staff and operating costs related to proton therapy.

The 2026-27 Draft Budget includes the cost of the clinical team (largely fractional appointments of staff employed substantively in the local health network in SA) and two FTE involved in the planning and delivery of the previous project which hold critical corporate knowledge.

I also propose the inclusion of the following items:

s47B(a), s47B(b)

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted, appearing as a solid grey block. A diagonal watermark is visible across this area, reading: "This document has been released under the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing".

s47B(a), s47B(b)

A small rectangular area of the document is redacted, appearing as a solid grey block.

and I propose to enter a grant agreement for \$2.5 million with ABCPTR to carefully monitor its funding requirements in this period.

The grant agreement will be managed by the SA Government and will necessarily require some flexibility to deal with the uncertainty of ABCPTR's continuation and whether future decision may be reached to deliver a national proton therapy project in the ABC. For example, in the event there is a decision to establish a national proton therapy project in another state, ABCPTR will be wound up resulting in savings.

s47B(a), s47B(b)

A summary of the 2026-27 Draft Budget is attached to this letter.

I trust that the continuation of the existing funding mechanism for ABCPTR is a modest and low-cost way to retain critical capability in South Australia, to continue the delivery of services as part of the Commonwealth Government's MTOP program, and de-risk any future national project in SA, through the retention of key staff.

I look forward to your confirmation of this approach and continuing to work with your Government to pursue a national proton therapy project in South Australia.

Yours sincerely

Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Treasurer

/ / 2026

Att: ABCPTR 2026-27 Draft Budget

CC: Hon Blair Boyer MP, SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing Minister.Boyer@sa.gov.au

s47B(a), s47B(b)



This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

From: HERMANN, Ariane
Sent: Tuesday, 5 May 2026 8:38 AM
To: s47E(c), s47F CALDOW, Melissa; s47E(c), s47F
Cc: s47E(c), s47F
Subject: RE: Treasurer of SA letter to Minister Butler re Proposed extension of funding to ABCPTR [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks for sending through s47E(c), s47F – can we please also engage with the MTOP team for their views. I presume extending this still aligns with the original intent/policy authority for PBT?

I agree that it seems low risk, s47C

AH

OFFICIAL

From: s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 10:12 AM
To: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Health.gov.au>; CALDOW, Melissa <Melissa.Caldow@health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Treasurer of SA letter to Minister Butler re Proposed extension of funding to ABCPTR [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

The foreshadowed SA letter is attached which was flagged in our last meeting with SA.

In short, the current interim funding arrangements expire on 30 June 2026. South Australia is seeking to extend support for ABCPTR for up to a further 12 months via a proposed \$2.5 million grant to address a forecast budget shortfall over that period. The draft submission in P already refers to this letter, so we will include a response accordingly. I will also review the estimates material to reflect this (and our response if it gets dispatched in time).

In relation to the proposed \$2.5 million, I think we should review the budget items in detail to assess what is reasonable for the Commonwealth to cover. Noting that the SA Government has also included some additional items, including:

s47B(a), s47B(b)

s47C

s47E(c),
s47F

OFFICIAL

From: s47F <[redacted]@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 9:54 AM

To: s47E(c), s47F <[redacted]@Health.gov.au>

Cc: s47F <[redacted]@sa.gov.au>

Subject: Treasurer of SA letter to Minister Butler re Proposed extension of funding to ABCPTR

OFFICIAL

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(c),
s47F

I understand that you and s47F recently discussed this request and a copy of the Treasurer's letter to Minister Butler is attached for your benefit.

Please let us know if you require anything further.

Regards

s47F

s47F | Principal Commercial Advisor

Commercial | Commercial and Procurement Branch

State Administration Centre, Victoria Square / Tardanyangga, Adelaide SA 5000 / Kaurna Country

✉ s47F [redacted]@sa.gov.au | ☎ s47F [redacted] | 🌐 treasury.sa.gov.au



The Department of Treasury and Finance acknowledges Aboriginal people as the state's first peoples, nations and Traditional Owners of South Australian land and waters. We recognise that their unique cultural heritage, customs, spiritual beliefs and relationship with the land are of ongoing importance today, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging leaders of the future.

Information contained in this email message may be confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional privilege or public interest immunity. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this document is unauthorised.

OFFICIAL

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



Australian Government

**Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**

Ministerial Submission – Standard

MS26-000537

Version (1)

Date sent to MO: 19 May 2026

RECEIVED

21 MAY 2026

To: Minister Butler

Parliamentary Section

Subject: Interim funding arrangements for the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy Research

Critical date: 8 June 2026 to support the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy Research (ABCPTR) by 30 June 2026 to maintain proton therapy expertise for up to 12 months.

Recommendations:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Note the correspondence from the South Australia (SA) Treasurer, seeking further agreement to use up to \$2.5 million of the remaining \$11.2 million in unspent funds from the previous National Partnership Agreement (NPA) to maintain proton therapy expertise at the ABCPTR (Attachment A).</p> | <p>1. Noted / Please discuss</p> |
| <p>2. Agree to the proposed restrictions on the interim funding to prevent breaches of section 19(2) of the <i>Health Insurance Act 1973</i>.</p> | <p>2. Agreed / Not agreed / Please discuss</p> |
| <p>3. Sign the letter to the SA Treasurer, agreeing to the use of a portion of the unspent funds to maintain proton beam therapy (PBT) expertise at the ABCPTR (Attachment C).</p> | <p>3. Signed / Not signed / Please discuss</p> |
| <p>4. Note a further submission will be provided on options to establish PBT capability in Australia.</p> | <p>4. Noted / Please discuss</p> |

Signature

Comments:

Date: 25/05/26

Contact Officer:	Ariane Hermann	First Assistant Secretary, Chronic Conditions and Screening Division	Ph: (02) 5132 4475 Mobile: s47E(c), s47F
------------------	----------------	--	---

Clearance Officer:	Liz Develin	Deputy Secretary, Primary Care, Community and First Nations	Ph: (02) 5132 1788 Mobile: s47E(c), s47F
--------------------	-------------	---	---

Submission summary:

On 30 April 2026, the SA Treasurer wrote seeking agreement to extend interim funding for the ABCPTR to support the retention of key clinical staff and associated operating costs for proton therapy. This includes funding for the Australian Particle Therapy Clinical Quality Registry (ASPIRE) and project resources to manage either the transition of ABCPTR into a South Australian health agency for delivery of a future PBT facility, or the wind down of ABCPTR should the project not proceed.

While the department supports a time-limited interim funding arrangement to preserve national capability while the Australian Government considers its options, any extension should include appropriate safeguards to prevent breaches of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* and should cease once a decision on the future of the PBT project is made. A separate submission outlining options to establish PBT capability in Australia will be progressed once a proposal is received from the Victorian Government.

Issues:

- On 30 April 2026, the SA Treasurer wrote seeking your agreement to repurpose \$2.5 million of the approximately \$11.2 million in uncommitted funds retained by SA Government under the previous National Project Agreement to maintain core PBT clinical capability for a further 12 months (**Attachment A**). The requested amount is slightly higher than the forecast deficit of \$2.3 million identified by the ABCPTR for 2026-27 to provide a small buffer. s47E(d)
- You previously agreed to the release of interim funding to the ABCPTR to support software licensing for comparative planning and staffing costs from December 2024 to December 2025 (MS24-001058 refers). A separate funding arrangement supporting clinical staff and associated capability concludes on 30 June 2026.
- The request from the SA Treasurer is based on ABCPTR's 2026-27 Draft Budget, which assumes \$0.25 million in revenue from the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) for photon-proton comparative planning. While not all Medical Treatment Overseas Program (MTO) applications require comparative plans for PBT, where plans are required, ABCPTR currently performs most of this service, with some also provided by Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.
- Where additional interim Australian Government funding is provided to support comparative planning, ABCPTR must not claim Medicare benefits for those services as this would breach section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*. Section 19(2) restricts Medicare benefits for services already funded by another government sources. As of 11 May 2026, ABCPTR have not made any claims under the established MBS item to date.
- The department has asked ABCPTR to clarify its intention regarding MBS claims and will encourage the organisation to work with SA Government to ensure compliance with Medicare eligibility requirements.

6. The SA Treasurer also proposed a prospective study comparing long-term outcomes of photon and proton radiation therapy as part of the funding to support ASPIRE. ASPIRE was previously funded through philanthropic sources, which have now ceased. s47E(d)
s47E(d)

7.

8.

s47E(d)

A draft response to the SA Treasurer has been prepared for your consideration at **Attachment C**. Once dispatched, the department will work with SA Department of Treasury and Finance to monitor ABCPTR's financials.

9. The department has been considering options to establish PBT capability in Australia, informed by consultations with jurisdiction and Cancer Australia.
10. The department understands the Victorian Government will shortly provide a formal proposal for your consideration. Following receipt and consideration of Victoria's proposal, the department will provide you with a submission on the available options to establish PBT capability in Australia.

Background:

On 7 August 2024, the ABCPTR advised it was experiencing cashflow pressures affecting its ability to continue providing comparative planning services. At that time, comparative planning was required for all MTOP applications to determine eligibility and no MBS item was available for proton-photon comparative planning. On 11 September 2024, you agreed to provide interim funding for up to 12 months from December 2024, in recognition of this national capability (MS24-001058 refers).

A new MBS item (15990) for proton-photon comparative planning services was introduced on 1 July 2025, with retrospective application from 1 July 2024. ABCPTR cannot claim Medicare benefits for periods during which it received government funding for the same services. As at 11 May 2026, no providers have claimed this MBS item.

Governance changes are underway to enable ABCPTR to continue existing services, including comparative planning, while preserving capability and allowing the Government time to consider future PBT options. s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Election Commitments / Budget Measures: The Australian Government committed \$68 million in the 2017-18 Budget to support the establishment of a PBT facility in Australia. All funding has been provided to the SA Government.

Sensitivities:

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

The

department will provide a subsequent submission with its advice on the different options once this proposal is received.

On 4 March 2026, Senator Ruston tabled a petition in the Senate, initiated by s47F s47F with more than 27,000 signatories calling on both Australian and SA governments to establish PBT capability in Australia.

Consultations: SA Department of Treasury and Finance and SA Department of Health and Wellbeing were consulted in the development of this submission.

Communication/Media Activities: Media reporting on the future of PBT has increased in recent months, particularly following proceedings in the Supreme Court of South Australia.

Attachments:

- A: Letter from SA Treasurer – 30 April 2026
- B: Letter from SA Treasurer – 19 February 2026
- C: Proposed response to SA Treasurer

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Ageing
Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Ref No: MS26-000537

The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
 Treasurer
 GPO Box 2264
 ADELAIDE SA 5001
Treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

Dear Treasurer

Tom

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 February 2026 and 30 April 2026 regarding the establishment of proton therapy capability in South Australia (SA), and the proposed extension of funding to the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy Research (ABCPTR).

s47B(a), s47B(b)

The Australian Government recognises the importance of maintaining proton therapy capability while consideration of a future national approach is ongoing. Accordingly, I support your request to provide up to \$2.5 million in interim funding from the previous National Partnership Agreement to ABCPTR for a period of up to 12 months, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. This support is important to retain specialist clinical expertise and enable continued comparative planning activities. While some of this funding may be used to support the Australian Particle Therapy Clinical Quality Registry on an interim basis, it is expected that alternative funding sources will be explored to sustain its operation beyond this period.

I note that the draft 2026-27 Budget prepared by the ABCPTR includes approximately \$0.25 million in projected revenue from the Medicare Benefits Schedule for photon-proton comparative planning. Medicare benefits must not be claimed while interim Government funding is in place, to avoid breaching section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*. I ask that this requirement be clearly communicated to ABCPTR staff and reflected in the grant agreement.

As outlined in your correspondence, the interim funding arrangement would cease once a decision is made on the future of proton therapy in Australia. Should a decision be taken to proceed with a re-scoped project in SA, I would expect any remaining funds from the previous National Partnership Agreement to be used to offset additional Government contributions. I also expect that any recoveries in the United States arising from the Supreme Court outcome would similarly be applied to the project and reduce the need for further Commonwealth funding.

The Government remains committed to working constructively with the SA Government to assess whether a new national proton therapy project at the ABC would represent the most appropriate and sustainable model for Australia. As you are aware, I am also considering proposals from other jurisdictions. I will provide further advice once this process is complete and a preferred approach has been identified.

Yours sincerely



Mark Butler

25 / 05 / 2026

cc: The Hon Blair Boyer MP, SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

OFFICIAL

FAS Brief – May 2026

Proton Beam Therapy

KEY POINTS

- The 2017-18 Budget provided \$68.0 million to support establishment of Australia's first PBT facility at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). This funding was provided in full to the South Australian (SA) Government via a Federation Funding Agreement (FFA) Schedule, with the SA Government subsequently funding SAHMRI to implement the project.
- SAHMRI conducted a procurement process which resulted in the selection of equipment from ProTom International. The Australian Government did not participate in this process.
- There have been significant delays to the project since its inception. This has led to multiple variations to the FFA Schedule to adjust milestones. All payments have been made to the SA Government, in line with the varied FFA Schedule. *Refer to ERD for all questions on the FFA Schedule.*
- The SA Department of Treasury and Finance holds \$11.18m in uncommitted Commonwealth funds from the FFA Schedule:

Allocation of Proton Beam Commonwealth Government funding at 3 April 2025

		\$ million
Total Commonwealth Government funding paid to the SA Government		68.00
Less	<i>Payments to SAHMRI:</i>	
	Proton therapy system payments	(45.83)
	Operational funding for Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy Research (ABCPTR)	(4.84)
	Sustain ABCPTR operations	(1.30)
	Legal funding for ABCPTR – first instalment	(0.10)
Total payments made to SAHMRI		(52.07)
Balance of unspent Commonwealth Government funding		15.93
Less	<i>Commitments funded from repurposing Commonwealth Government funding:</i>	
	Payment to SAHMRI – legal funding for ABCPTR	(2.63)
	Payment to SAHMRI – operational funding for ABCPTR	(2.12)
Balance of uncommitted Commonwealth funding held by SA Government		11.18

- In May 2026, the Australian Government agreed for the SA Government to use an additional \$2.5 million of unspent funds to maintain PBT expertise and capability while a longer-term solution is identified.
- On 6 November 2024, SAHMRI notified the Australian Government that it had terminated its contract with ProTom International due to PTI's failure to deliver against the terms of the contract. SAHMRI subsequently commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of South Australia in 2025.
- In parallel, Dexu Healthcare (building owner of the ABCPTR) also commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of South Australia, s45 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- In February 2026, the SA Supreme Court awarded SAHMRI approximately \$35 million in

OFFICIAL

FAS Brief – May 2026

damages and interest after PTI failed to lodge a defence in the proceeding. PTI is unlikely to pay the awarded amount, having previously filed for bankruptcy in 2015. *Refer to SA Government and SAHMRI for all questions on the Supreme Court proceedings.*

- On 4 March 2026, Senator Ruston tabled a petition with more than 27,000 signatories, initiated by s47F, calling on both Australian and SA Governments to establish PBT capability in Australia. Minister Butler met with s47F in June 2025 and last spoke with her on 6 March 2026.

South Australia

- The SA Government has been investigating potential alternative technology vendors capable of delivering a proton therapy system using the existing infrastructure at the ABCPTR.
- On 31 July 2025, the former SA Treasurer wrote to Minister Butler seeking significant financial support from the Australian Government to secure an alternative proton therapy supplier and meet ongoing operational costs.
- The IBA solution proposed by the SA Government is a 'compact', single-room proton therapy technology that uses a rotating gantry. It is smaller than some traditional PBT technology, but bigger than other compact technology.
- s45
- Minister Butler responded on 8 December 2025, requesting the SA Government undertake further work on its proposal.
- The SA Treasurer replied on 19 February 2026, maintaining their initial offer, which the Minister is considering.
- On 30 April 2026, the SA Treasurer wrote separately to seek agreement to repurpose \$2.5 million from the previous agreement to maintain core PBT clinical capability for a further 12 months from 1 July 2026. The Minister is considering the request.

Victoria

- On 8 July 2025, the Chair of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre wrote to the Minister with a formal proposal to purchase a compact PBT machine under a cost-share arrangement with the Victorian Government. The department has been working closely with the Victorian Department of Health on this proposal.
- On 8 December 2025, Minister Butler wrote to Minister Thomas to understand Victoria's interest in establishing a PBT facility. Minister Thomas responded on 24 December 2025, advising that further information would be available in February 2026. A proposal was received on 28 May 2026.
- The Department is providing advice to the Minister.

Other jurisdictions

- In addition to writing to SA and Victoria, Minister Butler also wrote to respective Health Ministers in New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (QLD) on 8 December 2025 to explore interest in establishing a PBT facility outside SA.
- NSW responded on 9 March 2026, advising they are undertaking a comprehensive Health

OFFICIAL

FAS Brief – May 2026

Technology Assessment on particle therapy due to be completed by 31 December 2026.

- QLD responded on 12 February 2026 noting ongoing review of the Queensland Comprehensive Cancer Centre would inform the project scope, including potential for proton beam therapy.
- The department continues to meet with senior officials from SA, NSW, Vic and QLD to inform advice to the Minister.

BACKGROUND

- Based on the *Strategy for Proton Beam Therapy for cancer patients in Australia*, the annual demand for PBT is estimated at 372 patients in 2025 (65.8% children and adolescent and young adults and 34.2% adults), based on current PBT indications approved by MSAC.
- Other feasible locations for a PBT facility identified in the Strategy include New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. On 8 December 2025, Minister Butler wrote to the respective Health Ministers to understand their interest in establishing a PBT facility.

Medical Treatment Overseas Program

- While PBT is not currently available in Australia, eligible patients who would benefit from PBT over and beyond conventional radiotherapy treatments remain eligible for assessment under the Medical Treatment Overseas Program (MTOP). MTOP funds the costs of overseas travel and treatment for eligible patients.
- Through funding already provided by the Australian Government, the Australian Bragg Centre continues to be supported to maintain existing expertise and to deliver comparative planning services to assess patient eligibility for MTOP.
- As at 16 April 2026, 40 patients have accessed MTOP for PBT in 2025-26. This compares to 35 patients in 2024-25.
- *Refer question to MBDHD for further information on MTOP.*

Proton versus photon therapy

- Compared to conventional (photon beam) radiotherapy, PBT allows greater precision for certain tumours and is particularly beneficial in reducing treatment side effects for paediatric patients.
- In 2020, the MSAC recommended public funding for PBT for specific rare cancers in paediatric, adolescent and young adult, and adult populations, particularly for cancers of the brain, central nervous system, head and neck (application 1638 refers).
- There is growing international evidence that PBT could be an effective treatment for additional cancer types.

Compact versus traditional proton therapy

- Traditional PBT systems use a large rotating gantry, whereas compact PBT systems minimise or eliminate the gantry by using a fixed beam and rotating the patient to achieve the required treatment angles.
- Most compact systems are suitable for most adult cases and some paediatric patients, however they have limitations for children requiring anaesthesia.
- The department and Cancer Australia are consulting with clinical and technical experts to assess whether a compact PBT systems is appropriate for Australia, noting that international experience with this technology remains limited.

OFFICIAL
FAS Brief – May 2026

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Hansard excerpt – 11 February 2026

Attachment B: Hansard excerpt – 9 October 2025

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

From: FAIRHALL, Georgie
Sent: Monday, 19 January 2026 12:49 PM
To: s47E(c), s47F
Subject: FW: 2026-27 Budget - Health Slide Deck [SEC-~~PROTECTED~~]

FYI

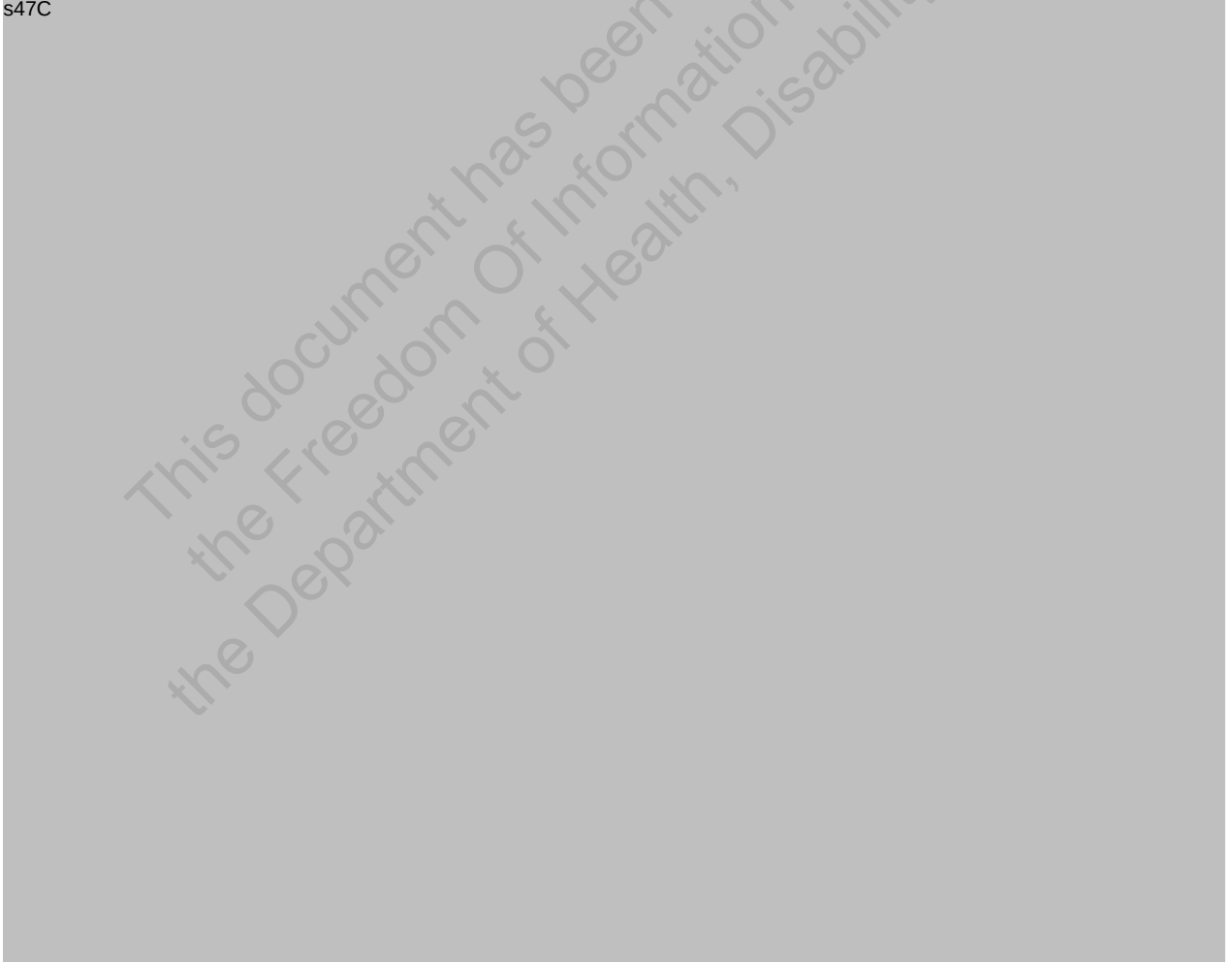
From: HERMANN, Ariane
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 12:48 PM
To: DEVELIN, Liz
Cc: s47E(c), s47F ; PRATT, Jessica ; MITCHELL, Perdi ; FAIRHALL, Georgie
Subject: RE: 2026-27 Budget - Health Slide Deck [SEC-~~PROTECTED~~]

~~PROTECTED~~

Hi Liz

Please see below:

s47C



This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s47C

AH

Ariane Hermann

T: (02) 5132 4475 | M: s47F | E: s47E(c), s47F [@protected.health.gov.au](mailto:s47F@protected.health.gov.au)

~~PROTECTED~~

From: DEVELIN, Liz s47E(c), s47F [@Protected.Health.gov.au](mailto:s47F@Protected.Health.gov.au)>

Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 9:18 AM

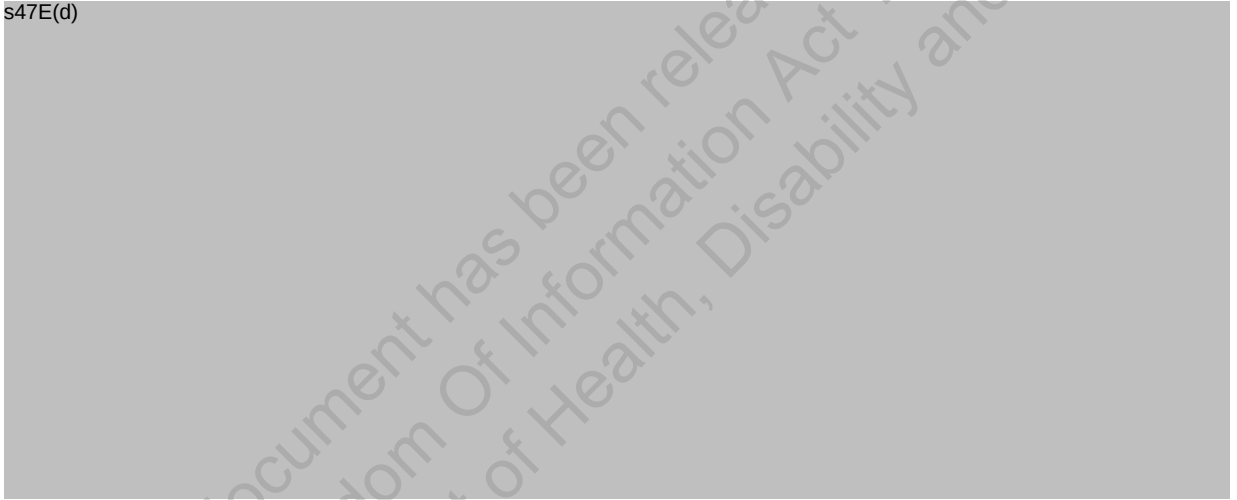
To: PEATT, Anna s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; HERMANN, Ariane s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; PRATT, Jessica s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; RODDAM, Mark s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; MATTHEWS, Gavin <s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; CLANCY, Trish s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: 2026-27 Budget - Health Slide Deck [SEC ~~PROTECTED~~]
Importance: High

~~PROTECTED~~

Hi all,

Two things I need from you all that would assist with the discussions tomorrow with the Minister re budget:

s47E(d)



Can you send through by the latest mid-afternoon, as I will swing by the Sydney Office tonight to sort it all out, then be in Canberra first thing with the Minister.

Liz

~~PROTECTED~~

From: GARRED, Kris s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 8:35 AM
To: Minister Butler DLO s47E(d) @protected.health.gov.au>; s47F s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>
Cc: STREET, Celia s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), @Protected.Health.gov.au>; HAWKINS, Ross s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>;
s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F
s47E(c), s47F @protected.health.gov.au>; BudgetStrategy
s47E(d) @protected.health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F
s47E(c), s47F @protected.health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F
s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; DEVELIN, Liz s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>;
SHAKESPEARE, Penny s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; WILLIAMS, Matthew
s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F
s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F @protected.health.gov.au>;
FISHER, Kelly s47E(c), s47F @Protected.Health.gov.au>
Subject: 2026-27 Budget - Health Slide Deck [SEC ~~PROTECTED~~]

~~PROTECTED~~

Hi, s47E(c), s47F nd welcome back s47E(c), s47F

We have now uploaded the Health Deep Dive slide deck – link below – to support discussions tomorrow morning. Please note the Savings slide deck will follow ASAP this morning.

[2026-27 Budget - Deep Dive Slides](#)

Deep Dive Slide Deck
Deep Dive Slide Deck - Savings
Deep Dive Slide Deck - Health
Deep Dive Slide Deck - Aged Care
Deep Dive Slide Deck - Disability

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Regards
s47E(c), s47F

Acting Chief Budget Officer
Budget Strategy Branch

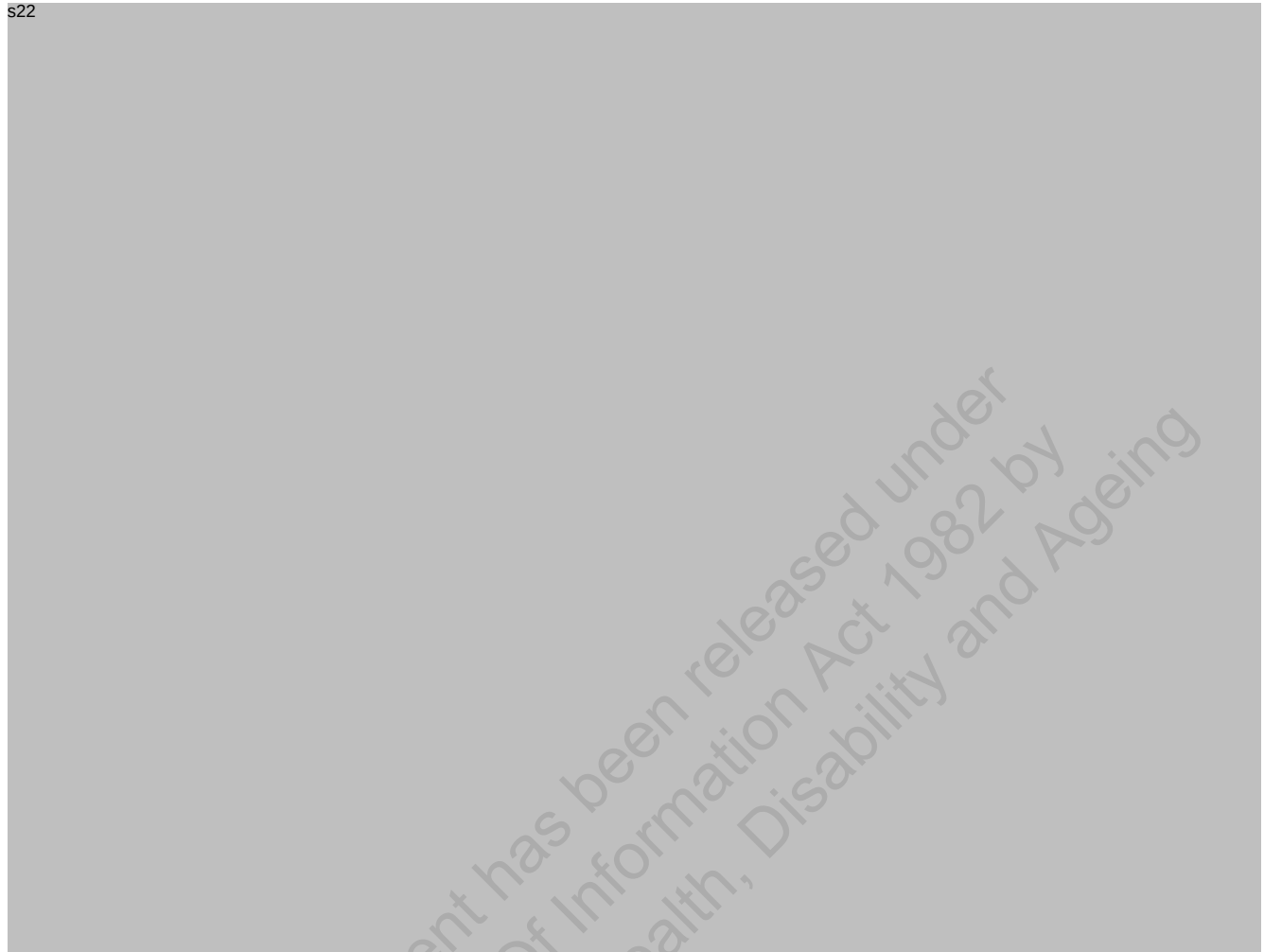
Health Systems Strategy Division | Strategy and First Nations Group
Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
T: s47E(c), s47F @protected.health.gov.au
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

~~PROTECTED~~

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s22



~~PROTECTED~~

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 6:37 PM
To: DEVELIN, Liz ; HERMANN, Ariane ; s47F
Cc: Minister Butler DLO ; s47F ; CALDOW, Melissa ; s47F
Subject: RE: Proton beam therapy update [SEC=~~PROTECTED~~]

PROTECTED

Thanks Liz

Pls see below for MO view of the questions we will need answered over the next few weeks – am sure you are already well advanced on it!!

Questions for CA/Dept:

s47C

Regards

s47F

~~PROTECTED~~

From: DEVELIN, Liz <Liz.DEVELIN@Protected.Health.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 9:05 AM

To: s47F <@Protected.Health.gov.au>; HERMANN, Ariane

<Ariane.HERMANN@Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47F

s47F <@Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47F

s47F <@Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47F

s47F <@protected.health.gov.au>

Cc: Minister Butler DLO s47E(d) <@protected.health.gov.au>; s47F

s47F <@Protected.Health.gov.au>; CALDOW, Melissa

<Melissa.Caldow@Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47F

s47F <@Protected.Health.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Proton beam therapy update [SEC-~~PROTECTED~~]

~~PROTECTED~~

Thanks ^{s47F} – we can make that timing work from our end.

^{s47F} – we'll liaise with you and the team, and the MO and resolve!

Cheers
LD

~~PROTECTED~~

From: ^{s47F} @Protected.Health.gov.au

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 8:50 AM

To: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Protected.Health.gov.au>; ^{s47F}

^{s47F} @Protected.Health.gov.au; ^{s47F}

^{s47F} @Protected.Health.gov.au; ^{s47F}

^{s47F} @protected.health.gov.au

Cc: Minister Butler DLO ^{s47E(d)} @protected.health.gov.au; ^{s47F}

^{s47F} @Protected.Health.gov.au; DEVELIN, Liz

<Liz.DEVELIN@Protected.Health.gov.au>; CALDOW, Melissa

<Melissa.Caldow@Protected.Health.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Proton beam therapy update [SEC-~~PROTECTED~~]

~~PROTECTED~~

Thank you all

There's been a suggestion here that we aim for the briefing with minister in week of 15 June to allow sufficient time.

I'm happy to be guided by the group on best date, but think we'd need the sub a few days ahead of the briefing.

And we have a few more questions as a result of office discussion last night. I will send them asap.

Rgds

^{s47F}

Sent from [Workspace ONE Boxer](#)~~PROTECTED~~

On 26 May 2026 at 5:16:53 pm AEST, HERMANN, Ariane
 ?<Ariane.HERMANN@Protected.Health.gov.au>? wrote:

~~PROTECTED~~

Thanks Jamie – yes – we’ve got a brief that’s not far off what you are asking for ready, will work with CA this week to get a slide deck for Minister to accompany.

AH

Ariane Hermann

T: (02) 5132 4475 | M: ^{s47F} | E: ariane.hermann@protected.health.gov.au

~~PROTECTED~~

From: ^{s47F} @Protected.Health.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:09 PM
To: ^{s47F} @Protected.Health.gov.au; HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Protected.Health.gov.au>; ^{s47F} @Protected.Health.gov.au; ^{s47F} @protected.health.gov.au
Cc: Minister Butler DLO ^{s47E(d)} @protected.health.gov.au; ^{s47F} @Protected.Health.gov.au
Subject: RE: Proton beam therapy update [SEC-~~PROTECTED~~]

~~PROTECTED~~Hi ^{s47F}

On it.

Yes ^{s47F} and I both in CBR next week. ^{s47F} is your best contact to wrangle the diary.

^{s47F}

~~PROTECTED~~

From: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@Protected.Health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 4:51 PM
To: HERMANN, Ariane <Ariane.HERMANN@Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47F [redacted]
 s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@Protected.Health.gov.au>; s47F [redacted]
 s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@Protected.Health.gov.au>
Cc: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@protected.health.gov.au>; Minister Butler
 DLO s47E(d) [redacted] <[redacted]@protected.health.gov.au>
Subject: Proton beam therapy update [SEC ~~PROTECTED~~]

~~PROTECTED~~

Hello all

The MO is expecting a formal proposal this week from Victorian Government.

This follows the 4 page briefing note that Peter Mac provided to me on 15 May which I have forwarded.

s47C [redacted] as soon as possible and would like a face to face discussion next week. s47F [redacted] – I'm assuming that you will be in Canb for Senate estimates so we should aim for a meeting then. I've copied s47F [redacted] to look for a suitable date/time.

I am going back to Peter Mac this afternoon with questions on their briefing note while we await the formal Vic Govt proposal.

s47C [redacted]

As always, happy to refine the above based on discussions.

Rgds

s47F [redacted]

~~PROTECTED~~

[SEC-~~PROTECTED~~]

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing