



**EMBARGO 7.30PM**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Additional Funding for Diagnostic Imaging**

ADIA (the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association) welcomes the increase in patient rebates for diagnostic imaging services provided for in the Budget.

Dr Ron Shnier, President, commented that “it’s the first time in more than a decade that the Government has recognised the underfunding of diagnostic imaging services and the need for improved patient access. We appreciate that there has been a high level of collaboration with us by the Government and look forward to this continuing as we review opportunities to further improve patient access to diagnostic imaging services.”

“Although the additional funding is less than is needed, we recognise that any improvement is significant in light of the current global and national economic crisis.”

“We are pleased that this Budget has taken the first steps towards addressing affordability and access for all patients and we look forward to continuing to work with the Government in implementing much needed reforms to further enhance outcomes for patients and the profession.”

When this Government took office the rebates for diagnostic imaging services were about the same or less than they were over 10 years ago – they had not been indexed and this has led to many recent practice closures in communities that can ill afford to lose such a critical service.

Patient access to diagnostic imaging services including, x-ray, ultrasound, CT, PET and MRI, is key to:

- Early detection of disease;
- Certainty of diagnosis;
- Avoidance of invasive surgery;
- Guidance for investigatory surgery; and
- To target and monitor treatment plans for specific conditions – especially for the staging and treatment of cancers.



The package of initiatives announced in the Budget increases Government funding for diagnostic imaging services by 4.8%, and together with the expected ongoing growth in demand for diagnostic imaging services of 6-7% per annum, represents an overall increase in annual funding of over 10%.

ADIA supports the Government's announcement of funding for 15 diagnostic imaging training places over the next four years, in addition to the 6 already funded.

ADIA will continue to campaign for additional funding and for annual indexation of patient rebates for diagnostic imaging services in line with the Government's policy for other Medicare services to provide certainty for investment.

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