

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## Labor's Budget reply: welcome news for cancer patients

The Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA) has welcomed Opposition Leader Bill Shorten's commitment that a Labor Government will spend \$600 million over four years to reduce out-of-pocket radiology costs for cancer patients.

The commitment announced in the Budget Reply includes:

- making MRI scans for cancer patients more affordable by tripling the number of MRI scanners eligible to perform Medicare-funded MRI for cancer (from around 200 to almost 600 MRI scanners around Australia); and
- increasing Medicare rebates for radiology services relied upon by cancer patients, to make these essential services bulk-billable.

"Having cancer is stressful enough without the added anxiety of high out-of-pocket costs for radiology services," said Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA) President **Dr Siavash Es'haghi**.

"This commitment is good news for cancer patients as it will make a substantial difference to the out of pocket costs that Australians with cancer are currently facing.

"If Labor is elected, ADIA looks forward to working with the new Government on the details of this measure."

All patients diagnosed with cancer need at least radiology service, for diagnosis and staging cancers, planning surgery, and monitoring the success of treatment.

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