

QUEENSLAND HEALTH

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Review of Radiation Oncology Health Program Grants (ROHPG) Scheme.

In summary, the ROHPG scheme, should not only be maintained but strengthened, for the following reasons:

- Radiation Oncology Health Program Grant (ROHPG) funding has been instrumental in providing patient access to modern, up-to-date radiation oncology equipment.
- Modern equipment allows for advanced techniques, aimed at improving cure and reduced side effects.
- The quarantining of HPG funding, rather than having this as part of general MBS revenue, is a critical enabler for equipment renewal.
- The ROHPG program should be enhanced, to ensure that it stays up-to-date with incremental changes in both function and cost of equipment.
- To help ensure the delivery of safe and high quality radiation oncology services, ROHPG funding could be linked to a facility's compliance with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologist's Radiation Oncology Practice Standards.

The ROHPG scheme contributes to funding Qld Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) in replacing or upgrading eligible high-cost radiation oncology equipment in both the public and private sector to ensure patients were not being treated on out-dated equipment. These funds must be quarantined by HHSs/facilities for this purpose as per the ROHPG guidelines.

Eligible equipment includes (but not limited to):

- Linear accelerators
- Radiation therapy planning systems
- Radiation Oncology Information Management Systems

Technology advances and cost variations for replacement equipment are not incorporated in the capital component. It must be acknowledged that during the lifespan of equipment (currently 10 years), technological evolution is exponential and currently facilities are required to fund the variation in costs. The value of the capital components should be reviewed regularly in line with these technological advances.

Funding could be linked to Radiation Oncology Practice Standards and we suggest a pro-rata rate associated directly to the level of compliance a facility has to the standards.

Current billing practices within Oncology Information Systems in Radiation Oncology facilities have been set up to manage ROHPG, however if complexities are introduced, facilities will require time to modify processes to implement any changes.