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Infrastructure SA Discussion Paper

To whom it may Concern,

Re: PET-CT imaging facilities in the Southern Adelaide region: an unmet need

I am writing as the Clinical Lead for Lymphoma services at Flinders Medical Centre and Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN), and to submit my request and support to install an on-site PET imaging at FMC.

PET-CT is an established mode of staging in both Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and is currently an internationally recognised standard of care for the detection of residual disease and remission status. It is also as a sensitive detection tool for relapsed and refractory disease. Many clinical decisions including method of treatment and chemotherapy and radiotherapy prescription are based on information provided on PET imaging.

Flinders Medical Centre is a large tertiary hospital servicing a population of greater than 450,000 people in the greater South Adelaide community. There are at least 10 new patients per month diagnosed with lymphoma, and all these patients will receive all treatment and surveillance in Flinders.

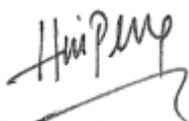
There has been a single PET imaging facility located at the Royal Adelaide Hospital since 2001, and RAH received a second PET scanner in 2017. Since then there have been two further available PET scanners in the private imaging sector: however both of these are located within a 500m radius of the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

I believe this highlights the inequality of access to standard of care in the management of cancer based on geography alone, and ultimately disadvantages the patients in the Southern Adelaide region.

Currently all southern patients requiring PET studies for the treatment of their lymphoma will travel to the City (and therefore off site) to have this done. This also includes inpatients, whereby stable patients will be transferred out of hospital in an ambulance for this to be performed. However, sick and unstable patients who have been newly diagnosed with an aggressive lymphoma (which is precisely the population where PET is mandatory as standard of care) cannot be transported safely off site to undergo PET imaging. This, I believe, is completely unacceptable and should be rectified in order to maintain equity of care throughout all of Adelaide.

I therefore write to highlight this inequality and for SA to consider provision of this vital service to the Southern Adelaide area.

Yours sincerely



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