

A WIN FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

The Federal Government has allocated \$63 million to build 13 radiation therapy treatment centres across regional Australia.

WHAT IS RADIATION THERAPY?

A proven cancer treatment, radiation therapy uses high energy radiation to destroy cancer cells or slow their growth. It helps treat cancerous tumours into remission and is also widely used to ease pain, bleeding and distress in patients with terminal cancer.

Radiation therapy can be used alone or in combination with other cancer treatments, which can lead to better results for patients. Often, it is the combined efforts of proven treatments that saves a life.

WHY DO MANY AUSTRALIANS MISS OUT ON RADIATION THERAPY?

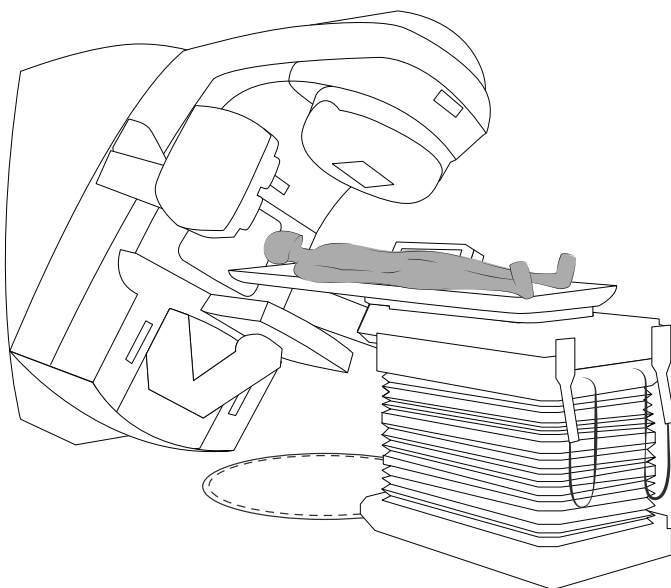
The key barrier for many Australians has not been cost or effectiveness, but a lack of access.

Distance from a treatment centre has been one of the biggest contributors to the underuse of radiation therapy in Australia – and nowhere is this more evident than in our regional communities.

For some regional communities, the nearest radiation therapy centre is hundreds of kilometres away, requiring hours of travel on a regular basis. It is an exhausting process no patient wants to endure.

That's why only **one in three** cancer patients in Australia receive radiation therapy.

That number should be **one in two**, in line with clinical evidence and guidelines.



Studies show that radiation therapy contributes to 40% of all cancer cures worldwide.

Radiation Oncology Targeting Cancer

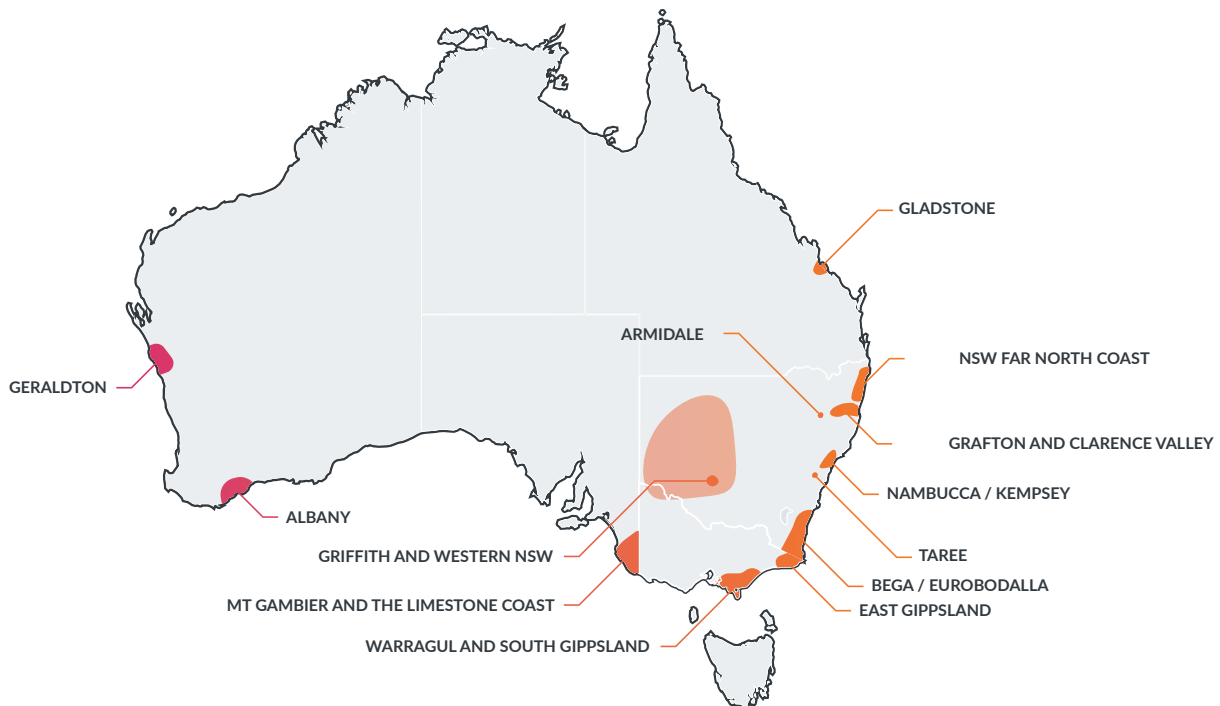
HOW DOES A LACK OF ACCESS AFFECT PATIENTS?

It can mean lower survival rates, avoidable surgeries, long distance travel and weeks spent away from home. Many rural and regional cancer patients may not even be told that radiation therapy is an option. Having no local treatment centre has a dramatic impact on doctors being able to recommend the best treatments.

Regional patients need to know about all treatment options and deserve the same treatment choices as patients in other parts of the country.

HOW HAS THE GOVERNMENT RESPONDED?

In early 2019, the Federal Government committed \$63 million to develop radiation therapy centres in 13 regional locations that have significant populations but are hours away from the closest treatment centre. With this commitment, cancer patients for whom radiation therapy was out of reach will receive local access to the highly effective treatment, one that is also less expensive and invasive than surgery.



Planning and development of the centres will take some time. Meanwhile, it is important that our doctors, health professionals and patient networks know more about radiation therapy and its benefits.

Let's spread the word about radiation therapy and ensure more Australians receive treatment.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY LEARN MORE?

For more information on radiation therapy:

- Visit radiationtherapy.org.au and subscribe to the e-newsletter.
- Like our Facebook page [@regionalradiationtherapy](https://www.facebook.com/regionalradiationtherapy)
- Speak to your local medical professionals to find out if radiation therapy is the right treatment for you or a loved one fighting cancer.



The Radiation Therapy Advisory Group (RTAG) is an advisor to government and the community on radiation therapy and associated health policy issues. Since its inception, it has focused on highlighting the lack of radiation therapy in much of rural and regional Australia.