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## MEDIA RELEASE

NATASHA FYLES  
MINISTER FOR HEALTHNatasha Fyles  
Minister for Health

## PET Scanner takes major step forward with \$5 million fast-tracked

20 November 2016

Health Minister, Natasha Fyles, today announced \$5 million dollars for this financial year to help kick-start the Northern Territory's PET scanner project.

She said the \$20 million PET Scanner project, which includes a \$15 million commitment in federal funding, will ramp up in the 2017/18 financial year.

"The Territory Labor Government believe locals should be able to receive this type of medical treatment in Darwin rather than travel interstate – this is why we are committed to this project," she said.

"There has been a lot of talk about this project - even some scepticism about whether it would happen – but this \$5 million in fast tracked funding shows we are actually making it happen.

"The CLP promised a PET Scanner for many years but did not deliver – today is a big step forward in bringing this important project to reality for Territorians."

Ms Fyles said the \$20 million will pay for:

- The purchase of a PET Scanner (which does imaging to help experts diagnose diseases)
- Associated equipment including a cyclotron (a machine used to make radioactive atoms that can be used for medical imaging)
- The development of a facility to house the equipment
- Expansion of capacity at the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre to boost chemotherapy chairs

"This project will expand cancer services in the NT but, importantly, it will also create around 100 jobs – it's a key part of our infrastructure plan," she said.

"It's one of a number of significant projects we are fast-tracking to support business – we have listened to their concerns about the slowing economy that we inherited and have taken action."

Minister Fyles said Government was listening to the business community and fast-tracking election commitments such as the PET Scanner to help create jobs.

The design briefs are being established as part of the Royal Darwin Hospital master plan.

The scanner is expected to be operating in 18 months.

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