



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Petition

Registration No:	33
Title:	Radiation Oncology Unit for Royal Darwin Hospital
Presented on:	23 June 2006
Presented by:	Dr Lim
Referred To:	Health (Toyne)
Response due:	19 October 2006
Response received:	12 October 2006
Response presented:	17 October 2006

Petition

Radiation Oncology Unit for Royal Darwin Hospital

We, the undersigned respectfully showeth our great sense of betrayal by the Northern Territory Government, that it has broken its election promises of 2001 and 2005 to develop a Radiation Oncology Unit at the Royal Darwin Hospital.

Your petitioners do humbly observe that the Member for Solomon, David Tollner, has secured a Commonwealth contribution of \$13 million and other recurrent funding for the development and operation of a Radiation Oncology Unit at the RDH.

Your petitioners further humbly observe that while the Northern Territory Government continues to delay the development of the oncology unit, Territory cancer patients suffer the indignity of having to travel interstate for treatment or make the choice to stay home in the Territory and deny themselves of radiotherapy treatments.

Your petitioners do humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory urge the Northern Territory Government to accept the Commonwealth Government's offer of assistance and proceed with the development of the Radiation Oncology Service without any further delay.

Cancer patients do not have the time to wait.

Response

The Territory Government has promised to build a high quality, safe and sustainable radiation oncology unit in Darwin. We are delivering on that promise. We have commissioned and received expert advice, received Expressions of Interest from major interstate provider(s), and approached the Australian Government to seek their support as they have a fund to assist States and Territories to set up and run these expensive units.

The Australian Government has now made a commitment of an initial \$13 million towards the cost of the unit. The Territory Government has welcomed this, while noting that the total cost to set up and run a radiation oncology service in Darwin is estimated to be close to \$50 million over five years.

Negotiations with the Australian Government are progressing, and proposed timelines have been released. These negotiations are a significant step towards Territorians being able to access life saving treatments while remaining in the Northern Territory.

I attach a copy of the recent media release regarding the development of radiation oncology services in Darwin.