

Campbelltown Hospital treats cancer patients with advanced radiation therapy system

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Frank Raymont, 77, with oncologist Allan Fowler, is treated with the new advanced radiation therapy treatment machine. Picture: Melvyn Knipe *Source:* News Corp Australia

CAMPBELLTOWN Hospital is the first centre in Australia to begin treating patients with an advanced radiation therapy treatment machine.

The new Elekta Versa HD radiation therapy system means the Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre can increase its capacity to treat more cancer patients.

The first patients were treated yesterday.

The upgrade is part of the \$134 million redevelopment of the hospital, which will provide expanded health services to meet the growing needs of the region.

The hospital's pathology laboratory was also the first department to begin operating from the new Acute Services Building this week.

Radiation oncology director Dr Dion Forstner said more than 500 cancer patients who were treated with radiation therapy at the centre each year would now receive advanced treatment.

"This new technology gives much better imaging of patients during their treatment to really focus on their tumours," he said.

"This is less invasive than surgery, and allows us to treat areas that are difficult to access through surgery, like the liver or lungs."

Dr Forstner said the centre was expecting a 30 per cent increase in cancer patients due to an ageing and growing population in the Macarthur region.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner joined politicians to inspect the facilities this week.

"This upgrade has come just at the right time, with the number of clinical chemistry and haematology tests performed almost doubling in the last four years," Mrs Skinner said.

The Acute Services Building is due to be completed by December.

HOSPITAL UPGRADE

- The first cancer patients were treated with new radiation therapy system
- The pathology laboratory move into the new Acute Services Building last week