

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Anita Dow MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

My constituent from Burnie is asking this question on behalf of cancer patients right across the North West. The North West has a very high incidence of cancer and there is considerable burden placed on patients and their families who must travel to Launceston for diagnostic imaging, including PET scans. Can the Minister advise when the people of the North West Coast can expect access to a PET scan locally, and what steps are being taken to address this inequity?

ANSWER:

The Tasmanian Health Service have advised me that PET scanners require highly specialised Nuclear Medicine Technologists, a workforce that is currently in short supply across Australia. In light of the specialised workforce requirements and the complex, high-cost nature of PET technology, scanners are purposefully concentrated within designated centres to maximise system-wide efficiency, strengthen workforce capability, and support sustainable, high-quality service delivery across the health system.

At present, I am advised that Tasmania has a level of PET scanning capacity that generally aligns with a population of its size and health needs.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 15/6/26