



AANMS congratulates new Labor health team and calls for urgent re-indexation of nuclear medicine funding

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The Australasian Association of Nuclear Medicine Specialists (AANMS) welcomes the appointment of the Hon Mark Butler MP as Minister for Health and Aged Care, and the Hon Ged Kearney MP as Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care.

“AANMS has valued its engagements with Mr Butler and Ms Kearney in the past, particularly around theranostics, a rapidly evolving field combining nuclear medicine diagnosis and therapy,” said AANMS President, Associate Professor Sze Ting Lee.

For the coming term of government, AANMS hopes to see progress on improving the access and affordability of nuclear medicine treatment for patients. Re-indexation of nuclear medicine on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) would be an important development in this regard.

“AANMS acknowledges that MBS re-indexation is a crucial step towards securing Australia’s nuclear medicine sector. This funding is now well overdue after a 23-year freeze, and we urge the new government to restore indexation for nuclear medicine MBS items,” said Associate Professor Lee.

“To solve the more complex issues of cost-effectiveness and sustainability facing the sector, the new government will need to consider strategies for developing a sovereign nuclear medicine industry, a highly skilled workforce and a vibrant research and innovation environment,” she added.

In addition to working with Mr Butler and Ms Kearney on making nuclear medicine a practical treatment option in Australia, AANMS will seek to engage their ministerial colleagues on the preconditions for a strong and sustainable Australian nuclear medicine sector.

“AANMS looks forward to engaging across the new ministry to ensure Australia’s nuclear medicine profession is supported by local supply chains and workforce pipelines, as well as world-leading nuclear science infrastructure and research centres,” said Associate Professor Lee.

About AANMS

The AANMS is a peak body representing medical practitioners working in the field of nuclear medicine diagnosis and therapy. It works to promote and advance the clinical practice of nuclear medicine, which can be used to both diagnose and treat patients with a range of health conditions including the leading causes of death in Australia; cancer, dementia, heart and lung diseases; as well as renal, endocrine and paediatric disorders.

Together with government and other stakeholders, AANMS is working to build a strong and sustainable nuclear medicine sector in Australia in order to optimise health outcomes for Australia patients.

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