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PROVISION OF PET/CT FOR FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

I am writing regarding the need for a Positron Emission Tomography – Computed Tomography (PET-CT) at Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) to service the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN).

- Broad applications – Oncology, Cardiology, Neurology, Immunology
- Mainly used in Oncology
- PET-CT considered part of standard of care worldwide in Oncology imaging
- Proven cost effectiveness in the evaluation of a number of cancers (evaluation of solitary pulmonary nodules, staging of lung cancer, lymphoma, recurrent colorectal cancers and Head and Neck Cancers)
- These cancers are managed at FMC
- FMC is a large tertiary hospital servicing > 450,000 people in the broader SALHN community
- Population growth and aging community with rising incidence of cancer in SA – increasing demand on PET-CT services
- South Australia has had a single public PET facility at RAH since 2001
- RAH received 2nd PET-CT in 2017
- Now 4 PET-CTs in SA (2 public and 2 private), all within a 500m radius of the new Royal Adelaide
- Marked disparity in provision/ access to PET-CT across the local health networks within SA – all within CALHN region and none in SALHN region
- Lack of an onsite facility at FMC can result in delayed diagnosis and initiation of treatment
- An onsite public PET-CT service at FMC would provide some equality of access to healthcare for patients in the Southern Region.