



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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DELAYS COST NEWCASTLE CANCER PATIENTS

Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson says the Howard Government must come clean on last night's *7.30 Report* allegations of scientific fraud in relation to a report into Medicare funding for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) cancer scans.

The Government has repeatedly relied on this report to delay a decision on Medicare funding for vital cancer scans for patients around Australia, including those at the Mater Hospital.

"Instead of action, the Government decided to conduct yet another review - and even this second review was supposed to be assessed last year," Ms Grierson said.

"Meanwhile, people in our region still have to go to Sydney to get a Medicare funded PET scan."

"The Hunter region has the highest prostate cancer death rate in New South Wales, and cancer overall is our third biggest killer."

"We have a PET scanner at the Mater Hospital that has the potential to make diagnosis, identification and early treatment plans much more efficient for patients."

"But too few have access to it."

"The Government must come clean on last night's allegations and explain why Newcastle patients have waited so long for a decision on Medicare funding for the Mater PET scanner."

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