

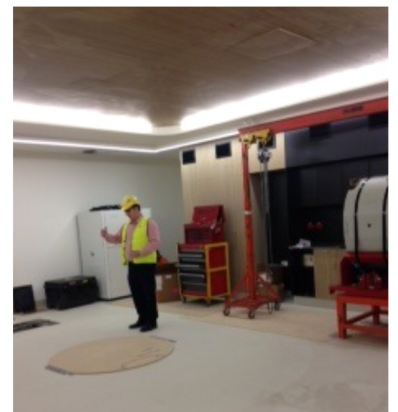
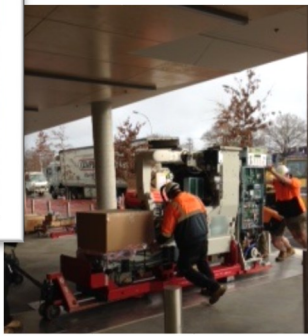
AWRCC Update

July 2016

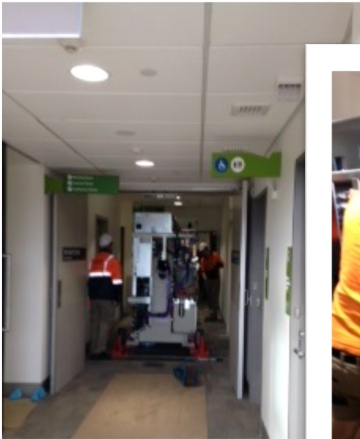
Keeping you in the loop

The \$4.5 million linear accelerator arrived with much fanfare on Wednesday—If you ever wondered what \$4.5million of radiotherapy machine looks like and how it was delicately moved into the bunkers where it will live, these photos tell the story:

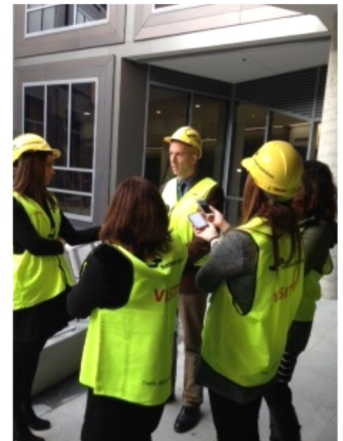
Slow and steady.....



Don't scratch the new paint...



Briefing the Media...



BORDER MAIL ARTICLE 30 June 2016

Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre receives brand new Truebeam radiotherapy machine

NEW radiation therapy equipment on the Border will mean free and quicker treatment for cancer patients.

The Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre is the first provider north of Melbourne to order a new Truebeam linear accelerator. It will increase capacity from 40 patients per machine a day to 60. Tradesmen pushed the heavy \$4.5 million piece of technology through the centre on Wednesday. A similar machine began operating two years ago at the Murray Valley Radiation Oncology Centre, which will move to the cancer centre.

Albury Wodonga Health chairman Lou Lieberman expected the new building would be operational by September. He said about 17,000 radiation treatments would initially take place each year for free, funded by Albury Wodonga Health. "I'm pretty excited to be honest, it means more people will get this state of the art treatment," Mr Lieberman said.

"I've had people who have slept in cars because they couldn't afford accommodation with treatment, we have moved a long way from those days."

The accuracy of the Truebeam will reduce side effects and allow doctors to perform radiation therapy on breast cancer.

Physicist Warren Teye said it was able to monitor five steps ahead of its current position, so it wouldn't stop and hold up treatment. "These machines have state-of-the-art imaging which means when patients breathe, particularly when the cancer is near the lungs, the doctor can track where the cancer moves during the breathing process," he said.

"Then the doctor can determine the optimal time in the breathing process to target the cancer." Radiation oncologist Craig MacLeod said the machine could halve treatment times meaning less discomfort for patients, who lay still on the machine. "This is a major upgrade, there are not many Truebeam machines in Australia," he said.

Radiation oncologist Eddy Ong said the Murray Valley centre treated about 400 cancer patients each week.

"We are one of the busiest centres in the country and we have a huge catchment area," he said.

"Being close to home they will have more support from family and friends and can still live their life around appointments without having to travel."

Tahlia McPherson