



Office of the Mayor Frank Carbone



In reply please quote: A5917285

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PROVISION OF FULL LICENCED MRI MACHINE IN FAIRFIELD CITY

I am writing to request that an MRI imaging machine with a full licence be made available in the Fairfield local government area (LGA). This is necessary to address the access and equity issues faced by the residents of Fairfield City.

Currently there are no MRI machines with a full licence in the Fairfield LGA, meaning that if residents require certain types of scans they must travel to Liverpool or Parramatta or pay large amounts. This limits access to residents and places additional stress on people who are already facing health challenges.

According to the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2021 the Fairfield LGA became the most disadvantaged area in NSW – more disadvantaged than remote and rural areas of the State. The health outcomes for Fairfield City are also among the lowest in NSW and unemployment is consistently and significantly higher than other areas.

Fairfield City is the most multicultural LGA in Australia, with residents speaking more than 120 different languages. Approximately 56% of residents were born overseas and 70% speak a language other than English at home (2021 Census).

The 2021 census showed that 24% of residents do not speak English well or at all which is 144% above NSW average. This has implications for building health literacy and consumer empowerment. Language proficiency and being born overseas are key metrics relating to the ability of individuals to successfully navigate a highly complex health system and service. Often this results in people not receiving the services required.

Nearly all local government areas in Western Sydney have fully licenced MRI machines, but Fairfield City has none. Our residents have less capacity to pay, less capacity to travel and less capacity to understand the systems, they deserve better access to proper, adequate diagnostic services located in our community.

In the interest of equity, fairness, improved health outcomes and a reduction in barriers to navigating the health system I ask that a fully licenced MRI machine be made available in the Fairfield LGA as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Carbone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FRANK CARBONE
MAYOR OF FAIRFIELD CITY

11 April 2024