



**Office of the Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care**

Ref No: MC24-005771

Mr Frank Carbone
Mayor of Fairfield City Council
fcarbone@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, seeking full Medicare eligibility for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines in the Fairfield local government area. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Albanese Government is committed to improving access to health services so that all Australians can have access to health care, when and where they need it. The 2024-25 Budget provides a \$2.8 billion investment in Medicare. It builds on the \$6.1 billion investment to strengthen Medicare from the 2023–24 Budget.

In the 2024-25 Budget, the Government announced that it will remove the final barriers to access MRI machines. From 1 July 2025, any practice location that holds a current licence will receive a 'practice-based' licence that provides full Medicare eligibility to all MRI equipment located at the practice. From 1 July 2027, all comprehensive diagnostic imaging practices will have their ineligible MRI machines upgraded to access all Medicare funded MRI services and no other location or partial eligibility rules will apply. This will make MRI tests cheaper and more available, reduce waiting times and help to prevent people being referred for less appropriate tests.

I understand that Fairfield has two MRI machines with partial licences (one at Lumus Imaging Fairfield and one at Superscan at Fairfield Heights). I am pleased to inform you that from 1 July 2025, these MRI machines will have full eligibility.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Firth'.

Clare Firth
Acting Chief of Staff

30/05/2024