

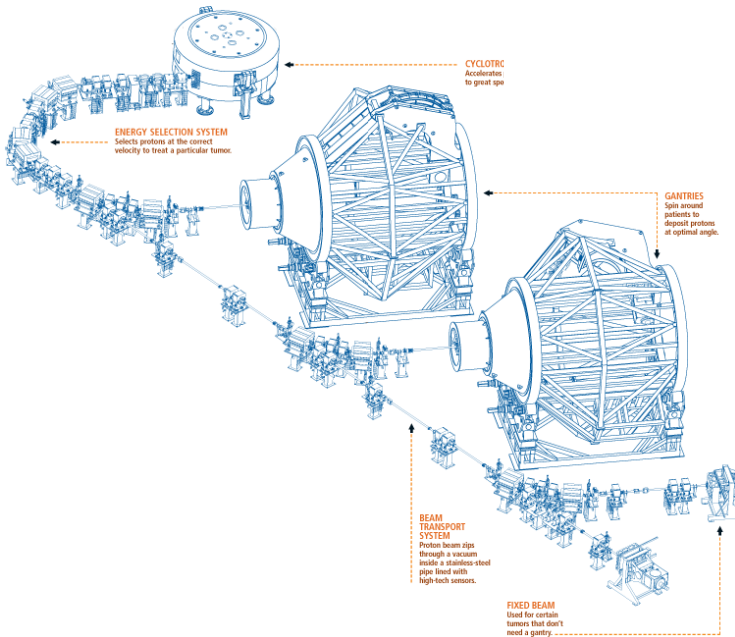
# For Families



The Hon Jill Hennessy MP  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Ambulance Services

## What is Proton Beam Therapy?

*Proton beam therapy is one of the most cutting edge treatments available in the fight against cancer. As an alternative to traditional radiation therapy, proton beam therapy can target cancer cells with increased precision and accuracy with less damage to surrounding healthy tissue and fewer side effects.*



*The treatment works by splitting positively charged protons off a hydrogen atom, these protons are accelerated to roughly two-thirds the speed of light and then beamed to target the patient's cancer cells.*

*Proton therapy is particularly beneficial in the treatment of certain hard to reach cancers in children, tumours of the eye, base of skull and para-spinal tumours. As knowledge around this new treatment increases, PBT is being used for a wider range of cancers such in head and neck, brain and spinal, prostate, lung, gastrointestinal and breast.*

## A National Centre for Proton Beam Therapy

*We have invested \$2 million to help plan and develop a National Centre for Proton Beam Therapy at the VCCC. The National Centre will undertake both clinical treatment and world class research. It will bring together experts in research and cancer treatment at the Peter Mac Cancer Centre and the University of Melbourne.*

*There are currently no proton therapy facilities in Australia or South East Asia. This commitment will bring one of the most technologically advanced treatments for cancer to Australia and represents a significant step forward in the fight against cancer.*

