

## Radiation Therapist

### What does a Radiation Therapist Do?

Radiation Therapy is the treatment by radiation (mostly x-rays) of malignant and benign disease. This is performed to cure disease, to alleviate the symptoms and signs of disease, as a primary treatment method, in combination with other treatment strategies, to improve quality of life, for research

The Radiation Therapist is required to provide the radiation oncologist with an informed opinion about the optimum radiation therapy procedure for each patient, and the welfare and quality of life for patients undergoing radiation therapy treatment. The Radiation Therapist is concerned with the physical, functional, emotional, social and spiritual quality of life (well-being) of their patients. The Radiation Therapist is responsible for the well-being of patients whilst they are in their care

### What do I study to become a Radiation Therapist?

- Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Radiation Therapy) – University of Newcastle
- Master of Radiation Therapy – University of Sydney
- Bachelor of Applied Science - Medical Radiation Technology (Radiotherapy Technology) – Queensland University of Technology
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Radiations) - Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University
- Bachelor of Medical Radiation (Radiation Therapy) – University of South Australia

### A day in the life of a Rural Radiation Therapist

Because of the complexity of equipment and staff required currently the only rural radiation oncology centres are in Newcastle, Canberra, Wollongong, and Albury-Wodonga- most their centres are in large cities like Sydney. Therapists treat patients for between 1 – 8 weeks depending on the reason for treatment. They work initially to establish a treatment strategy for each patient, and then provide the daily ongoing treatment using highly specialised equipment. Radiation Therapists work as part of a multi-disciplinary health care team with radiation oncologist, other medical specialists, nurses, and medical physicists, to provide the best treatment and support available

### Career opportunities

- Clinical positions in private and public hospitals
- Upper level management roles such as Chiefs or Directors of services
- Higher Education and Research roles

### What sort of person should I be?

- Willing to work as part of a multidisciplinary health care team
- Good decision maker
- Good communicator
- Be kind and caring
- Be comfortable with computers and new technologies