



696/1133

**The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Health**

The Hon John Murphy MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your representations of 19 September 2012 as Chair of Standing Committee on Petitions regarding a petition seeking an expedited Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) assessment for public funding of CyberKnife cancer treatment.

There is already a Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) general item (No. 15600) for patients receiving Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS). The delivery of SRS with CyberKnife can be claimed now under this item.

MSAC is considering an additional MBS item specifically for CyberKnife. This application (Application 1158) was considered by the Evaluation Sub-committee on 12 October 2012, the last step before the proposal may be considered by MSAC. As such, the assessment process is nearing its conclusion.

The assessment report summarising the clinical and economic evidence, and a Public Summary Document containing MSAC's advice and the rationale for that advice, will be published on the MSAC website. The MSAC website will continue to be updated to reflect the application's progress, and ultimate consideration for public funding by government. The website is at www.msac.gov.au.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Plibersek

26.10.12