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New name to lead Australian radiology



Incoming ADIA President Dr Siavash Es'haghi

The new head representing Australian radiology practices has signalled that he will continue to pressure the Federal Government to ease the “significant cost burden” being endured by patients and providers around the country.

Queensland-based radiologist Dr Siavash Es'haghi has been named as President of the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA). Dr Es'haghi is the founder of Sunshine Coast Radiology and the Managing Director of Central Queensland Radiology.

“Medicare rebates for radiology services haven’t been indexed since 1998. That’s almost 20 years of inaction by successive governments, which is putting significant pressure on practices and their patients,” he said.

“For ADIA, our focus is on helping our members in their efforts to deliver high quality imaging in what is a very tight and difficult financial environment.

“We are committed to maintaining access to world-class medical imaging services for all Australians and we’re going to keep reminding the Government that it has to play its part.”

Dr Es'haghi takes over from Dr Christian Wriedt, who had been President since 2014.

“I am proud of what we have achieved over the past few years, particularly in terms of elevating the understanding of radiology as a critical part of healthcare and also in getting the Federal Government to commit to indexing radiology rebates prior to the last election,” Dr Wriedt said.

“However, we still face some enormous challenges. The Government broke that promise, exacerbating decades of inaction on Medicare rebates for radiology and further compromising affordability and accessibility for patients.

“Radiology saves lives. It’s too important to be too expensive and we won’t rest until Canberra recognises this by indexing rebates.”

ADIA represents radiology practices throughout Australia, both in the community and in hospitals. It promotes the ongoing development of quality accreditation standards and appropriate funding settings so that Australians can have affordable access to quality radiology services. This supports radiology’s central role in the diagnosis, treatment and management of a broad range of conditions in every branch of medicine.

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