

# Licensed MRI's for medical imaging at CHQ

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The Radiology Department of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH) in South Brisbane opened on November 29, 2014. Prior to this there were 2 paediatric MRI licensed machines held at the Royal Children's Hospital and Mater Children's Hospital sites. As part of the transition to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital there was only one licensed MRI provided to service the paediatric population of Queensland.

There has been a significant increase in MRI activity since opening LCCH. As the only tertiary medical imaging service for paediatric patients in the state, an additional MRI license will enable the service to offer comprehensive paediatric expertise to the wider community of Brisbane and regional Queensland.

We have a demonstrable need to request an additional license for the Radiology Department of LCCH supported by many factors including the following:

1. **Patient Demographics:** The LCCH is the only hospital campus in the state to provide pediatric tertiary level critical care, medical, oncology and surgical care to the large pediatric population of Queensland including those chronically ill and socially disadvantaged. LCCH is also the primary centre for MRI scanning of children requiring the study under general anesthesia (GA). Currently the waiting lists for children to have an MRI under GA are a number of months.
2. **Health Service Integration:** The LCCH provides extensive pediatric subspecialty care within the one campus, including medical imaging. Other hospital systems from around the state ultimately refer complex tertiary level pediatric patients to LCCH for medical work up, diagnosis and treatment that often require medical imaging and assessment with MRI.
3. **Geographical:** The LCCH is located close to the geographic centre of south east Queensland. This location provides access for pediatric patients located within the most densely populated region of Queensland.
4. **Radiation sensitivity:** MRI is increasingly used to image children to reduce their exposure to other imaging modalities that utilize ionizing radiation, such as Computed Tomography (CT).
5. **Currently the licensed 3T MRI undertakes all of the non-general anaesthetic cases for the paediatric population, usually patients aged between 5 and 16 years of age. Previously with the 2 separate hospital licenses, the 1.5T MRI was licensed for general anaesthetic cases. The loss of the license limits the service for young patients aged less than 5 years of age who require a general anaesthetic for MRI. The provision of a license for the 1.5T would allow investment in the workforce to meet current demand for GA MRI's for paediatric patients throughout Queensland.**



The LCCH Radiology Department philosophy is to provide the highest quality comprehensive tertiary paediatric radiology service available. All of the paediatric radiologists have undergone advanced postgraduate fellowship training that allows them to provide the highest quality paediatric subspecialist service to the paediatric population of Queensland and their referrers. This has been impacted by the reduction in the availability of licensed MRIs for the paediatric population.