

Opening statement

Senators, I'd like to briefly take this opportunity to highlight one project ANSTO is undertaking that has the potential to make a significant improvement to healthcare in Australia.

Neuro-endocrine cancer is estimated to affect about 35 out of every 100,000 people. You might be familiar with it as the debilitating condition that afflicted Steve Jobs, the late founder of Apple.

I am very proud to be able to say that subject to regulatory approval, next year, ANSTO Health will be producing a radioisotope known as Lutetium-177 at our Lucas Heights campus. Clinical trials show that Lutetium-177 therapy has been very successful in treating some sufferers of this cancer.

ANSTO is building a production facility from our own resources using proven technology from our German partners, Isotope Technologies Garching. Because of its ability to work with a number of antibodies and peptides that target tumours in the body, Lutetium-177 is also a valuable tool for clinical research into a range of other cancer therapies.

As well as becoming an important global provider of nuclear medicine through our nuclear medicine project, we are very excited to be driving this project that we anticipate will provide a treatment option for thousands of cancer sufferers in the years to come and help make Australian clinicians leaders in this field.

I am happy to take your questions...