THE SENATE

PETITIONS

Brain Tumours

PROCEDURAL TEXT

Tuesday, 12 November 2013

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE
Brain Tumours

To the Honorable President and members of the Senate in Parliament assembled: The petition of the undersigned shows:

That each year in Australia approximately 1400 people are diagnosed with a primary malignant brain tumor and many others develop a so-called "benign" brain tumor, or metastases (secondary's) to the brain from another cancer elsewhere in the body.

That the diagnosis of a brain tumor can have a devastating effect on the individual and their caregivers because of the often poor prognosis and that brain tumors are the only cancer to affect both a person's mental and physical capacities.

That brain tumor patients and their caregivers require special attention within the health system, bearing in mind that these tumors cannot be screened for or detected early, nor prevented by lifestyle changes, and can randomly affect the young and old, male or female.

Your petitioners request that the Senate:

1. Urgently provide funding for the creation of positions of brain tumor care coordinators who will be able to assist the patient during their journey with a brain tumor;

2. Provide for the rapid evaluation - and approval and subsidisation where appropriate - of new therapies which are available to brain tumor patients overseas but not yet available in Australia.

3. Dramatically increase the amount of research funds available for the study of brain tumors and ways of providing better support for patients and their caregivers.

4. Enable all brain tumor patients to be informed of the availability of clinical trials and provide them with easy access to these trials if they so wish.

5. Acknowledge that all children returning to school after treatment for a brain tumor have special needs and require the services of clinical psychologists and associated therapists working in liaison with teachers and parents. This assistance should be subsidised and automatically offered to all parents after the child has received treatment.

By Senator Ryan (from 714 citizens).

Petition received.