On 15 May, the green light was given to Stage 2 of the $79.8 million Nelune Comprehensive Cancer Centre (NCCC) and Scientia Clinical Research (SCR) formerly the Australian Advanced Treatment Centre, at Prince of Wales Hospital.

The NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research Jillian Skinner and NSW Minister for Planning Pru Goward were joined by NSW Minister for Family and Community Services and Member for Vaucluse Gabrielle Upton MP for the announcement.

The Department of Planning and Environment granted planning approval to Stage 2 after Health Infrastructure put in place additional measures to mitigate potential impacts on surrounding heritage buildings, car parking and noise, which were raised during the public exhibition phase.

The NCCC will bring together a range of ambulatory, outpatient and radiotherapy services currently provided across eight sites on the Randwick Hospital Campus.

The SCR - a facility of the University of New South Wales Australia - will promote NSW as a premier location for clinical trials and provide an opportunity for fast-tracking new medical discoveries.

Announcing the go-ahead, Minister Skinner, said construction of the NCCC and SCR would bring hope to many.

“As well as delivering innovative treatment and care to patients suffering cancer and blood disorders, the NCCC and SCR will create an environment in which some of our brightest minds will undertake the vital research needed to unlock the secrets of these diseases,” Minister Skinner said.
Stage 1 of the project

Completion of the main areas for Stage 1 of the Nelune Comprehensive Cancer Centre (NCCC) occurred in August. Radiation oncology (radiotherapy) treatments will be delivered from the new facility in November, once the new radiotherapy linear accelerator machines have been commissioned.

The new state-of-the-art radiotherapy linear accelerator machines were delivered at the end of June.

Stage 2 of the NCCC and Scientia Clinical Research (SCR) project will house the full range of comprehensive cancer services as well as the state’s first facility for early phase clinical trials and research facilities for testing drugs, tests and devices.

The project team are in the process of tendering Stage 2 of the works, which will include demolition of the existing Radiation Oncology building, as well as excavation and construction of a new building to house the NCCC and SCR.

The award of a contract for Stage 2 is expected to be announced in early November, with works commencing in late 2014.

Stage 2 of the NCCC and SCR project is scheduled for completion in 2016.

Project facts

- The Stage 1 construction includes over 2,300 cubic meters of reinforced concrete
- The Stage 2 construction will include over 9,700 square metres of new floor area

Progress achievements – timeline

- Milestones achieved
  - August 2012 – early works commenced
  - March 2013 - award of stage 1 works
  - May 2013 - early works complete
  - July 2014 – stage 2 tender issued
- Future milestones
  - Late 2014 - award stage 2 of the works
  - Late 2014 – stage 1 scheduled for operation
  - 2016 – stage 2 scheduled to be complete

The main areas for Stage 1 of the Nelune Comprehensive Cancer Centre takes shape with the new radiotherapy linear accelerator machines and awaits the transfer of the existing Radiation Oncology services to the new facility.
Australian Advanced Treatment Centre now Scientia Clinical Research

After careful consultation with its key stakeholders, UNSW Australia has changed the name of The Australian Advanced Treatment Centre (AATC) to Scientia Clinical Research.

The term ‘Scientia’ reflects the facility’s commitment to the promotion of all intellectual and practical scholarship, building knowledge based on demonstrable and reproducible data, and as such, was considered a stronger representation of the core business of the facility.

In her honour - Nelune Rajapakse and the Nelune Foundation

Following her cancer diagnosis in 2000, Nelune Rajapakse was compelled to give something back to the community, and hence co-founded the Nelune Foundation.

Named in her honour, the Nelune Comprehensive Cancer Centre at Prince of Wales Hospital, will be built through the generous donation of $5 million by the Nelune Foundation over five years.

Ms Rajapakse said the centre is unique with research and cancer services all in the one building.

“The Centre offers multiple services in the one building, and will be one place that patients won’t have to go from area to area, as they will be all be treated in the one area. The researchers are also close to the treatment areas and the patients will receive the benefits from this association,” Ms Rajapakse said.

Now in the second stage of its development, the Centre will include world-class research centres, and will bring all outpatient cancer services, including radiotherapy services, into one facility than various sites across the Randwick Hospitals Campus, which encompasses Prince of Wales Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Women and Sydney Children’s Hospital.

“I am thrilled to be involved with this significant project, and indeed very grateful and humbled at the building being named in my honour,” she said.