

MEDIA RELEASE

1 in 8 Western Australian men likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer

During Seniors Week, Western Australian men are reminded that age is one of the main risk factors for prostate cancer.

During Seniors Week (22-29 October), the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is encouraging all men aged over 50 to regularly talk to their doctor about prostate cancer.

Data collected in 2004 by the Western Australian Cancer Registry* indicates that an estimated one in eight WA men can expect to be diagnosed with prostate cancer before the age of 75. In fact, in 2004, 1,501 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed, making it by far the most common male cancer in WA.

In Western Australian men aged between 40 and 64, 593 cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed and 21 men lost their life. Of WA men aged 65 and over, 907 cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed and tragically 185 men died.

These startling statistics highlight the fact that age is one of the main risk factors for prostate cancer and that men, particularly those aged over 50 should make talking to their doctor about prostate cancer a priority.

Mr Andrew Giles, Chief Executive Officer of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia says that men over 50 should realise prostate cancer is something that can happen to them.

"It's important for Western Australian men, particularly those aged over 50 to recognise prostate cancer as an important health issue and address it with their doctor because, if detected in the early stages, prostate cancer is often treatable and curable. However, diagnosis is often delayed because there are very few symptoms in these early stages.

"This is why we encourage men, particularly those aged over 50, **not to wait until they experience symptoms**. Be proactive and make talking to your doctor about prostate cancer a priority on your check-up check-list. It's a simple step that could save your life," said Andrew Giles.

For more information about prostate cancer, talk to your GP or contact the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia by phoning its toll free number, 1800 22 00 99, or visit www.prostate.org.au

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** The Western Australian Cancer Registry – Cancer incidence and mortality in Western Australia, 2004 (Published May 2006)*

MEDIA CONTACT

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