

MEDIA RELEASE

Under Embargo

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Groundbreaking three-year partnership to tackle prostate cancer

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) and the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP) have agreed to a landmark three-year research partnership aimed at accelerating clinical trials and advancements in prostate cancer treatment.

The announcement will be made at the Parliamentary Big Aussie Barbie in Canberra this Thursday (October 10, 2024), with Deputy Prime Minister The Hon. Richard Marles MP, Minister for Health The Hon. Mark Butler MP, Minister for Education The Hon. Jason Clare MP, and Opposition Leader The Hon. Peter Dutton MP among the guests in attendance.

Four-time Logie winner and PCFA Ambassador, Hugh Sheridan, will also join the announcement. Sheridan lost his father Denis to prostate cancer in 2021.

The research collaboration will build on a long-standing relationship between PCFA and ANZUP, who have co-funded clinical trials since 2015. The new partnership underscores PCFA's commitment to innovative research, supported by the PCFA Prostate Cancer Future Fund, which was established in 2022 to drive national investment in prostate cancer research.

ANZUP, formed in 2008, has spearheaded groundbreaking clinical trials including the proPSMA, TheraP, ENZAMET and #UpFrontPSMA projects, transforming prostate cancer treatment in Australia and internationally.

"This new partnership will see ongoing expansion of clinical trials focused on improving survival rates among Australians, particularly for those with advanced and aggressive forms of prostate cancer," said ANZUP CEO, Associate Professor Samantha Oakes.

The announcement comes as new data from the AIHW has revealed prostate cancer now accounts for 16% of all cancers diagnosed in Australia.

"This is a game-changing partnership that will significantly improve survival prospects for Australian men diagnosed with prostate cancer, while continuing our work to ensure that those impacted by the disease do not have their lives destroyed by treatment," said Adjunct Associate Professor Steve Callister AM, Chairman of PCFA.

"With more than 26,000 men expected to be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, this research has never been more important – we are paving the way for breakthroughs that will save lives."

The first tranche of funding under the agreement will involve \$1.2m for clinical trials to try and improve survival outcomes for men with the deadliest forms of prostate cancer.

"I wish my dad could be here today to celebrate this announcement," said Hugh Sheridan, who has just released an album of songs recorded with his late father Denis, titled 'Something Big'.

"We never thought we'd lose my dad to prostate cancer. As an ambassador for PCFA I want men and families to know that we can't afford to be complacent about this disease, that our efforts to raise awareness do make a difference, and that research and clinical trials can save lives.

"This collaboration between PCFA and ANZUP is a brilliant duet and I'm very proud to play a part in making sure Australians support it."

ANZUP's portfolio of prostate cancer clinical trials is world leading and has helped to establish new standards of care locally and internationally, including the Medicare listing of PSMA PET/CT scanning for men with prostate cancer.

"Research is our most powerful tool in the fight against prostate cancer, and this partnership will fuel the advancements needed to change lives," said Associate Professor Oakes.

The research collaboration will commence in 2025, bringing fresh hope to the 250,000 Australian men who have survived prostate cancer and to many more who are still fighting the disease.

For more information, call 1800 22 00 99 or go to www.pcfa.org.au.

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Statistics

- Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia and the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Australian men.
- 26,368 Australian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2024.
- 3,901 Australian men will die from prostate cancer in 2024.
- Around 72 Australian men are diagnosed each day with prostate cancer, and around 11 Australian men will die each day from the disease.
- 250,958 Australian men are alive today after a diagnosis of prostate cancer.
- Between 1982 and 2018, five-year relative survival for prostate cancer improved from 58% to 95.8%.
- Prostate cancer is the 2nd most common cause of death from cancer in Australian men, behind lung cancer.
- Prostate cancer causes an estimated 13% of all male deaths from cancer in Australia.
- The estimated risk of a man being diagnosed with prostate cancer by age 85 is 1 in 5.
- Men living in regional or rural areas of Australia have approximately 24% higher rate of dying from prostate cancer than their urban counterparts.

About ANZUP

ANZUP is the leading cancer-cooperative clinical trials group that brings together all of the professional disciplines and groups involved in researching and treating urogenital cancers and conduct high quality clinical research. ANZUP identifies gaps in evidence and areas of clinical need, collaborates with the best clinicians and researchers in urogenital cancer and communicates frequently and effectively with the broader community along the way. ANZUP receives valuable infrastructure support from the Australian Government through Cancer Australia.

About PCFA

PCFA is Australia's leading community-based organisation for prostate cancer research, awareness, and support. PCFA's vision is a future where no man dies of prostate cancer and Australian men and their families get the support they need, reducing the burden of prostate cancer for all Australians by mobilising the community to drive research, prevention and early detection, improved treatment, and world-class psychosocial care. Our focus is to be Australia's leading charity fund for Australian-based prostate cancer research; to protect the health of existing and future generations of men in Australia; and to improve quality of life for Australian men diagnosed with prostate cancer and their families.