

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Thursday, 27 April 2017

GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER \$6 MILLION FOR PROSTATE CANCER NURSES

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad MP is happy to announce that the Mildura Base Hospital has been chosen as one of 15 locations across Australia to receive funding for a full-time prostate cancer nurse.

Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer affecting men, with over 16,000 Australians expected to be diagnosed this year and although it has a 95 per cent five-year survival rate, more than 3,000 men die from it each year.

The Government is providing The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia \$6 million in funding for 14 full-time nurses through to 2019-20, to support men with prostate cancer.

“It is great to see this funding being used to support a prostate cancer nurse position in the electorate of Mallee. Too often people from our local communities, suffering from cancer and other illnesses are forced to travel long distances for appointments” Mr Broad said.

“Men diagnosed with prostate cancer often see a range of health care professionals over a length of time, including urologists, general practitioners, radiologists and allied health staff. Having the opportunity to be able to seek support locally takes a lot of the financial and emotional stress off the shoulders of the patients and their families”.

The program has been in operation since 2014 and these nurses are on track to assist around 4,000 men and their families by September 2017.

These nurses will provide:

- vital information, care and support for both patients and their families, as well as health care professionals within a multidisciplinary team;
- improved access to specialists and services;
- coordination of care from diagnosis onwards; and
- continuity of care for patients throughout the entire cancer journey.

Being diagnosed with cancer is one of the most confronting health issues any individual can face. Prostate cancer nurses are there to provide compassionate care to the men suffering from prostate cancer and their families as they fight this disease.

“This funding will see benefits into the future for the region. This level of care being available locally will result in better outcomes for individual’s physical and psychological well-being, their families and our broader community”.

ENDS