

Supporting PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses

A guide for GPs, medical specialists, physiotherapists and other health professionals

Prepared by Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA), September 2026

BACKGROUND

The Australian Government has decided to stop funding the PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Program from 30 June 2027. The decision was announced without consultation with PCFA, the nurses or the health services that host them.

PCFA has built this specialist service over nearly 15 years. Under the decision, prostate cancer care would move to a generalist, all-cancer nursing model run by the McGrath Foundation.

Our ask: that the Government continues funding PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses from 1 July 2027 through to 30 June 2032, so men with prostate cancer keep access to dedicated specialist care.

Many GPs, medical specialists, physiotherapists and other health professionals have asked how they can help. This guide provides you with a range of options.

WAYS YOU CAN ASSIST

Every option below helps. Local clinicians speaking about local patients carry real weight with decision-makers.

Option	What it involves	Time	Public profile
Share your experience with PCFA	A short statement on what your local Specialist Nurse makes possible (see next section)	15 min	None, unless you agree
Sign and share the supporter campaign	Add your name at https://pcfa.org.au/dayofaction and share the link	5 min	Low
Write to your federal MP	Use the template letter in this guide, adding a local example	30 min	Private letter
Write to the Minister for Health	Use the template letter in this guide	30 min	Private letter
Raise it with your professional body	Ask your college or association (for example, your RACGP faculty or APA branch) to add its voice	15 min	Low
Speak to local media	A letter to the editor or an interview with your local paper or radio	1 hr	Public
Support PCFA's Big Aussie Day of Action	Join or share PCFA's Big Aussie Day of Action on Thursday 15 October 2026	Varies	Your choice

If you are employed by a public health service, check your employer's policy on public comment before taking the public options. Sharing your experience privately with PCFA is always open to you.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Please email a short statement to enquiries@pcfa.org.au by **Friday 9 October 2026**, with the subject line **Clinician support – [your town]**. Statements may be used in PCFA's representations to the Minister and parliamentarians, in media and in campaign materials, in line with the consent you choose.

What to include (100–250 words)

- Your role and where you practise (for example, "GP, Mount Gambier")
- What the Specialist Nurse does for your patients: coordination, education, continence and pelvic health support, emotional support, keeping men on track through treatment
- What difference it makes to your work, such as faster referrals or fewer gaps in care
- What you think would be lost without a dedicated prostate cancer specialist nurse

Please do not include any names, dates or details that could identify a patient.

Tell us how we may use it

Add one of these lines to your statement:

1. You may use my name, role and location.
2. You may use my role and region only (for example, "a GP in regional South Australia").
3. For PCFA's internal use and representations only; please do not publish.

KEY DATES AND CONTACT

Date	What
Friday 9 October 2026	Clinician statements to PCFA
Thursday 15 October 2026	The Big Aussie Day of Action
30 June 2027	Current Commonwealth funding ends

Questions: email enquiries@pcfa.org.au or call PCFA on 1800 22 00 99.

Thank you. Your support helps make sure no man faces prostate cancer without specialist care.



TEMPLATE LETTER: YOUR FEDERAL MP

Find your MP at aph.gov.au. A letter in your own words, with one local example, is far more persuasive than a copy of this one. Adapt freely.

[Your name]

[Role, practice or clinic]

[Address]

[Date]

[MP's name]

Member for [electorate]

[Electorate office address]

Dear [MP's name],

Keep specialist prostate cancer nursing care in [town/region]

I am a [GP / physiotherapist / other role] in [town], and I am writing about the Government's decision to stop funding PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses from 30 June 2027.

In my practice, the region's local PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse is a vital part of care for men with prostate cancer. [Add one or two sentences from your experience, for example: helping men understand treatment choices, coordinating care between specialists, or managing continence and other side effects close to home.]

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australian men. Specialist nurses bring expertise that a generalist model cannot easily replace, particularly in regional communities where specialist services are limited.

I ask you to raise this with the Minister for Health and to support continued funding for PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses from 1 July 2027 through to 30 June 2032.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]



TEMPLATE LETTER: MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Send to The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing. You may also copy your local federal MP. Adapt freely and add your own example.

[Your name]

[Role, practice or clinic]

[Address]

[Date]

The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Ageing
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
minister.butler@health.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Continued funding for PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses

I am a [GP / physiotherapist / other role] practising in [town, state]. I am writing to ask you to reconsider the decision to stop funding PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses from 30 June 2027.

Men with prostate cancer in my community rely on the specialist knowledge of our local Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse. [Add one or two sentences from your experience, for example: guiding men through complex treatment decisions, supporting continence and sexual function after treatment, or linking GPs, specialists and allied health.]

This service has been built over nearly 15 years. Losing a dedicated prostate cancer specialist would leave gaps in care that are hard to fill, especially outside the major cities.

I urge the Government to continue funding PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses from 1 July 2027 through to 30 June 2032.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]