



Frequently Asked Questions

The Big Aussie Day of Action for PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses

OUR POSITION

Specialist nurses save lives. PCFA is calling on the Australian Government to continue funding PCFA's Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Service through to 30 June 2032. Built over 15 years, our national service and clinical networks cannot be replicated – and they support the more than 300,000 Australian men living after a prostate cancer diagnosis.

THE DECISION

What has the Government decided?

The Government will not renew Commonwealth funding for PCFA's Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Service when the current grant agreement ends on 30 June 2027. It intends to move the funded positions into the broader all-cancer Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program from 1 July 2027. The decision was made without consulting PCFA, our nurses or the men they care for.

Is the service still running?

Yes. The current agreement remains in force until 30 June 2027, and men and families will continue to receive care as usual.

Which nurses are affected?

The Commonwealth-funded component supports 96 Specialist Nurses in 80 positions at 79 sites nationally – 60.5 full-time equivalent roles. It sits within a national service of 131 PCFA Specialist Nurses, the rest funded by community, philanthropic, industry and health-service partners. Those partner-funded positions are not directly affected, but losing the Commonwealth-funded component would weaken the reach, scale and infrastructure the whole national service relies on.

What happens to the nurses after 30 June 2027?

We don't yet know. The Government has indicated the positions will become 'all-cancer' roles, but PCFA has not been given details about individual positions, host-site arrangements, workforce transition, clinical governance, or how continuity of care will be protected. PCFA Specialist Nurses are employed by health services and private treatment centres, so each nurse's future depends on decisions and agreements that have not yet been made. Our nurses were not consulted, and we are concerned many may choose to leave – taking years of specialist expertise out of the health system.

WHY SPECIALIST NURSES CAN'T BE REPLACED

Why does prostate cancer need specialist nurses?

More than 300,000 Australian men are living after a prostate cancer diagnosis. Many face complex treatment decisions and long-term effects on continence, sexual health, relationships, mental health, work and family life – including a 70% increased risk of suicide. These needs continue for months and years after initial treatment. Specialist nurses help men and their families manage them over time.



What makes PCFA's service different?

PCFA Specialist Nurses have disease-specific expertise across the whole course of prostate cancer: diagnosis, treatment, side effects, sexual and urinary health, psychological wellbeing, survivorship, advanced disease and end-of-life care. Their practice is guided by PCFA's world-leading Practice Framework and Model of Care, developed over 15 years and backed by ongoing professional education.

PCFA's is the only national specialist nursing service dedicated to men with prostate cancer. The all-cancer model focuses on patients during initial hospital-based treatment – it is not designed to support men in the months and years that follow.

Why can't the nurses simply be transferred?

Because moving the positions doesn't move the model of care. PCFA Specialist Nurses work within an integrated national network – linking multidisciplinary teams, clinicians, clinical networks, professional associations, health services and consumer groups – coordinated by PCFA as Australia's leading community-based organisation for prostate cancer research, awareness and support. Take away that network and its professional development pathway, and the standard of care goes with it.

Our nurses have trained extensively to reach the highest level of specialisation. Converting their roles into generalist all-cancer positions, without equivalent professional development, dilutes that expertise and puts experienced nurses at risk of leaving the workforce.

Is PCFA opposed to all-cancer nursing and navigation?

No. PCFA supports investment in cancer nursing and navigation. But expanding general cancer services should not come at the expense of established, evidence-based specialist services. Australia can strengthen broader cancer nursing and keep specialist prostate cancer care.

COST AND VALUE

Would keeping PCFA's program cost more?

No. The Government has allocated \$46.5 million over five years for the replacement arrangement. Based on PCFA's 2025–26 actual expenditure, indexed for forecast wage and price growth, continuing the existing program would cost significantly less each year over the same period – while paying every PCFA Specialist Nurse at or above Award rates, with full entitlements.

Why is PCFA's model better value?

Because it already works. The service is fully established, with 131 Specialist Nurses in place nationally, a proven Model of Care, and national training and clinical governance already running. Continuing it avoids set-up, recruitment and transition costs, and our program management costs and overheads are lean. Replacing a working national service means paying to rebuild capability Australia already has – and risks losing experienced nurses along the way.

How was the estimate calculated?

The estimate covers the full funded workforce of 60.5 full-time equivalent Specialist Nurses at 79 sites, including positions that are currently vacant. Workforce costs were indexed using Australian Government Wage Price Index forecasts, and other costs using Consumer Price Index forecasts. The model holds the current service scope constant, assumes a GST-consistent, like-for-like comparison, and excludes expansion, transition and one-off costs.

THE BIG AUSSIE DAY OF ACTION

What is The Big Aussie Day of Action?

A national day of remembrance, celebration and action on **Thursday 15 October 2026**. We're asking Australians to remember the men we've lost to prostate cancer, celebrate their lives, and call for PCFA's Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Service to continue.



How can people take part?

Anywhere, in any way. Supporters are invited to gather at home, at work, with friends, or at community venues, sporting clubs and health services – raising a glass to those we love and those we've lost. On the day, we'll ask Australians to email Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and their local Federal MP; PCFA will provide templates to make this easy.

A media event will be held at Parliament House in Canberra. Registration is essential and Parliament House entry requirements apply.

What is PCFA asking the Government to do?

- Reverse the decision and renew direct Commonwealth funding for the service through PCFA from 1 July 2027 to 30 June 2032.
- Protect PCFA's specialist nursing workforce and Model of Care.
- Consult genuinely with patients, nurses, clinicians, host health services and PCFA.

What can MPs and Senators do?

Attend the Parliament House event; meet nurses, patients and families; raise the issue with the Health Minister and party colleagues; seek transparent information about the decision and transition; and publicly support continuation of PCFA's specialist service.

Is this a partisan political campaign?

No. Prostate cancer affects families in every electorate. PCFA is inviting Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum to support a practical solution that protects specialist care.

Isn't the campaign scaring people?

No. The decision to defund a trusted specialist nursing service is what has created fear and uncertainty. Men living with prostate cancer deserve an honest account of what is at stake: the loss of nurses who understand the disease, its treatments and its lifelong impacts. We will always communicate responsibly, but we won't play down the consequences of dismantling a 15-year standard of care. Speaking plainly is not scaremongering – it is standing up for patients, families and the nurses they rely on.

Is the campaign against another charity or its nurses?

No. The campaign is about the Government's funding decision. PCFA will not criticise nurses working in broader cancer roles or diminish the value of other cancer nursing services.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Can PCFA Specialist Nurses speak publicly about the campaign?

We ask nurses to follow their employer's media, social media and workplace policies, along with any PCFA guidance as the campaign develops.

Where can people get support?

Men and families can continue to contact PCFA on 1800 22 00 99 or at pcfa.org.au. PCFA has also given its Specialist Nurses and their families access to our free Employee Assistance Program. If you or someone you know needs support now, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Where will updates be published?

PCFA will publish confirmed information, campaign materials and participation details at pcfa.org.au and email supporters and subscribers directly. Please rely on these updates rather than unconfirmed reports.

CONTACT 1800 22 00 99 | pcfa.org.au | enquiries@pcfa.org.au

Cost figures are indicative estimates based on PCFA's 2025–26 Performance Report and Australian Government economic assumptions. They assume a GST-consistent, like-for-like scope and exclude expansion and transition costs.