

AUSTRALIA



# BRIDGING THE GAP

## Sustaining Excellence and Innovation in Prostate Cancer Care in Australia

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Australia** has one of the most advanced prostate cancer care systems globally, with high survival rates driven by robust screening initiatives, cutting-edge treatment availability, and strong research capacity. National guidelines, widespread public awareness, and equitable access to core services underpin its **Level 4 – Advanced** maturity status. Remaining challenges include addressing disparities for rural and Indigenous populations, ensuring affordability of the latest therapies, and sustaining innovation in survivorship care.

This policy brief examines the current landscape and identifies strategies to maintain leadership while closing remaining equity gaps.

### INTRODUCTION

#### High-Performing but Still Unequal

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Australian men. With a survival rate exceeding 90% at 5 years, outcomes are among the best in the world. Universal health coverage ensures that most patients can access diagnostics and treatment, while research organizations like the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) drive awareness and policy advocacy.

However, men in remote areas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities still face late diagnoses and worse survival outcomes, highlighting the need for targeted interventions within a high-performing system.



**Australia Ranks at Level 4 – Advanced Prostate Cancer Maturity Framework**



# PROSTATE CANCER IN AUSTRALIA

## Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	PSA testing is widely available through primary care; men make informed choices with GP guidance; early-stage diagnosis is common.	National awareness campaigns and GP-led risk discussions.	Expand culturally tailored awareness programs for Indigenous communities and fund outreach to remote areas.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Widely available in both public and private sectors; genomic profiling increasingly integrated into clinical practice.	Strong research capacity and integration into care pathways.	Subsidize next-generation biomarker tests under Medicare for broader accessibility.
Treatment Access	Comprehensive range of treatments, including robotic surgery, IMRT, stereotactic radiotherapy, and novel hormonal therapies, is available; public and private systems ensure broad coverage.	Universal health coverage with strong specialist networks.	Increase outreach services and tele-oncology in remote areas to ensure equitable access.
Clinical Guidelines	National guidelines updated regularly with strong adherence across healthcare settings.	Evidence-based and widely implemented.	Continue regular updates, integrating latest evidence from global trials.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Well-developed survivorship programs, psychosocial support, & palliative care integrated into cancer centers; survivorship frameworks guide follow-up care.	National survivorship resources supported by PCFA and Cancer Australia.	Expand rural survivorship support programs and integrate telehealth counseling services.





## CONCLUSION & Call to Action

Australia's prostate cancer system is an international benchmark, delivering high survival rates and comprehensive care. Yet gaps remain for rural and Indigenous populations, where access to early detection and specialized services lags behind urban centers. Sustaining innovation while addressing these disparities will be essential to maintain leadership in prostate cancer care.

### KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

- 1 Target Rural & Indigenous Disparities:** Fund mobile clinics, culturally appropriate awareness campaigns, and Indigenous-led health initiatives.
- 2 Enhance Access to Next-Generation Diagnostics:** Ensure equitable reimbursement for advanced biomarker and genomic testing.
- 3 Leverage Telehealth for Equity:** Expand tele-oncology and remote monitoring solutions to reduce travel burdens for rural patients.
- 4 Maintain Clinical Excellence:** Continue regular guideline updates and clinician training to incorporate emerging therapies.
- 5 Strengthen Survivorship Support:** Extend survivorship frameworks to rural health services and provide culturally tailored follow-up care.

## CONCLUSION

Australia's **Level 4 – Advanced** maturity in prostate cancer care reflects a high-performing, well-coordinated system with robust public health infrastructure, modern diagnostics, and wide treatment access. The country's challenge is not in building capability but in **ensuring equity**—making sure the same level of care reaches every man, regardless of location or cultural background. Continued investment in outreach, targeted policy reforms, and integration of innovation will allow Australia to remain a global leader while closing the last remaining gaps in prostate cancer outcomes.