Prostate Cancer in Australia

1. Prostate cancer kills **9 men a day in Australia**. It is the second most common cause of cancer death in men after lung cancer.¹

2. **More men die from prostate cancer than women die from breast cancer.** In 2017, prostate cancer killed 3,275 men and breast cancer killed 2,898 women.¹ However, the Years of Life Lost (YLL) to breast cancer is more than 50% higher than prostate because women with breast cancer die younger on average than men with prostate cancer. In 2011, there were **40,191 Years of Life Lost to prostate cancer and 63,026 Years of Life Lost to breast cancer in women.²**

3. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia. In 2014, an average of 50 men a day were diagnosed with prostate cancer (18,291 new cases over the course of the year).³

4. In 2018, it was estimated that the risk of a man being diagnosed with prostate cancer by his 85th birthday was 1 in 7.³

5. The risk of developing prostate cancer increases with age. **Men under 50 are rarely diagnosed with prostate cancer.** Nearly two thirds (63%) of cases are diagnosed in men over 50.⁴

6. **The survival rate for men with prostate cancer is 95%.³**

7. Because of this high survival rate, prostate cancer is the leading cause of non-fatal disease linked to cancer, accounting for nearly one fifth (18%) of the burden.²

8. Each year the Government spends more than $400m screening around 7 million Australians for cancer. 91% of people screened are women and 9% are men. In total, **an estimated 7% of the $409m we spent on cancer screening in 2015-2016 was targeted at male cancer.** The Government’s position on universal screening for prostate cancer is that the harms outweigh the benefits.⁵

9. Breast cancer research in Australia, currently receives around twice the funding of research into prostate cancer. In 2009-2011, $85.9m was invested in 317 breast cancer research projects, compared with the $41.6m which was invested in 195 prostate cancer research projects.⁶

10. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men are less likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer, but similarly likely to die from prostate cancer, compared with non-Indigenous males.⁷

11. **Gay and Bisexual men are more likely than heterosexual men to experience the impact of prostate cancer** because of the possibility that one or both partners in a same-sex relationship could be diagnosed with it. Research has found that while the biomedical aspects of prostate cancer do not vary depending on sexual orientation, the psychosocial impacts may be different, not least because services tend not to account for the sexual orientation of men with prostate cancer.⁸
References:
4. The risk of developing prostate cancer increases with age. Men under 50 are rarely diagnosed with prostate cancer. Nearly two thirds (63%) of cases are diagnosed in men over five.
THE GENDER HEALTH GAP

1. Men in Australia die six years younger than women on average. The median age at death in 2014 was 78.5 years for males and 84.8 years for females.¹

2. 95% of people who die at work are men.² In 2016 there were 182 workplace deaths in Australia, roughly one death every two days.¹ Males account for the majority of disease linked to environmental risk such as occupational hazards (72%).³

3. Men under 65 are four times more likely than women to die from heart disease. A total of 2,374 people age 25 to 64 died from ischaemic heart disease in Australia in 2016, of these 1,915 were men and 459 were women.

4. Suicide kills six men a day in Australia. Three out of four suicides are male.⁴

5. 75% of people who die in transport accidents in Australia are male. In 2016, there were 1,453 people who died on Australia’s roads, 1,085 of these were men and boys.¹

6. Seven out of ten people age 15-24 who die each year in Australia are young men and boys. In 2016, a total of 754 of the 1,086 young people who died were male.⁴

7. Two out of three victims of fatal assaults in Australia are male. In 2016, a total of 244 people were killed in a violent attack: 162 men and boys, and 82 women and girls.⁴

8. Men under 75 are twice as likely as women to die from preventable causes. There were 26,283 potentially avoidable deaths in Australia in 2014, of these just under two thirds (16,668) were male and just over one third (9,615) were female.¹
Australia die prematurely (before the age of 75). In 2014, a total of 32,504 out of 78,341 male deaths were premature as were 20,145 out of 75,239 female deaths.  

10. Men are **30%** more likely to die from cancer than women. In 2016, there were 45,144 deaths from malignant neoplasms in 2016, of these 25,530 were male and 45,144 were female.

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9. Around 40% of men and 25% of women in Australia die prematurely (before the age of 75). In 2014, a total of 32,504 out of 78,341 male deaths were premature as were 20,145 out of 75,239 female deaths.6

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BOX 1: Title

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