

Prostate Cancer Treatment and Prevention

Mr MITCHELL question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING

Minister, Noleen's brother-in-law has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and the treating specialist in Launceston has advised the cancer is at stage 1 and is treatable. However, Noleen and her brother-in-law were advised - with only two surgeries a week being undertaken for public patients which is not keeping pace with the two or three a week being diagnosed - surgery might occur before Christmas, but would most likely be at least six months before surgery. By this time the cancer would likely have metastasised, making treatment and recovery much more complicated. Noleen's question to the Minister is why is the Government continuing to encourage Tasmanians to seek preventative diagnoses, when the Government is failing to make life saving treatment available at a timely manner. Noleen notes she's been a nurse for 53 years and she is disgusted.