

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Brian Mitchell MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

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 preventive 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.

ANSWER:

I am very sorry to hear of Noleen's loved one's diagnosis. I recognise any uncertainty about the timing of treatment following a cancer diagnosis would be very distressing and concerning for him and for his family.

The Tasmanian Government continues to encourage Tasmanians to discuss prostate cancer testing with their doctor where appropriate. Early detection supports timely clinical assessment and enables treatment or monitoring to be planned according to each person's circumstances.

While it is not appropriate for me to publicly disclose individual patient details, if you provide my office with the patient's consent and identifying details, the Department of Health can engage with the treating service to clarify the patient's

clinical priority, anticipated treatment timeframe, and the arrangements in place to monitor his condition.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to improving cancer services so Tasmanians can access timely, high-quality care and support, wherever they live. The *Tasmanian Cancer Strategy 2026–2036 Exposure Draft*, now open for public consultation, sets out the Government's proposed long-term direction for strengthening cancer prevention, screening and early detection, improving access to timely diagnosis and treatment, and delivering more coordinated, equitable and person-centred care. Feedback is invited until 14 October 2026 to inform the final Strategy and its implementation.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 5 October 2026