

# Prostate cancer

## What is prostate cancer?

Prostate cancer develops when the cells in the prostate gland grow more quickly than in a normal prostate, forming a malignant lump or tumour.

Most prostate cancers grow slower than other types of cancers.

Early (or localised) prostate cancer is growth that has not spread beyond the prostate.

Some prostate cancers may spread to other parts of the body, such as the bones and lymph nodes. This is called advanced prostate cancer.

## What causes prostate cancer?

The causes of prostate cancer are unknown.

However, the chance of developing prostate cancer increases:

- as you get older – nearly two thirds of all new prostate cancers are found in men over the age of 65
- if your father or brother has had prostate cancer

## How common is it?

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in Australian men and the most common in all Tasmanians.

Based on 2003 figures, 406 Tasmanians developed prostate cancer.

For more detailed information consult the booklet *Understanding prostate cancer* on [www.cancertas.org.au/pages/healthprof\\_patient.php](http://www.cancertas.org.au/pages/healthprof_patient.php)

**Call The Cancer Council Helpline 13 11 20**