

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Senate Inquiry - The availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia."
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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
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Senate Inquiry - The availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia

We consider Australia to be an advanced country in the science and treatment of disease and yet, in the case of treatment for men with **advanced prostate cancer**

we are quite archaic in our practice; notably treatment prior to chemotherapy with all its extremely harsh and very debilitating side effects.

By way of example, in the United States and Europe, the current practice is to treat the disease with **Zytiga and Xtandi** prior to chemotherapy

rather than afterwards as demanded by Australian health regulations. As **Best Practice** is to treat the disease with these drugs **prior** to chemotherapy, it is imperative

that this pre-chemo treatment be approved and placed on the **PBS** and done so with a high degree of urgency and priority.

To do so would provide outstanding benefits not only for the patients, their families and medical support teams but also our society at large.

The arguments for this more enlightened practice are many and well documented so there is no need to repeat them here. Suffice to say their adoption by

North America and Europe affirms this methodology as **'Best Practice'** and really must be adopted by Australia without any further delay.

So we call on your reason, compassion and moral compass to approve and introduce this **'Best Practice'** in the immediate interest of all concerned.

With Regards

John Dowling