



FACTS ABOUT PROSTATE CANCER IN IRELAND

Over 3,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in the Republic of Ireland each year and that number is rising steadily but only about 500 men die of the disease each year.

These figures show that most men who get a prostate cancer diagnosis will not die of the disease.

There are several reasons suggested for this:

- **A greater use by family doctors in Ireland of the PSA test as a screening procedure.** This opportunistic PSA screening means that rare, potentially lethal, prostate cancers are caught earlier and can be treated more effectively.
- **Most prostate cancers are slow growing** and may never cause death.
- **The reorganisation of cancer services** in the voluntary and public hospitals into eight designated centres, combined with the introduction of Rapid Access Prostate Cancer Clinics with their Multi-Disciplinary Teams, provide an opportunity for swift referral, biopsy and advice on treatment options.
- **Increased public awareness** through the work of the Irish Cancer Society, the Movember movement, the 40+ community-based cancer support organisations affiliated to the ICS who are being trained by the Society*, and other organisation such as the Marie Keating Foundation which has developed a prostate cancer support service in recent years.
- **Better treatments** in surgery and radiation and oncology. Also, for men who develop advanced prostate cancer there are now new treatments, if their earlier treatments fail.

*and **peer-to-peer support from the trained volunteers in MAC** – Men Against Cancer