

**From:**  
**To:** [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Inquiry - The availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia  
**Date:** Monday, 23 February 2015 7:40:35 AM

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Doug Meiklejohn

23 February 2015

Committee Secretary  
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**Senate Inquiry - The availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia**

I have recently been diagnosed with Advanced Prostate Cancer and I want to have the best opportunity to have a long and symptom free life. It is disappointing that instead of getting best practice treatment, I have to undergo chemotherapy with its harsh side effects before I can get access to Zytiga and Xtandi on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It has been shown men with prostate cancer in United States are able to be treated successfully with Zytiga or Xtandi before chemotherapy.

These new drugs greatly improve quality of life and will give me extra time with my wife, children and grandchildren and to contribute to our community, particularly Prostate Cancer Support Groups.

I request that you urgently approve the change to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to allow less restrictive access to these cancer drugs to give many men the opportunity of greatly improved quality of life.

I look forward to hearing that your enquiry recommends and approves this much needed change

Yours sincerely

Doug Meiklejohn