

20 June 2012

Professor Jeff Dunn  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Council Queensland  
PO Box 201  
Spring Hill QLD 4004

**PCFA Endorsement International Psycho-Oncology Society's (IPOS) International Standard of Quality Cancer Care**

Dear Jeff

We are writing to confirm Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) endorses the IPOS International Standard of Quality Cancer Care.

PCFA supports the position that quality cancer care must integrate the psychosocial domain in routine care for people with cancer and their families.

We also support the recommendation that distress be measured as the 6<sup>th</sup> vital sign after temperature, blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate and pain. PCFA acknowledges this recommendation will act as a call to action to ensure care providers and the health system as a whole assure adequate psychosocial care for patients.

As the peak body for prostate cancer in Australia, PCFA is committed to improving the patient experience. Significant levels of clinical distress are experienced by men and their families throughout the varying stages of the prostate cancer patient journey. Levels of distress are invariably high post-diagnosis and can remain so depending on selected treatment options, their side effects and prognosis.

PCFA is aware of the importance of monitoring and addressing levels of distress as a public health initiative to reduce increased depression rates and development of other serious illnesses. Monitoring and alleviation of distress in cancer patients is paramount to improving the quality of life of the men and their families who are affected by prostate cancer.

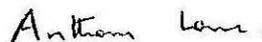
The adoption of the IPOS International Standard of Quality Cancer Care will assist PCFA in its research, support and awareness roles with consumers, health professionals and the broader community.

We are hopeful the statement will be internationally supported.

Yours sincerely,



Mr David Sandoe OAM  
**National Chairman**



Dr Anthony Lowe  
**Chief Executive Officer**