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Northern Beaches Hospital: Dr Stuart Menogue fears wave of patients with advanced cancer

A northern beaches doctor warns they could see a wave of new patients with advanced cancer because people have been avoiding their GP during the pandemic.

Julie Cross, Manly Daily

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 MANLY DAILY. Dr Stuart Menogue, highly respected urologist who has joined Northern Beaches Hospital staff. Image Matthew Vasilescu

A doctor at Northern Beaches Hospital fears they could see a wave of new patients with advanced cancer because people have not been going to see their GPs about symptoms during COVID-19.

Dr Stuart Menogue, 39, a new urologist who has just joined the team at the Frenchs Forest hospital, said his specialty covers many health issues, but among them are prostate, bladder and kidney cancers.

He said he was particularly passionate about men's health and improving the outcomes of those with prostate cancer, which is the second biggest killer of men.

He said one in seven men will get prostate cancer in their lives, but it was easily treatable if caught early.

"People are going to be presenting with much more advanced diseases because of COVID," he said.



Dr Stuart Menogue in one of the hospitals operating theatres. Image Matthew Vasilescu

“We don’t know how it’s going to pan out with cancers.

“They haven’t gone away, they’re still out there.”

Professor Jeff Dunn, CEO of Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, said ordinarily about 46 men are diagnosed each day, but they don’t yet have the data for the COVID period.

He said from the 16,700 Australian men who are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year, around 3,100 die.

“We are concerned that men may be putting off GP check-ups and vital testing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a 60 per cent drop in PSA Testing after coronavirus first hit Australia,” he said.



Professor Jeff Dunn, CEO of Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

Dr Menogue, who recently returned from a year’s stint at world-leading Guy’s Hospital in the UK, said it was a valuable experience, but he is excited by the opportunities at Northern Beaches Hospital.

He said he hoped to soon be able to give details about new technology and equipment the hospital was looking to buy which would allow the way people are treated on the northern beaches “to be an Australian first”.

“This is a new hospital, being run in a new way,” Dr Menogue said.

The father-of-two, who lives in Balgowlah Heights, said he was pleased to be able to work on the northern beaches where he has lived since the age of 25.

He said there was talk for many years about a new hospital and then he watched it being built before he went to the UK.

Dr Menogue said it was a privilege to be able to care for the people living within his own community.