

GEELONG PROSTATE SUPPORT GROUP

GROUP PURPOSE AND GROUP AGREEMENT

GROUP PURPOSE

The purpose of the Geelong Prostate Support Group is to provide a friendly and supportive environment for men who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer or other prostate disorder, and also support their partners, carers, family and friends.

Up-to-date information about prostate disorders, treatment options and side effects is provided in a relaxed and confidential environment, where people can share their experiences and their journey with others in a similar situation.

GROUP AGREEMENT

A Group Agreement sets out the guidelines for the facilitator and members to follow, to ensure that member expectations are met, and conflicts are avoided.

All members share the responsibility for ensuring that the guidelines are followed during meetings and discussions.

Confidentiality

Information communicated in group discussions must remain confidential.

We can share those discussions with others outside the group, but we must not identify the individuals concerned.

Respect

We allow equal opportunity for all members to speak without being interrupted. We also respect their right to remain silent.

Patience

We are patient with group members, especially those in need.

Constructive Discussion

We encourage members to share their experiences in a positive manner.

Discussion should predominately focus on prostate-related issues and coping strategies that are relevant to the group as a whole.

Individual grievances, or requests for help on non-prostate issues, should be taken up in private with the facilitator.

Sharing Personal Experiences

Members are encouraged to willingly share their personal journeys and experiences, and seek help when required. They may direct any questions to the group, or to individual members.

Education and Empowerment

We share publicly available medical information on prostate issues, and we assist with interpretation of medical terms, in order for members to have more productive discussions with their doctors.

We do not give specific medical or treatment advice: that is the role of medical professionals.

Group Ownership

We each share responsibility for making the meetings, and the group, work successfully.