

[REDACTED]
Craigieburn 3064

20th March, 2016

Dear Professor Lawrentschuk,

I heard you talk to the men's prostate group a few weeks back and this certainly got me thinking. Yes I had prostate cancer and yes I am "cured". I had excellent treatment at the Austin Hospital and yes I am grateful.

However, why is it that another man I spoke to that night had the same type of cancer and surgery- but he was able to have it done "robotically" instead of the "old-fashioned" way that I had it done? He was back to work within 2 weeks and did not suffer as much as I did. I had no more sick leave left and had to go onto handouts to see me through- an emotionally stressful time for myself and my family on top of my surgery and diagnosis with cancer.

I had always thought in Australia that public and private patients had equivalent care and that insurance was about choice of surgeon not choice of procedure.

When you gave your talk outlining the improvements in surgery and the desperate need for a "Robot" in the north and north-east of Melbourne it suddenly made sense. Had we had a "Robot" at the Austin I could have had the same surgery as the other man and been back to work quicker and not suffered as much- financially or emotionally.

I wish I could have afforded private insurance and had the choice to have a "robot". I am not bitter or upset but plead that my cries do not go unanswered. Please get a robot at the Austin so future men like me get equal care to others who simply can afford insurance.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (mostly grateful patient!)