



Nothing to fear

"My cancer was completely removed. I had 65 percent sexual function return about a week and a half after surgery with expected full recovery, full continence within four weeks."

Rodney Eirth

For most of his adult life, Rodney Eirth has been keenly aware of his high risk of prostate cancer.

Having lost his father and watched two uncles fight the disease, Rod knew the importance of yearly physical checks and a blood test known as prostate specific antigen (PSA).

So it came as little shock when in 2011, following a PSA test at the age of 39, Rod was indeed diagnosed with an aggressive prostate cancer. But what did surprise Rod was that rather than being the terrifying and painful ordeal he had expected, the father of two was back at work as a horticulturalist – and cancer free – within weeks of his diagnosis.

Rod's urologist and prostate specialist, Dr Raji Kooner from St Vincent's Private Hospital, attributed much of the success of Rod's treatment to early screening and the hospital's newly updated daVinci robotic surgical system.

"Rodney benefited quite markedly from having his procedure done with the robotic system, as it allowed us to do the operation much more accurately and precisely than we would otherwise have been able to," Dr Kooner said.

"Rod was a good candidate for surgical treatment of his cancer.

01 Dr Raji Kooner stands in front of the da Vinci surgical system as painted for the 2011 Archibald Prize; by 2011 Sulman Prize winner and former GP Peter Smeeth 02 & 03 Rodney Eirth was back at work within weeks of his prostate cancer diagnosis