Saturday 19 March 4:00 - 5:00 pm - Optional Session

DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEB SITE OF THE PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - ACT REGION

The objectives of this optional session are to inform participants of the background that led to the site's development, its role in the Group's work, how the site was developed, and principles that could be of value to other groups.

The presentation will be given by Mike Boesen, a member of the Prostate Cancer Support Group - ACT Region. He will inform participants about the development of the Group's web site, explaining:



- * how members of the Group were involved in the site's development
- * how the web site complements and supports the Group's mission, role, objectives and functions
- * target audience/s that were seen as important (health situation, age, skills, information needs)
- * the style of the web site (easy to read and navigate, plain vanilla not glitzy, informative, personable)
- * the technical development strategy (e.g. quick and easy development and maintenance template-based)
- * the hardware and software used in developing and maintaining the site,
- * how a "domain name" (prostate-cancer-support-act.net) and web site host (VentraIP) were selected and their costs
- * how the existence of the site was publicised and linkages with other sites achieved

In the course of the presentation Mike will show the site online and demonstrate the ease with which rapid development and maintenance is possible. While the development and maintenance of the web site was undertaken on an Apple iMac using the application "Rapidweaver", Mike believes that the principles that he will address are equally applicable to development using Windows or Linux platforms and software.

The ACT Region Group has concluded that the web site has achieved its objectives and is now a very useful and accessible source of information of interest to people who are at risk of developing prostate cancer or who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer or who have undertaken treatment for prostate cancer.

Mike will seek the views of participants on how the work undertaken in developing the site might be of value to other groups.

It would be of value if participants were able to browse the contents of the web site before attending: prostate-cancer-support-act.net

