



## **PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR AGM DECEMBER 14, 2021**

The last year presented the Australian Men's Health Forum with many challenges and opportunities. At this time we are heading into 2022 in a much stronger position and with greater capacity to support and expand our work as the peak body for men's health

The work of the AMHF Board has been enhanced with the addition of Christopher McNamara and Christopher Lytas who were elected from the membership at the 2020 AGM and the addition of Guy Brandon and Darren Black who were directly elected to the Board. We have also had a huge increase in membership to over 100 organisational and individual members drawn from every State and Territory, for the first time since our organisation began. Our Communication Channels now reach more people with information and resources about men's health and wellbeing with over 150,000 people a year visiting our website.

One of our key roles is to improve opportunities for the men's health sector to connect, network and learn from each other. In the past we hosted National Men's Health Gatherings. COVID-19 has interrupted holding face to face events, but for the second year running we held Men's Health Connected online in May 2021. Around 900 people registered to attend this five day online event featuring around 100 speakers. A survey of 98 attendees found that 89% rated the event as valuable and 88% said it was relevant to their work. Men's Health Connected has grown our network of collaborators in many areas and supported partnership work with those in the Suicide Prevention space, Aboriginal male health leaders and men's health researchers to name a few key areas.

We also champion good practice through our National Men's Health Awards and we have worked hard to increase participation in the awards. In 2021 we received close to 100 nominations which we reduced to a long list of 50 nominees across 5 categories. Since introducing public voting on the awards in 2019, more than 10,000 people have taken part in the vote and been involved in the Awards.

AMHF is the leading organisation in Australia in promoting International Men's Day (November 19<sup>th</sup>) as an annual platform to raise awareness of issues in men's lives and health. In 2021 around 80 organisations requested our Know Your Man Facts presentation to assist them with their International Men's Day events. This is one of the ways our Know You Man Facts campaign has grown this year, thanks to the development of two new "Know Your Man Facts" toolkits focused on Men's Heart Health and Men's Mental Health.

Advocacy is a key role for AMHF and this year we launched our Charter for Men's Mental Health at a ministerial round table where we secured a commitment from the Government to direct more funding at male suicide prevention. Our Funding for Men's Health report also lays out the case for targeted funding across all areas of men and boys' health and was backed by a public

survey that found 4 in 5 Australians support our call for more funding for programs that support men.

I would like to thank former AMHF board member Dr Anthony Brown, who is our representative on the Global Action on Men's Health (GAMH) board. for his work as Chair of GAMH over the past few years. GAMH conducting two webinars this year, he abstracts of which will also be published later this year in the International Journal of Men's Social and Community Health. They also published the Delivering Men's Health Report. AMHF supports the ongoing work of Action on Men's Health

We have seen an unprecedented increase in funding opportunities this past year. We received a fifth consecutive year of funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and secured new funding, notably for research into the impacts of the pandemic on men's mental health from the National Mental Health Commission and funding from NSW Government to work in partnership with Suicide Prevention Australia to increase men's access to suicide prevention services. I would like to thank Pete Shmigel for his tireless work in this area for raising awareness and advocating for suicide prevention strategies that are made with men in mind. Thanks to our work in this area The Federal Government has announced that it will specifically target men in its latest round of suicide prevention funding which is a major achievement for AMHF.

In addition, this week we secured a further \$740,000 of funding over three years under the Commonwealth Government's Health Peak Advisory Bodies Program, which supports the Government's new National Preventive Health Strategy (2021-2030).

Finally, some feedback from our members. In July 2021 we commissioned an independent evaluator to survey our membership to get an understanding of where our members think our work is making a difference. Here is a snapshot:

- 80% say we are helping build policy environments that support men's health (i.e., we're making sure policy makers put more focus on men and boys)
- 78% say we help to expand health-giving support for men and boys (i.e., we are making services more male-friendly)
- 78% say we are increasing men and boys' health-seeking behaviour (i.e., helping more men to help themselves)
- 76% say we are helping to grow the men's health sector (i.e., helping services to expand their reach).

We have a strong Board and amazingly dedicated and hardworking staff. I would like to thank our CEO Glen Poole, Content Manager Kim Trengove, and Administration Officer Sharon Philp for all their work and dedication to AMHF. My thanks to the Board for the constant good work they do.

I am looking forward to a bright new future for AMHF in 2022 and beyond.



Greg Millan, AMHF President. December 2021