



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR AGM 13 DECEMBER 2022**

The past year has been a year of transition and consolidation as we move beyond the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and put in place plans to build on our work as the peak body for men's health in Australia.

The work of the AMHF Board has been enhanced with the addition of Gillian Hunt, CEO of Parents Beyond Breakup, and Uliana Ross, who joins us as Treasurer. We also said goodbye to four board members this year.

Guy Brandon made a valuable contribution in his short tenure as Treasurer before leaving the board to focus on his health.

Christopher McNamara brought important perspectives from the field of prostate cancer during his time on the board and we wish him well with his important work at PCFA.

Stuart McMinn brought his experience of working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's health to the board and his contribution will be very missed.

Pete Shmigel made a unique contribution to AMHF and helped build our capacity to engage with politicians and policymakers. Pete has stepped down to focus on his humanitarian work in Ukraine.

With more than 90 individual and organisational members, one of our key roles is creating opportunities for the men's health sector to connect through initiatives like the National Men's Health Gathering. For the third year running, we hosted a Men's Health Connected gathering online, attracting around 500 participants. As we emerge from the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we look forward to hosting face-to-face men's health events once again.

We also champion good practice through our National Men's Health Awards. This year we received around 150 nominations and 3,000 people took part in the public vote. We also convened 3 specialist voting panels comprising 5 Indigenous men's health workers; 5 men's work elders and 5 board members. In addition, more than 50 men's health organisations took part in a closed vote on the Men's Health Leaders category.

AMHF is the leading organisation in Australia promoting International Men's Day (19 November) as an annual platform that raises awareness of men's health and social issues. This year we delivered the biggest ever celebration of International Men's Day in Australia, with more than 200 events taking place, and many adopting our #MakeTime4Mates theme.

We continued our work advocating for men and boys and the men's health sector in 2022. After decades pushing for successive Governments to take men's health seriously, we are seeing more Government departments and jurisdictions reaching out to us for advice, particularly at a State and Territory level. Of particular note is the progress made advocating for a male Suicide Prevention Action Plan in Tasmania, which is made possible by the presence of a state-based peak body (Men's Resources Tasmania).

At the national level, as the new Labor Government's health strategy takes shape, we will continue our work to keep men's health on the agenda.

After a period of funding uncertainty, sustained by a series of short-term grants from the Department of Health, this year saw us looking ahead to 3 years of guaranteed funding. Our core funding now comes from the Health Peak and Advisory Body program (2022-2025) with some additional support under the Male Health Initiative (2022-2023).

We continue to expand the reach of our work by seeking out opportunities to work in partnership with others. In June, we completed a 12-month research project on the impacts of COVID-19 on men's mental health, with the Centre for Men's Health at the University of Western Sydney.

In October, we helped deliver a seminar on military men's mental health in Adelaide, in partnership with the Freemasons Centre for Men's Health

We also became part of a consortium led by Movember that won funding through the National Men's Health Strategy, to review the way health professionals are trained to work with male clients.

Our partnership with Suicide Prevention Australia led to the launch of the Doing It Tough website during Men's Health Week for men in New South Wales. This year, we also strengthened our relationship with Roses in the Ocean and now work together to convene a National Men's Lived Experience of Suicide network.

In 2022 year we completed a major restructuring and relaunch of the AMHF website to improve the way we engage with our four key audiences:

- Male health consumers and people who engage with men
- The men's health sector
- The broader health sector and related sectors
- Those interested in men's health policy matters

We will continue to develop high quality resources for each of these audiences including our Know Your Man Facts toolkits, practitioner guides, presentations, advocacy reports and campaigns.

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. Anthony is stepping down from this role as Chair, but he is planning to stay on the GAMH Board for one more year.

GAMH conducting 3 webinars this year - Men In Mind: Addressing Men's Mental Health and Wellbeing and Addressing Men's Health And Masculinities In The Americas: A Public Health Imperative, both held in June. In October GAMH held a webinar on Men And Cancer: Saving Lives, Reducing Suffering.

AMHF supports the ongoing work of the Global Action on Men's Health.

This year it is my intention to step down as President, but I will be remaining on the board and looking forward to working with a new President.

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 2023 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line.

Greg Millan, AMHF President. December 2022