

# President's Report 2025

Gillian Hunt, President, Australian Men's Health Forum

## Introduction

This year confirmed AMHF's role as the national voice for men's health. We shifted from planning to delivery. Major events, campaigns and resources landed well, and our work stayed grounded in the real lives of men and boys.

Our members sit at the centre of this mission. They deliver programs, build connection and shape the national men's health movement. Their insights and experience guided our decisions and strengthened everything we produced.

## Governance

The Board remained steady and committed. Our governance decisions, strategy and funding oversight focused on one aim: strengthening the impact of members across the country.

## Remembering Greg Millan

We also carried a deep loss. Greg Millan, a founding member of AMHF and a pioneer of men's health, died earlier this year. Greg trained practitioners, built programs and shaped the field long before it gained national recognition. His influence sits in every part of our sector.

To honour him, we created the Greg Millan Lifetime Achievement Award. The inaugural award was presented to Dr Uncle Mick Adams at the National Men's Health Gathering. Mick's decades of leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male health reflect the same quiet strength and practical service that defined Greg's work.

Greg's legacy endures in the people he trained, the organisations he supported and the movement he helped build.

## National Men's Health Gathering 2025

The return of the National Men's Health Gathering in Brisbane was a defining moment. It marked the 30th anniversary of the event and the first in-person national Gathering since COVID. It brought together practitioners, researchers, government partners, community leaders and front-line workers from every state and territory.

The combined structure of the National Men's Health Conference and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Health Convention created a depth of learning we have not seen for some time. Members presented their work, shared data and demonstrated practical

responses to rising social isolation, male suicide risk and the pressures faced by boys and young men.

The Gathering restored national momentum, rebuilt connection and reminded us how much this movement achieves when it works together.

## **Membership**

Membership continued to grow and remained diverse, spanning grassroots groups, service organisations, community programs, peak bodies and individuals working directly with men and boys. This diversity strengthened our advocacy, and our understanding of what men experience on the ground.

Members used AMHF resources across Men's Health Week, International Men's Day, workplace events and community programs. They contributed stories, policy insights and sector intelligence, helping us refine national messages and improve tools such as the Know Your Man Facts resources and the Reaching Men training.

AMHF exists to represent this network. Their lived experience gives our work credibility and reach.

## **Men's Health Awards 2025**

The Awards again highlighted leadership, innovation and community commitment across the movement. With more than 5,000 votes cast across 75 nominees, the Awards showed the scale and strength of the men's health sector nationwide.

## **Men's Health Week**

Men's Health Week showed the full breadth of national engagement. Organisations across the wider health sector and beyond ran events, hosted talks and used AMHF resources to connect with their communities. The new Men's Health Week website improved coordination, visibility and access to tools.

Our lunchtime Men's Health Chats drew strong attendance, and the updated Know Your Man Facts toolkit reached workplaces, schools, clubs and community groups.

## **International Men's Day and global links**

International Men's Day again provided a major platform for organisations nationwide. Many used AMHF resources to drive positive conversations about connection, safety and wellbeing. Our strong relationship with Global Action on Men's Health continued, and John Rich joined their board this year, strengthening Australian representation internationally.

## **Building capability**

The Working with Men tools and Reaching Men workshops supported organisations across the health sector to improve how they engage men and boys. These resources remain central to AMHF's role in lifting capability and embedding male-friendly practice.

## **Advocacy and policy influence**

Advocacy remained grounded in the lived experience of our members. Their feedback on rising distress, isolation and demand for male-friendly support informed our policy positioning and shaped our Election 2025 platform. We called for stronger national action on male suicide, clearer reporting on how funding reaches men and greater investment in community-led connection before crisis.

Consistent national messaging helped members influence public discussion across Men's Health Week and International Men's Day.

## **Financial sustainability**

Commonwealth funding extensions provided stability and allowed AMHF to maintain core services while supporting large national events. The organisation remains lean, disciplined and focused on delivering impact with a small but highly capable team.

## **Acknowledgements**

This has been a year of real progress. The Gathering returned with strength; the Awards grew again and Men's Health Week and International Men's Day reached wider audiences.

I thank our Board for its guidance, our CEO and staff – Glen Poole, Kim Trengove and Sharon Philp, for their commitment under a demanding agenda, and our members for their leadership and trust.

We also acknowledge departing Board members Rae Bonney and David Pointon for their service.

AMHF will continue to lead, connect and strengthen the work that improves the lives of men and boys across Australia.

**Gillian Hunt**

President, Australian Men's Health Forum