

Calling for support for a men's health promotion and advocacy organisation

Our Election Priorities

National reports and data consistently show men and boys experiencing poor health outcomes relative to women in areas such as Suicide, Cancer, disease in people under 65, and as victims of community level violence. Supports targeting men and boys in ways that reach men in ways that appeal to them are few and far between. The perspectives of men and boys in Tasmania are not represented by a funded organisation that can provide an informed voice on their behalf, or that can relay important information to benefit men and boys. While we applaud the government continued support for men's sheds in Tasmania, it is not enough.

Many statistics can be added to the below to demonstrate that there is a crisis in men's health. Blaming men for all these problems, ignores the systemic and institutional barriers that contribute to poor health outcomes, and serves to alienate men further from being part of the solution. An acknowledgement and celebration of the strengths and positive contribution of men, collaborating the diversity of men to help grow the healthy responses to the many problems in our society is desperately needed, and will be more effective in creating positive outcomes for men and the whole community.

MRT calls for support

Men's Resources Tasmania is ready to take on a leading role to grow support for men and boys. We urgently call for funding of our organisation to:

1. Develop and implement a Tasmanian male suicide prevention strategy.
2. Funding for MRT to be a voice and representative for male health related matters at government, for policy contribution and to inform male health promotion to the Tasmanian community.
3. Funding for Men's Resources Tasmania to support the operations of the Tasmanian Men's Health and Wellbeing Network.

MRT enjoys the support of the following organisations:

Men's Shed Tasmania	TasMen
Rural Alive and Well Tasmania	ManUp Tasmania (auspiced by MRT)
Mates 4 Mates	TasDads (auspiced by MRT)
Drug Education Network	Men Care Too
Bethlehem House	MoBart MoBro's
Hobart City Mission	JustTas

About MRT

Men's Resources Tasmania Inc. contributes a male voice to community conversations and public sector policy; particularly around health and wellbeing issues relevant to men and boys in Tasmania. We operate primarily through volunteer involvement, with some support from member organisations. MRT delivers male specific health and wellbeing initiatives and support trainings to organisations around the state and are the developer of the successful 'Blokes Books' and 'Dad's Book's'. MRT is proud to also auspice TasDads, and Man Up Tasmania.

An overview of current male health outcomes

<h3>Suicide in Tasmania:</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than one man a week dies by suicide in TAS, and men account for 75% of suicides.• The rate of male suicide in TAS is 23.8 deaths per 100,000 people, significantly higher than the national average of 18.5• Men a higher rate of suicide than men in every other State and Territory except the NT	<h3>Cancer in Tasmania</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• men and boys account for 55.9% of all cancer deaths• In TAS, 44% of men and 48.8% of women access screening for bowel cancer. Three in 10 men (30%) aged 50-54 in TAS access screening, compared with more than one in two women (60%) aged 70-74.
<h3>Heart Disease in Tasmania</h3> <p>When compared with women of the same age in TAS, heart disease kills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.8 times more men aged 35-54• 5.1 times more men aged 55-64• 3.1 times more men aged 65-74	<h3>Justice and Prison</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 92% of prisoners in Tasmania are maleⁱ• 79% of people in community corrections are male• While we do not have statistics, it is fair to assume most children involved in youth justice are male
<h3>Violence and harm</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 out of 3 victims of fatal assaults are menⁱⁱ• In 2016, 4 in 10 men and 3 in 10 women had experienced physical violence since the age of 15ⁱⁱⁱ• Men are more likely to be the victims and perpetrators of violent crime• Males were the perpetrators of violence towards people over 15, including against 47% of all males and 39% of all females	<h3>Boys education in Tasmania</h3> <p>2018 NAPLAN results for Year Five students found that boys are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 times more likely to be below minimum standards reading• 2.8 times more likely to be below minimum standards writing• 1.4 times more likely to be below minimum standards numeracy

Additional resources

- [Giving Men a Hand: The Case for a Male Suicide Prevention Strategy](#)
- [How can governments do better for boys and men: A 10-point action plan](#)

References

Unless otherwise referenced, all statistics are available in AMHF 2019 – Tasmanian Men’s Health Report https://www.amhf.org.au/report_card

ⁱ Corrective Services, Australia, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/corrective-services-australia/latest-release>

ⁱⁱ AMHF Gender Health Gap <https://www.amhf.org.au/fact-sheets>

ⁱⁱⁱ AIHW: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/men-women/male-health/contents/how-does-the-health-of-females-and-males-compare>

Healthy men and boys for healthy communities