



Men's Health

Recommendation

That an additional \$80,000 per annum be provided to the Men's Advisory Network to increase the capacity of the organisation to address the issues regarding the health and well-being of men and boys and the implementation of the national men's health policy.

Rationale

The Commonwealth Government is developing a men's health policy that will be announced by the end of 2009. It is important that the Western Australian government adopts a pro-active position in order to implement this policy in Western Australia.

The Department of Health and Ageing distributed a discussion paper in November 2008. A copy of the Executive Summary is attached.

The submission that MAN made in the consultation phase is attached.

The Senate Select Committee on Men's Health tabled its report in May 2009. A copy of the Executive Summary and Recommendations is attached.

MAN believes that the men's health policy should not only address the illnesses and diseases that impact on men, but also be based on a holistic view of men's health, incorporating the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual components.

It should take into account the social determinants of health, including economic, social, cultural, political and environmental factors that contribute to health or to illness across the life span of men and boys.

These are important factors that have a major influence on the health and social well-being of all men and boys. They are extremely important in the lives of Aboriginal men.

Most men's and boy's health problems are preventable. An effective government policy and a new approach to health interventions is required. Health promotion should deliver messages to males that their health is important and encourages them to access health services.

Men typically resist accessing medical, allied health or welfare services when their health or wellbeing is at risk. Accordingly, health services need to be mindful of men's attitudes to health and how it impacts on men's and boy's health status, health risk behaviour and the utilization of health services.

MAN currently has a service agreement with the Department of Health and will receive \$101,959 in 2009/10.

MAN requests that additional funds be provided so that it can employ a Health Promotion Officer who will greatly increase the capacity of the organisation to address the issues raised by MAN and others regarding the health and well-being of men and boys.

The Men's Advisory Network (MAN) is the peak body for service providers, organisations and individuals concerned with men's health, well-being and other issues affecting men and boys in Western Australia. MAN was established in 1997 and incorporated in 2000. It is a not-for-profit non-government organisation that receives financial support from the WA Department of Health.

The primary role that MAN plays is supporting service providers, organisations and professionals from various disciplines, who work with men and boys. In addition, MAN provides information to individuals about appropriate services and professionals, plus provides general community education and raises awareness of the issues affecting men and boys. Further information is available on the website: www.man.org.au

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