

# MAN/ALIVE!/2007

Enfield Community  
Health Centre  
PO Box 508  
PROSPECT EAST 5082  
Ph. 8342 8600



## HISTORY

Man Alive! has been staged successfully since 2004 when it was established as a festival to foster the health and well being of men and celebrate their diversity and contributions to families and community. The catalyst for the original pilot project were interagency concerns being voiced through the Western Men's Awareness Network (MAN) about the impact poverty, social disadvantage and isolation was having on men in their communities. Uniting Care Wesley Bowden (UCWB) and Adelaide Central Community Health Service (ACCHS) Enfield were key agencies in the formation of the initial Man Alive! planning committee.

The landscape prior to the launch of Man Alive! 2004 had seen a range of community initiatives, forums and conferences held on the central theme of men's health and well being. A growing interest about this issue had been evolving during the 1990's in Australia. Two national conferences were organised and a Draft National Men's Health Policy by the Commonwealth Government was developed. Mainstream media outlets were also displaying increased interest and several universities had started to feature men's health in their curriculum.

In 2000, a discussion paper "Talking About Men's Health & Well Being" was produced by the South Australian Department of Human Services (DHS) to assist the process of gathering information to formulate a "coordinated plan to respond to the health and well being needs of men". State-wide consultations with government and non-government organisations, community groups and interested individuals were conducted using the document as a base for discussion. The intent was to then produce a "South Australian Health & Well Being Policy for Men and provide the framework for developing the strategies in this area".

Recent epidemiological data ( Mathers 1996 National Health Strategy 1992) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics 'Mortality Atlas Australia' (December 2002) indicate in general a higher death rate for men than women from the main causes of death, and that men are more likely to die an earlier death and experience poorer health outcomes. Although comparative observations help identify health status, further understanding is required about why these differences may exist. The information generated by the DHS Steering Committee highlights the importance of understanding men's health in the context of the social, political and economic climate.

The Man Alive! Festivals conducted since 2004 have created a platform to develop increased understanding about men, their health and well being concerns; and also the identification of new ways of working with men on improving their health. They have also created a medium to celebrate, acknowledge and value the important contributions men make to their community.

Man Alive! provides an excellent opportunity for:

- Promoting more positive images of men within the general community.
- Connecting men with services that are available
- Raising awareness of service providers to the needs of men.
- Discovering how men can be included in shaping community services to ensure that the services are accessible, relevant and user friendly – especially those most disadvantaged.
- Creating dialogue and collaboration between service providers focusing on men's issues.



Central Northern Adelaide Health Service  
Enfield Community Health Centre  
Migrant Health Service  
Regional Aboriginal Health Team  
Children, Youth and Women's Health Service  
The Second Story Youth Health Service