



News Release

Griffith Base Hospital to offer leading prostate cancer biopsy procedure thanks to The Male Bag Foundation

Key points

- The Male Bag Foundation has provided a \$60,000 grant to Griffith Base Hospital (GBH) to purchase a transperineal biopsy machine (TBM). The grant is the Foundation's first in NSW and its largest grant to date in 2019.
- Equipping GBH with a TBM is a game changer for men's health in the Griffith, Leeton, Hillston and Lake Cargelligo communities in Murrumbidgee Local Health District. The TBM procedure supersedes existing surgery, has a much lower risk of infection with a much quicker recovery time, and will avert the need and costs associated with patients having to travel to a major city for treatment.
- Foundation Chairman Robert Glover said:

"The Foundation is delighted to respond to Griffith's request. We are a purpose-built charity working to reduce the impact of prostate cancer on regional communities, and we know equipping GBH will be a life saver for men in the bush."

He went on to say:

"The Foundation's postie bike tour last October travelled through the Murrumbidgee Local Health District and was actively supported by local Prostate Cancer Support Groups and community clubs in Mulwala, Finley and Griffith. The grant acknowledges their great support and answers their call for action."

- Marianne Warren, GBH's Acting General Manager said:

"The Foundation's grant adds to funds raised by the local community over several years. It's so rewarding now to see this good work deliver an incredibly important health outcome for our communities."

Marianne added:

"The incidence of prostate cancer in our region is three times higher than Australia's major cities, so we will be moving quickly to acquire and commission our TBM.

- Further Male Bag Foundation grants to NSW regional hospitals will be announced shortly.



Full Release

- The Male Bag Foundation has provided a \$60,000 grant to Griffith Base Hospital (GBH) to purchase a transperineal biopsy machine (TBM). The grant is the Foundation's first in NSW and its largest grant to date in 2019.
- The grant was made possible from donations raised by the Foundation's 2,000 km postie bike tour in October 2018 that included overnight stops and meetings with prostate support groups and community clubs. The ride specifically targeted the Murrumbidgee Local Health District where the incidence of prostate cancer is unacceptably high.
- Equipping GBH with a TBM is a game changer for men's health in the Griffith, Leeton, Hillston and Lake Cargelligo communities in Murrumbidgee Local Health District. The TBM procedure supersedes existing surgery, has a much lower risk of infection with a much quicker recovery time, and will avert the need and costs associated with patients having to travel to a major city for treatment.
- Male Bag Foundation Chairman, Robert Glover said:

"The Foundation is delighted to respond to Griffith's request. We are a purpose-built charity working to reduce the impact of prostate cancer on regional communities, and we know equipping GBH with state of art equipment will help men, families and communities in the bush."

"In Victoria, hundreds of men each month benefit from our work. Getting blokes to have regular checks, knowing that the world-leading biopsy diagnostic equipment is locally available can be life-saving. Simply knowing we are helping patients, families and regional communities is what drives us."

He went on to say:

"The grant acknowledges the great support we received and 'call for action' from the Griffith Prostate Support Group, and community service clubs in Mulwala, Finley and Griffith. We look forward to continuing our support to Griffith Hospital and the community it serves."

- Marianne Warren, GBH's Acting General Manager of GBH said:

"The Foundation's grant adds to funds already raised by the local community over several years, so it's very rewarding to see this good delivering an incredibly important health outcome for the Griffith and surrounding communities."

Marianne added:

"The incidence of prostate cancer in our region is three times higher Australia's major cities, so we will be moving quickly to acquire and commission our TBM with procedures starting be mid-year."



- The Male Bag Foundation will be announcing further grants to NSW regional hospitals in coming weeks.
- The MBF is a highly successful charity working to increase prostate cancer survivors, especially in regional Australia. Since 2013 it has raised over \$1 million for specialist prostate cancer diagnostic equipment and services at Ballarat, Bendigo, Bairnsdale, and for the Murray and District Health Care.

Background

The Male Bag Foundation Ltd - purpose-built charity with a clear strategy

The Male Bag Foundation (MBF) is an incorporated not-for-profit charity developed to raise funds for much needed specialist equipment and services to reduce the incidence of prostate cancer in regional Australia. It uses Postie motor bikes, through rides to build awareness and raise funding for targeted outcomes.

The first ride was from Perth to Melbourne in 2013. The Foundation was established on 2 February 2015 (ABN: 52 602 823 496) and donations are Tax Deductible. The Board comprises volunteer Directors, there are no employees so that 100% of donations are directed at targeted outcomes. Our Chairman is Mr Robert Glover and our Patron is Dr David Parkin OAM.

Our brand and activities resonate with famers and regional communities.

Mission and achievements - boosting awareness in men's health and reducing prostate cancer deaths in regional Australia

Our annual 'Postie' rides have raised over \$1.0 million and fast-tracked the supply of Transperineal Biopsy Machines (TBMs) and specialist care services to Bairnsdale, Ballarat and Bendigo hospitals. We are now working to facilitate a TBM in regional New South Wales that will service an area approximating 25% of NSW.

Riders cover the costs of each event so all fund raising goes to outcomes.

Making a difference - facilitating the early detection and reducing the impact of prostate cancer on men, families and regional communities

Men in regional and rural communities don't like going to the capital cities for medical treatment and many ignore the early signs of prostate cancer. Early biopsies in regional hospitals using the latest technology followed by quick treatment saves lives.

Australia is at the forefront of transperineal biopsies and **Monash University** Associate Professor Jeremy Grummet is a world leader in this field and a friend of the Foundation. He endorses our work and is the only Australian to be an Associate of the European Urological Society.

Foundation Contacts

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Barry Marples (Right) presenting a donation from the Griffith Prostate Cancer Support Group to Robert Glover, Chairman of The Male Bag Foundation



The Male Bag Foundation's 2018 Big Ride participants led by David Parkin OAM - the leading edge of fund raising for Griffith Base Hospital's TBM