

# The Male Bag Foundation

Reducing the impact of prostate cancer on men and the people who love them



## News Release 20 May 2021

Male Bag Foundation to boost prostate cancer services in northern South Australia in partnership with the Local Health Network and community groups

### Release

- A grant of \$45,000 from The Male Bag Foundation will facilitate the purchase of a leading-edge prostate cancer biopsy machine for South Australia's Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network. The transperineal biopsy machine will be based at Port Augusta. The balance of the machine's cost will be assisted by funds raised by the Port Augusta Lions Club and the Whyalla Prostate Support Group.
- The unit is expected to be commissioned by June 2022 and will ensure that public patients across the Health Network (Quorn, Leigh Creek, Port Augusta, Whyalla and isolated Aboriginal communities) will have the same level of service that is available in Adelaide.
- Foundation Patron David Parkin OAM said:  
"On the Foundation's behalf, I want to acknowledge the Health Network's leadership team, Port Augusta Lions and the Whyalla Prostate Cancer Support Group for partnering in this significant health initiative. We know this will be a game changer for men's health, and we look forward to working together to achieve this mission".

As well,

"Facilitating a transperineal biopsy machine for the Network is a logical step for us. Together with those commissioned last year in South Australia's South-East and Riverland regions, our projects will reach 80% of the State's regional and remote communities. It's a great outcome in a short time, and we are delighted to play our part in partnership with the local health network and community groups."

- The transperineal biopsy day surgery procedure facilitated by the Grant involves negligible discomfort infection risk. No longer will public patients need to endure the current painful and outdated transrectal procedure or travel to Adelaide.
- David went on to say,  
"My South Australian football and education connections alerted me to the state of play with prostate cancer in this part of the world, so it's a great pleasure to muster the Male Baggers into action and work directly with the local community".

David concluded by saying,

"Prostate cancer remains the largest cause of death among blokes, with survivorship in regional communities being well below the national average. Early detection, local diagnosis and treatment is a game changer for men and the people who love them".

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- Foundation Chairman Robert Glover said

“In congratulating the Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network, our Board also acknowledges the fantastic backing from the Port Augusta Lions Club and the Whyalla Prostate Support Group. Strong community support was a major factor in our Board offering a Foundation Grant.”

He added,

“We are indebted to Steve Fawcett from Port Augusta Lions and Terry O’Brien from Whyalla Prostate Support Group who welcomed the opportunity to support the initiative. We keen to engage with both groups and in hosting a men’s health workshop in Port Augusta in mid-2022.”

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## Background Information

**Our mission** - reducing the impact of prostate cancer on men in regional Australia and the people who love them

### Background

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

The Foundation is an incorporated not-for-profit charity developed to raise funds for vital specialist equipment and services to diagnose the incidence of prostate cancer in regional Australia. It uses Postie motorbike rides to build awareness and raise funds for targeted outcomes. Our brand and activities resonate with major corporates, farmers and regional communities.

The first ride was from Perth to Melbourne in 2013. The Foundation was established on 2 February 2015 (ABN: 52602823496) and donations are Tax Deductible. The Board comprises volunteer Directors. There are no employees so that 100% of donations go towards targeted outcomes.

Our Chairman is Mr Robert Glover and Patron is Dr David Parkin OAM.

Thank you in advance for any donation made via our website at [www.themalebagfoundation.org.au](http://www.themalebagfoundation.org.au)

**Objectives and achievements** - boosting awareness in men's health and striving to reduce prostate cancer-related deaths in regional Australia

Our rides have raised over \$2 million and fast-tracked the delivery of transperineal biopsy machines (TBMs) and specialist care to hospitals in Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bendigo, Dubbo, Griffith, Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Barwon Health Riverland/Mallee/Coorong (Berri Hospital) and Limestone Coast Health Networks (Mt Gambier). Around 500 men every month use a TBM facilitated by our efforts.

**Making a difference** - facilitating the early detection and reducing the impact of prostate cancer

Men in regional and rural communities are more reluctant to go to the major cities for medical treatment and many ignore the early signs of prostate cancer. Often there are no early signs, as prostate cancer can begin far away from the urethra. Early biopsies in regional hospitals using the latest technology followed by quick treatment can save, or at least, significantly change lives.

**National TBM Policy** - advocating for Federal Government funding to equip all major public regional hospitals with a transperineal biopsy machine

Prostate cancer is an increasing cause of morbidity and mortality. The highest infection rates following a biopsy and lowest survivorship rates occur in regional Australia. Without a TBM, regional hospitals can only offer a painful and antiquated trans-rectal biopsy with unacceptable infection rates (ten times the risk of local infection and a deadly spread to the blood stream - sepsis), when compared to the TBM approach. This leads to costs that are avoidable with access to a TBM, in the hands of a trained urology team. Additionally, where a TBM is not available, patients must cover the disruption and travel costs to a city for what should be a routine day procedure.

## Contact

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