
Tasmanian Network of Men Service Providers Goes to the Movies

Twelve months ago, Jonathan Bedloe first heard about International Men's Health Week (IMHW), and wondered what was happening. "I Googled it - adding Tasmania into the search - and the first listing that came up was a reference to Tim Cox of ABC local radio saying that there was nothing happening for International Men's Health week, Mr Bedloe from Colony 47's Central Men's Shed said."

With the support of his employer, Colony 47 Inc, Jonathan has joined forces with Matthew Magnus from Relationships Australia, and co-convened the Tasmanian Network of Men's Service Providers, (TNMSP). The group aims to network and support people working primarily in the provision of services for men. One of the Network's first activities has been to organise some events for this year's IMHW, which runs from 11-17 June.

One such event is the special showing this Thursday night of the new release Australian film '**Romulus, My Father**'; entry to the film will be by gold coin donation. The event will be on at **6pm for 6.30 showing at Village Cinemas in Hobart city on Thursday 14th June**. Romulus, My Father is a movie that goes well beyond the stereotypically portrayals of men as violent and hard and demonstrates the strong and positive aspects of masculinity, in particular the quiet, often unspoken gestures that provide the examples of strength and courage our young men need to see.

Colony 47 CEO Therese Taylor said today "Colony 47 Inc. and Relationships Australia with support from Tasmanian Men's Health and Wellbeing Association are proud to support this new organisation to create this event. Some of the local service providers including Anglicare, Centrecare, Family Relationships Centre, Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service and the Southern Division of General Practice will be at the Cinema to promote the services they offer, and short presentations will be made to highlight the some of the issues of Men's Health and Wellbeing".

There's a continuing crisis when it comes to the health of men and boys. Men have significantly higher death rates for illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, respiratory problems and diabetes. Males experience significantly higher rates of suicide, drug and gambling addictions, violence from other men, mental illness, crime, motor vehicle accidents and premature death.

"Unfortunately men aren't always proactive about taking care of themselves – with often serious consequences. International Men's Health Week is an opportunity to acknowledge the different health and social challenges facing men and boys, and highlight positive steps people can take to improve the health and well being of men and thereby their family and community", Ms Taylor said.

The week is also an opportunity to acknowledge the diversity of men and boys and to celebrate the positive contributions they make to their communities.

For Further Information, or to arrange an interview please contact:

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