

Dear Committee,

Thank you for being willing to devote senate/parliamentary time to the issue of men's health in Australia. I believe it is a significantly worth while investment by the leaders of our nation. We often quote and point to the 'Youth' or 'Next Generation' as the future of our country but somehow miss seeing that those who prepare them for that future have to be 'healthy' (in all its terms of reference) to prepare them for it. If we don't discover and make attempts (successful I trust) to remedy those faults/illnesses/dysfunctions of the current co-preparers then our next generation will have to overcome those shortcomings as well as their own. Thank you for recognising the need for simple, clear, concise and easily incorporatable action for our current generation of men (and then the young men by example).

Without prior knowledge of your committee's meeting, a group of our church leaders went away together this last weekend to discuss this exact issue with particular reference to men, fathers and nurturing of our children. At a time when the hearts of the fathers are being turned to the children the assistance of all levels of government and society are welcomed and appreciated.

I also wish to express my thanks to all those (particularly Senator Cory Bernardi, Wayne Butlers and Warwick Marsh) who participated in the recent Sydney National Men's and Father's Health Round Table to further this vital cause.

Thank you.

Geoff Thorley (a father on his own)