

NEWS

Call for improved services

HEALTH

FIVE Australian men lose their lives to suicide every day.

So what can be done to prevent this?

With the launch of Men's Health Week, staff at Western Sydney University have called for a renewed focus on the social networks that support physical and mental health.

In Australia, a baby girl born in 2010 can expect to live to 82 years old, yet a baby boy born at the same time only has a life expectancy of 78 years.

Director of the Men's Health Information Resource Centre (MHIRC) at Western Sydney University Professor John Macdonald, said men's health was not just determined by

male-specific illnesses such as prostate cancer.

"Rather than focusing solely on medical interventions when men get sick, we must address the social factors that contribute to the high rate of illness and death among Australian men. Prevention is always preferable than finding a cure," he said.

"A major issue for many men is that their social net-

works are not as extensive as those of their female peers, meaning they can go without the informal advice, support and counselling provided by those networks.

"To help address this, we are calling for more 'male friendly' health services to help support the men in our lives, especially those that are retired. Too many men in Australia are isolated,

and we need to reach out to them with services tailored to their needs."

The majority of male deaths are attributed to accidents, cancer and heart disease.

In addition, men take their own lives at four times the rate of women, with five Australian men losing their lives to suicide every day.

Men's Health Week en-

courages men to sit down with their workmates and friends and have a chat about life.

This year's theme is Healthy Body, Healthy Mind: Keeping the Balance.

The theme is a reminder for men to take the time to enjoy the things in their lives that make them happy.

Men's Health Week runs from June 12-18.

Oxley students take a magical journey

OXLEY College students are adding their personal touch to a classic 1970s production and they want to share it with Highlanders.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will showcase their talents in the musical theatre production of Phantom Tollbooth Jr, an adaptation to the the Norton Juster's novel, The Phantom Tollbooth.

They will tell the story of Milo, a bored, lonely boy who lives in a San Francisco apartment block, who is sur-

prised by the sudden arrival of a large, gift-wrapped package.

Inside is a tollbooth, which turns out to be a gateway into a magical parallel universe.

Oxley College students will present the final show of Phantom Tollbooth Jr in Hoskins Hall on June 16 in the form of a twilight performance from 4.30pm. Tickets are \$7.00 each or Family Pass \$20.00 (2 adults & 2 children). They are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/284874>



Oxley students from kindergarten to Year 6 showcase their talents in Phantom Tollbooth Jr. Photo: Supplied

CHILDCARE FUNDING

ADDITIONAL funding for early childhood education will be a key part of the June 20 state budget. Goulburn MP Pru Goward announced there would be additional funding for community preschools and long day care services announced in the June 20 budget.

She said there would be an additional \$217 million for the Start Strong reforms. "This investment in the 2017-18 Budget is additional to the initial \$115 million Start Strong commitment."

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