

International Men's Day

'International Men's Day' (IMD) is commended by the *United Nations* and observed on 19 November each year to counter negative gender stereotypes and celebrate men's and boy's positive contributions to families and societies.

Australian men fulfil many diverse roles and responsibilities and also feature in statistics showing inequitable outcomes for their gender in important areas of life and employment – eg:

Men have an average 5 year lower life expectancy.

Men are over-represented in more hazardous occupations; and bear 70% of the burden of disease related to injury. *

The male suicide rate is nearly 4 times higher. **

Men represent a disproportionate 29% of State Government teaching positions**.

Males are also victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Men experience disadvantage in areas of Family Law.

Men's role in providing direct or indirect care for children and dependant family members is not readily acknowledged.

Men's gender inequity issues receive less publicity and advocacy.

Australian laws ensure that women are not denied any rights and opportunities also available to men and receive equal pay for comparable work performed. Australia celebrates 'Mother's Day' and 'Fathers Day'. 'International Men's Day' highlights inequitable gender outcomes for men and boys and the contributions they make to the financial and social well-being of Australian communities.

The goal of 'International Men's Day' is to afford men and boys a positive sense of identity and purpose for contributing to building sustainable, safe and growing communities. More information on IMD and the charter of principles of the global website is available at www.international-mens-day.com.

*Source: Federal Health Minister, Nicola Roxon and government information – Sunday Mail 8 June 2008.

**Source" 'Profile: Queensland Women 2009' (gender comparative statistics) – 'Health (Main Findings)' page 17 & 'Education and Training' – Table 4.2 page 47.