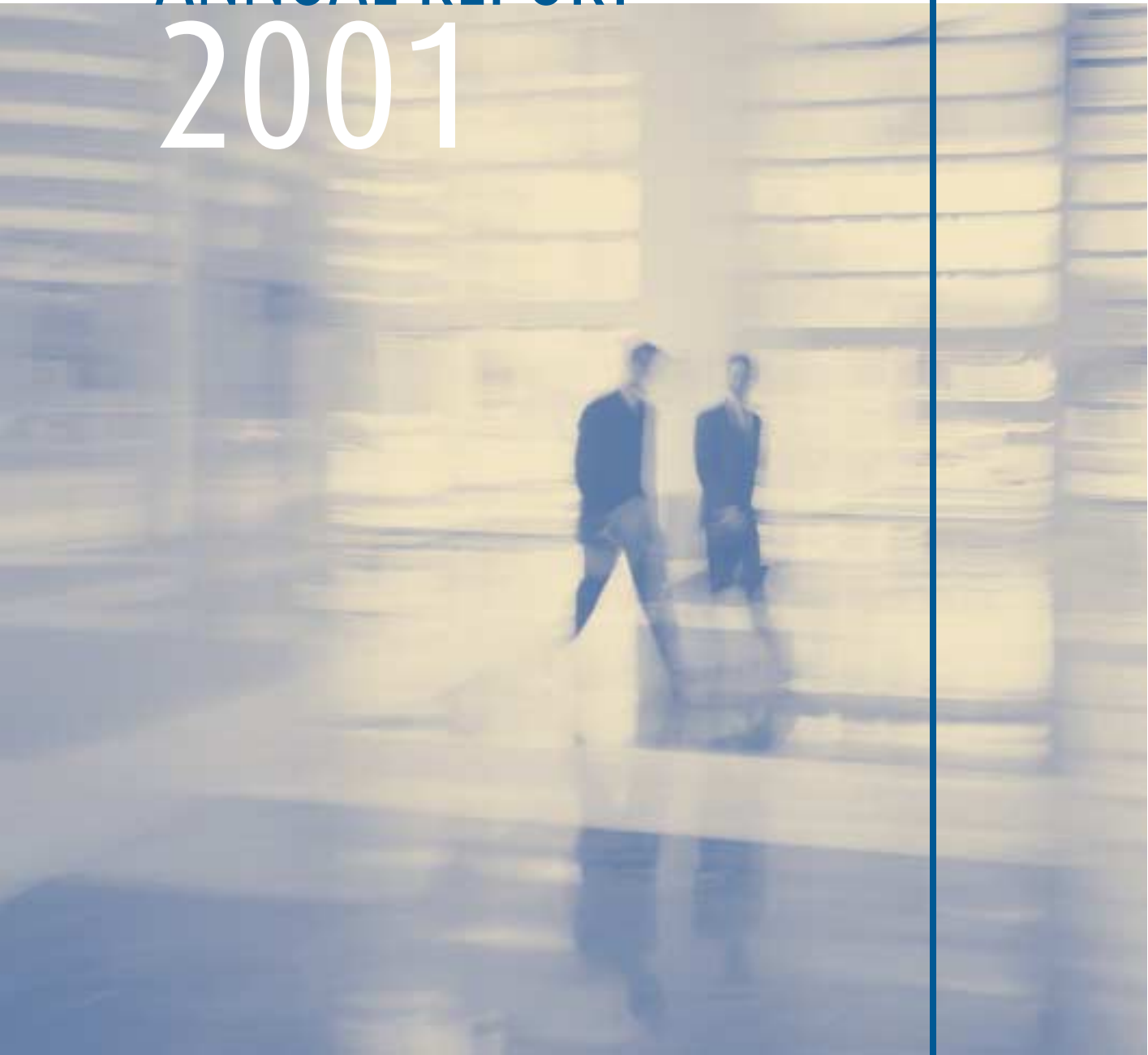


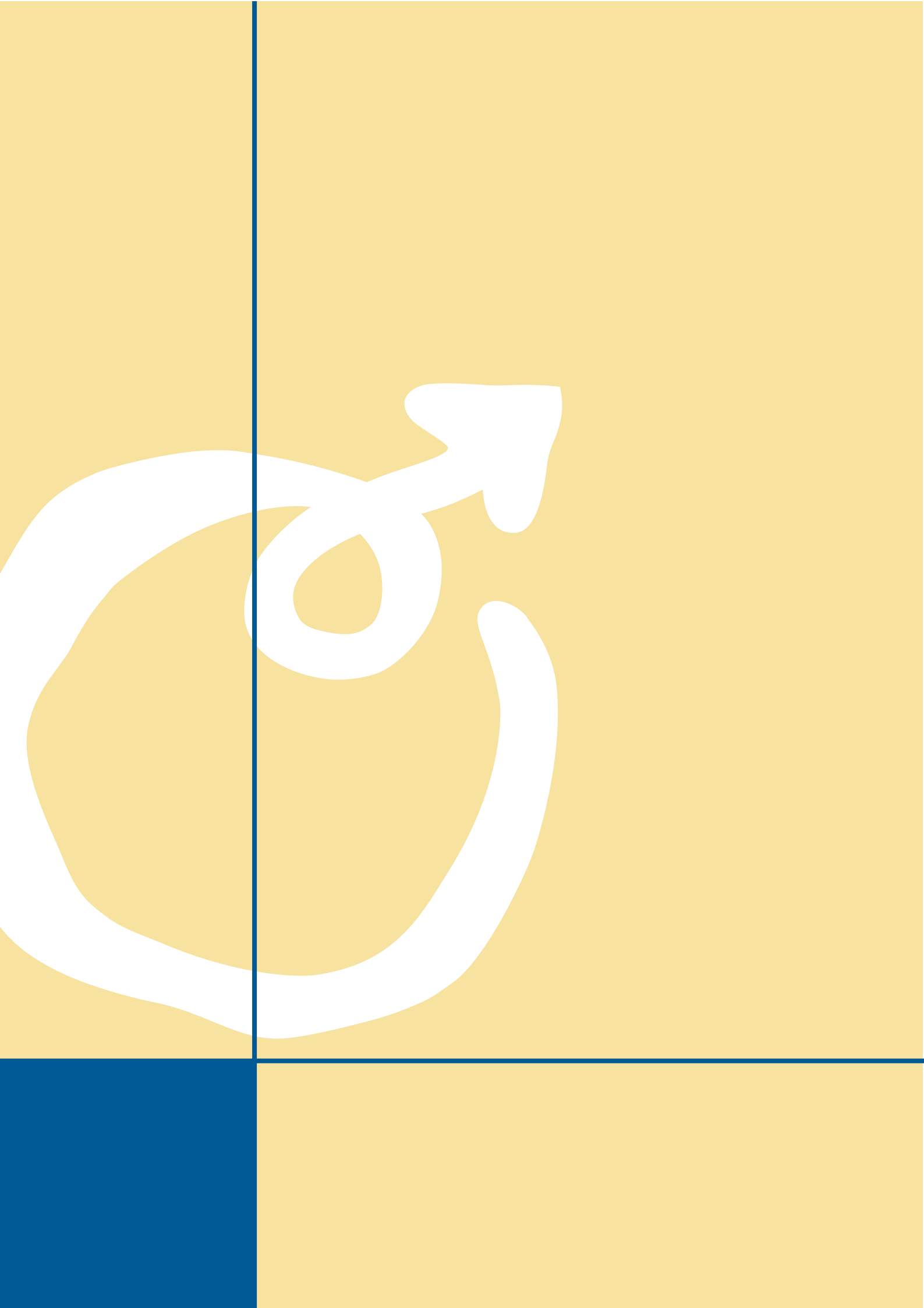
ANNUAL REPORT 2001



ANDROLOGY AUSTRALIA

Australian Centre of Excellence in Male Reproductive Health

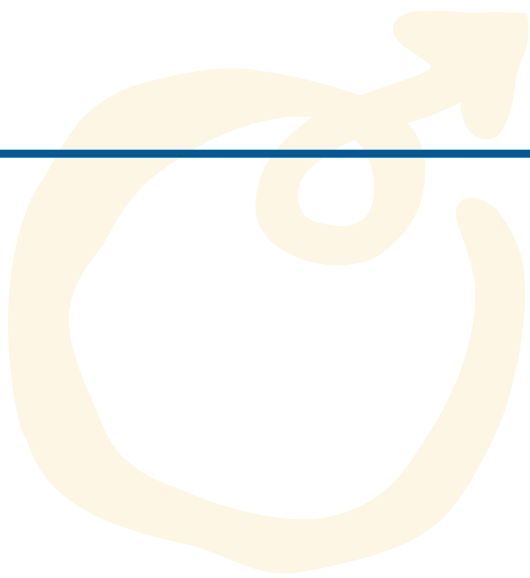




CONTENTS



| | |
|--|-----------|
| INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| Mission Statement | 3 |
| Goals | 3 |
| Priority Areas | 3 |
| Establishment of the Program | 4 |
| Administrative Structure | 4 |
| MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION | 5 |
| Advisory Board Members | 5 |
| Management Group | 7 |
| Advisory Groups | 9 |
| Administrative Staff | 10 |
| CHAIRMAN'S REPORT | 11 |
| DIRECTOR'S REPORT | 13 |
| GOALS | 15 |
| Community Education | 15 |
| Professional Education | 17 |
| Research | 19 |
| FINANCES | 20 |
| LISTINGS | 21 |
| Advisory Groups | 22 |
| Working Groups | 25 |
| Presentations | 25 |
| CONTACT US | 27 |
| PRIORITY AREAS | 28 |





INTRODUCTION



Andrology Australia (The Australian Centre of Excellence in Male Reproductive Health) is a Commonwealth Government funded initiative aimed at assisting Australian men in specific areas of male reproductive health. This “centre without walls” operates on a national basis and draws together expertise from around the country to undertake collaborative programs to improve and promote the reproductive health of males.

Mission Statement

Andrology Australia (The Australian Centre of Excellence in Male Reproductive Health) will undertake those measures that will enhance the reproductive health of males including community and professional education strategies and support of national research programs.

Goals

Andrology Australia will undertake those measures that will enhance the reproductive health of males:

- » To educate the community regarding issues relating to male reproductive health to improve men’s understanding of such health disorders;

- » To educate health professionals in the field of male reproductive health;
- » Draw together research and best practice expertise from around Australia, and where appropriate, from overseas;
- » To support national research infrastructure programs, where funding is not available from other funding sources, to enhance the reproductive health of men;
- » To maximise the use of financial resources available for the field of male reproductive health from Commonwealth, State and other organisations by the development of collaborative programs.

Priority Areas

The targeted areas of male reproductive health currently include:

- » Prostate disease including prostate cancer;
- » Testicular cancer;
- » Male infertility;
- » Use and abuse of androgens;
- » Sexual dysfunction including impotence.

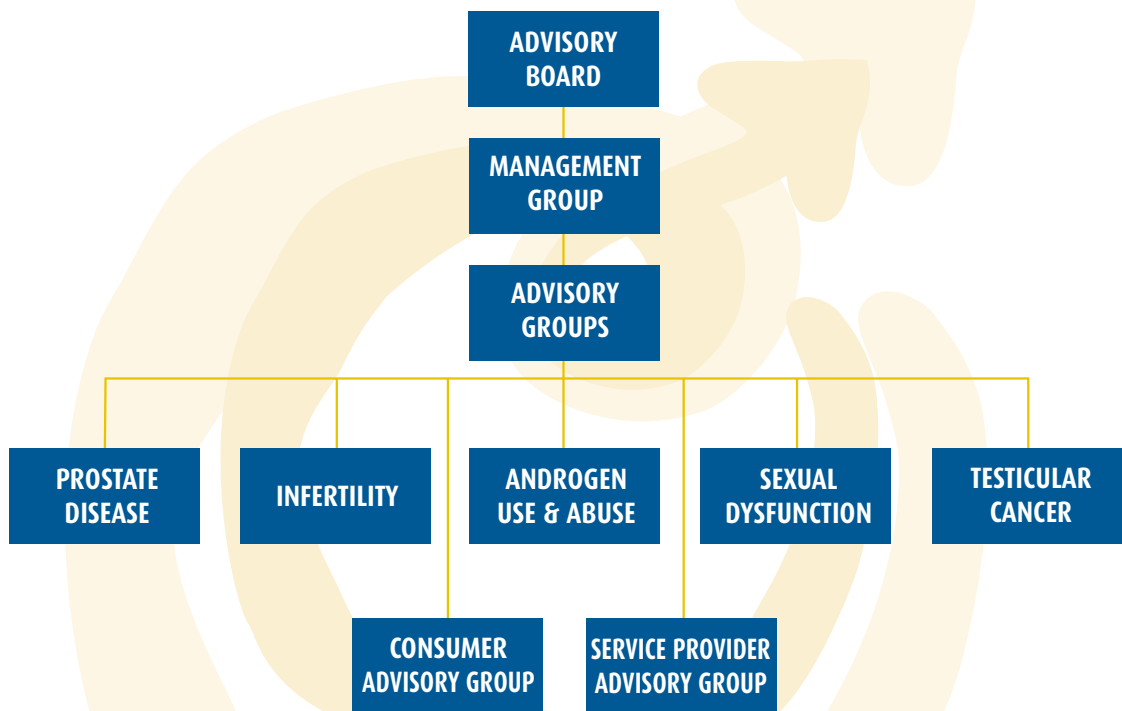
Priority areas were established following consultations with experts and key representatives from institutions with an interest in male sexual health.

Establishment of the Program

During the interim contract period, the management, administration and financial structure of Andrology Australia was established at Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development, Monash University. The appointment of the Advisory Board, Management Group and administration staff enabled the Centre to formulate the Business Plan and begin the program of activities necessary to achieve its goals.

Administrative Structure

The Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development (Monash University, Victoria) is responsible for the administration and management functions of Andrology Australia. The Institute has been chosen by the Federal Government to lead the Centre because of its international reputation and expertise in areas of male sexual and reproductive health. Monash University is the legal entity for Andrology Australia.



MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION



Advisory Board Members

An Advisory Board, with representation from key business, medical and community leaders, advises the Director and Management Group in administering and monitoring the grant funding provided by the Commonwealth to ensure all objectives of Andrology Australia are achieved. Members of the Advisory Board are appointed by the Federal Minister of Health.

Mr. Mark Rayner (Chairman, Victoria)



is a well known and experienced businessman. He is on the Boards of a number of corporations and is the Chairman of the

Board of Mayne Group Ltd, a company with significant interests in the health field. He is also Chairman of Pasmenco Ltd, a Director of Boral Ltd and former Chairman of National Australia Bank Ltd.

Professor David de Kretser AO



(Director, Victoria) is the Director of the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development. A consultant physician and endocrinologist,

he is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and has extensive experience both in clinical practice and research in the fields relevant to Andrology Australia. Prof. David de Kretser was instrumental in the establishment of Andrology Australia and has been appointed as Director of the Centre.

Mr. Mark Frydenberg (Victoria)



is the Head of Urology at Monash Medical Centre and has significant experience in urology with research interests in the areas covered by Andrology Australia.

Professor David Handelsman



(New South Wales) is Director of the newly formed ANZAC Medical Research Institute based at the Concord Hospital in Sydney. He is an

endocrinologist with vast experience of research in the fields relevant to Andrology Australia.

Mr. Ben Harris (Victoria)



is the executive director of the Optometrists Association Victoria. He is an economist by training, and in previous positions

has worked in health policy for the Commonwealth Government and the National Competition Council.

Professor Richard Hayes (Queensland)



is Dean of the Medical School at the James Cook University Campus in Townsville. Professor Hayes brings a strong educational

background, strong links in general practice, and also linkages with rural health issues.

Associate Professor Douglas Lording



(Victoria) is a consultant endocrinologist practising in impotence medicine. As Medical Director of Cabrini Hospital and

Chair of the Cabrini Clinical Education and Research Institute, he provides a strong link with the evolving education and research interest of the private not-for-profit sector.

Professor Chris Silagy AO (Victoria)



was Director of the Institute of Health Services Research at Monash University and brought a significant background in

epidemiology and community health. He was also Director of the National Cochrane Centre and member of the Andrology Australia Management group. [Died December 13, 2001]

Professor Doreen Rosenthal (Victoria)



is Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University and Professorial Fellow in the Department of

Psychology at The University of Melbourne. She is a developmental psychologist and an international expert in the field of adolescent sexuality and was the Foundation Director of the Australian Centre for Research in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University.

Professor Wayne Tilley (South



Australia) is the Director of the Cancer Centre at the Flinders Medical Centre in South Australia and has an international

reputation in the field of prostate cancer.

Mr. Michael Schildberger (Victoria),



a well known business and media personality with significant experience in marketing. With a past history of prostate cancer, Mr.

Schildberger also represents the consumer.

Dr. Alan Wright (Western Australia),



a general practitioner with a significant interest in education and in particular has, for the past two years, been the Director of the Men's

Health Project run by the Fremantle Regional Division of General Practice. Dr. Wright is also a Colonel in the Citizens Military Forces and Chairman Area Health Advisory Board Western Region of the Australian Defence Forces.



Management Group

Andrology Australia is administered by the Director, Professor David de Kretser, and a Management Group comprised of experts in areas of male reproductive medicine and medical education.

Professor David M de Kretser AO



**MBBS, MD,
FRACP, FAA**

Professor David de Kretser is an endocrinologist and until the end of 2001, Director of the

Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development at Monash University, located in Melbourne, Australia. He has experience in the fields of reproductive endocrinology and male infertility. In addition to his University and research roles, he continues to practice and is recognized in the medical community as a world expert in men's reproductive health and has received numerous accolades from many international scientific groups.

Professor de Kretser is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and in 1996 was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. In 1998 he was acknowledged by the Committee for Melbourne with an Achiever Award for Advancing Melbourne's Global Connections. In 2000, he was awarded an Order of Australia in the 2000 Australia Day Honours in recognition of his significant contribution to medical science as a researcher, educator and university administrator.

Associate Professor Robert I McLachlan



MMBS FRACP PhD

Associate Professor Robert McLachlan is currently Principal Research Fellow at Prince Henry's Institute of Medical

Research, located at Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne and specialises in the area of male reproductive endocrinology. He graduated in medicine from Monash University in 1977 and completed advanced training in endocrinology. After completing a PhD in reproductive physiology in 1987, Associate Professor McLachlan undertook postdoctoral research at the University of Washington, Seattle, USA. Associate Professor McLachlan currently combines his academic career with clinical consultant positions in the fields of endocrinology and andrology at Monash IVF and Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne. He has a clinical research interest in male fertility regulation and infertility, including the use of assisted reproductive technologies and the genetics of male infertility.

Associate Professor McLachlan is currently the President of Council of the Fertility Society of Australasia, and a Member of the Committee for Research on Methods for Male Fertility Regulation of the World Health Organization. He has been an author on approximately 100 clinical and research publications on male infertility and endocrinology.

Professor Leon Piterman



**MMed MEdSt
MRCP FRACGP**

Professor Leon Piterman is Professor of General Practice at Monash University and Head of the

School of Primary Health Care and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Having graduated in 1971 from Melbourne University after a number of residency posts in Melbourne and London he combined clinical general practice with a part time academic career at Monash until 1993 when he took up the post of Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of General Practice. He is responsible for establishing Australia's largest and most successful university based Diploma/Masters program for general practitioners.

Professor Piterman is a member of the Board of Examiners of the Australian Medical Council, an examiner with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and sits on numerous university, professional and government expert committees. He has published widely on clinical and educational issues related to general practice.

Professor Gail P Risbridger



BSc (Hons) PhD

Professor Risbridger gained her PhD in testicular paracrinology from Monash University in 1981. Over the next

ten years she worked at both the Royal Children's Hospital and Monash University's Departments of Physiology and Anatomy until becoming a founding member of the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development's senior research team in 1991. In 1995 she was awarded a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Principal Research Fellowship. She spent a sabbatical as Visiting Professor at the Department of Anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco in 1997. Upon her return, Gail established the Centre for Urological Research in partnership with Mr. Mark Frydenberg (Department of Urology, MMC). She has been awarded an Academy of Science Fellowship, Kings College/Monash Fellowship and the Monash Silver Jubilee Prize in recognition for her work in prostate disease. The intellectual property generated from her research program was the basis of the establishment of Prostate Diagnostics Inc. Gail also acts as a consultant for pharmaceutical companies, serves on editorial boards and committees for the NHMRC.

Professor Chris Silagy AO



MB BS PhD

FRACGP FAFPHM

Professor Chris Silagy graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne. He completed a PhD in

epidemiology at Monash University and then undertook postdoctoral studies in Oxford as the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholar in Medicine. In 1993, at the age of 32, he was appointed as Professor and Head of the Department of Evidence-Based Care and General Practice at Flinders University. In February 1999, he was appointed to the post of Professor of Public Health at Monash University and Director of the Monash Institute of Public Health. He also held appointments as Director, Australasian Cochrane Centre and Chair of the Board of the National Institute of Clinical Studies Limited.

Professor Silagy was a recognised international authority on evidence based health care. He was a member of the International Steering Group of the Cochrane Collaboration from 1993 and its chair from 1996-98. He was a member of numerous national committees, including the NHMRC Health Advisory Committee. He was regarded as one of Australia's leading evaluators of health care programs. From 1996 to 2000 he led the evaluation of the National Co-ordinated Care trials. He was an author on over 140 research publications. In the Queen's Birthday 2000 Honours List he was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia for service to medicine, particularly in the areas of research and education, and in developments in the field of evidence-based medicine.

Professor Chris Silagy died on December 13, 2001 after a long battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.



Advisory Groups

Advisory Groups comprising specific expertise in the Centre's priority areas of male reproductive health have been appointed to assist the Director and Board achieve the objectives of the Centre. Within the advisory groups, special consideration is given to the needs of particular community groups including youth, aged population, indigenous and rural communities.

The Advisory Groups also assist in identifying potential collaborative partners who can assist the Centre to achieve its defined objectives and undertake specific research and educational projects. This integrated approach avoids duplication of effort and ensures the same quality information is provided to consumers and health professionals. By working in partnership with the private and public sectors, research institutions, community organisations and consumers, the objectives of Andrology Australia can be sustained in the longer term.

Details of Advisory Group members are provided in Listings.



Administrative Staff

Dr Carol Holden



**BSc (Hons), PhD,
Grad Cert BA,
Grad Cert Hlth Info**

Project Manager

Carol Holden was appointed in November 2000 as

Project Manager to co-ordinate the activities of the Centre and ensure the Centre maintains effective administrative and financial management. Carol gained her PhD in reproductive biology from Monash University in 1994 and has completed further postgraduate qualifications in Business Administration and Health Informatics. From 1992, she was employed at the infertility clinic, Monash IVF, as co-ordinator of the Andrology and Endocrine laboratories. In 1999, she was appointed Operations Manager for the two associated companies, Monash Reproductive Pathology and Genetics and Monash Ultrasound for Women.

Carolyn Poljski



**B App Sci (Hons),
Dip Eval**

Health Promotion Officer

Carolyn Poljski was appointed in September 2001 as

Health Promotion Officer to develop and promote the Centre's community education strategy. She has completed a Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in Health Promotion and a Postgraduate Diploma in Evaluation. She is currently studying for her Masters in Public Health. For five years, Carolyn worked for the Westgate Division of General Practice in Melbourne's western suburbs co-ordinating innovative child and youth health initiatives which specifically dealt with immunisation, drug and alcohol abuse, and youth access to services.

Lesley Jones



Administrative Officer

Lesley Jones was appointed in March 2001 as Administrative Officer to provide

administrative and organizational support to the Project Manager and Director. Lesley joined Andrology Australia having worked previously at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (NSW) as assistant to the education course co-ordinator.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Mr. Mark Rayner, Chairman

Australian society is increasingly demanding high quality healthcare. They are seeking accurate unbiased information and expect the medical profession to be well informed of the latest research developments. They want better treatment options and cures for long standing illnesses. In specialised fields, such as men's reproductive health, it is particularly important to maximise the resources available through collaboration, co-ordination and good management.

Prostate disease, testicular cancer, male infertility, androgen use and abuse and sexual dysfunction (including impotence) impact on the health and well-being of significant numbers of the Australian male population. There is a generally poor understanding about these conditions, leading to an absence of an evidence-based approach to their management. Furthermore many men do not have adequate knowledge to fully understand the implications of these disorders and the impact of treatment options.

The creation of a totally collaborative environment, which enables Australian leaders in andrology and health education to focus their resources, attention and skills on health promotion, education and treatment of men from all sections of Australian society, is an important step in addressing these issues.

For this reason, I was pleased to accept the role of Chairman of Andrology Australia (The Australian Centre of Excellence in Male Reproductive Health) earlier this year. Australia is leading the world with the creation of such a Centre.

Working with me on the Board are a widely representative group of business, medical and community leaders. We have undertaken to share our individual scientific, administrative and financial expertise with the Director and his Management Group, to ensure the Centre's specified objectives are achieved through the most effective utilisation of the substantial initial funding provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The task is one of great magnitude and responsibility. Andrology Australia will:

- » Identify the major reproductive health issues that affect the reproductive health of males and thus define the scope of the Centre;
- » Define the current state of knowledge and research in the major problems that disrupt the reproductive health of males and identify areas which need encouragement;
- » Identify trends in the frequency and severity of disease processes which disrupt male reproductive health to guide the development of the programs of the Centre;
- » Determine whether specific groups within Australia have unique features which influence their health;
- » Utilise the outcomes from consultations with Advisory Groups of the Centre to develop and implement an educational strategy for professionals involved in the delivery and management of male reproductive health;
- » Evaluate the information needs of the community in terms of male reproductive health and determine if there are needs which are specific to certain communities;

- » Develop and implement strategies to communicate the relevant information to the general public and specific communities in the key areas of male reproductive health;
- » Support research institutions working in areas of male reproductive health by providing research infrastructure where appropriate that is not available from other sources;
- » Identify and access other major funding sources for the support of male reproductive health programs;
- » Establish partnerships with other agencies for projects where there are potential overlaps or synergies to enable the most effective use of funding;
- » Monitor the outcomes of the Centre's activities to ensure effective use of funding.

On behalf of the Board of Andrology Australia, I congratulate Professor David de Kretser for conceiving of such a Centre which will help to ensure that many more Australian men can lead healthy and fulfilled lives. We particularly thank Dr Michael Wooldridge for his foresight and commitment in supporting and encouraging this example of world best practice in men's reproductive healthcare research and education. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to such a significant venture.

Mark Rayner
Chairman
Andrology Australia

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Professor David de Kretser AO
Director

Andrology Australia has been several years in the making. In 1998 the then Federal Minister for Health & Aged Care, The Honorable Dr Michael Wooldridge MP invited me to submit a proposed strategy to improve men's reproductive health in Australia.

After some consultation the Minister approved the submission and the 1998-1999 Federal Budget allocated \$4 million over four years for an Australian Centre of Excellence in Male Reproductive Health. In December 1999 the Centre was launched at Parliament House in Canberra.

Since then considerable time and effort has been taken to lay the foundations for the Centre. Priority has been given to defining its parameters, to establishing networks with key groups and individuals in men's reproductive health in Australia, and to building the credibility of the Centre as an authority on male reproductive health.

Identifying the needs in men's reproductive health and the priority areas for the Centre was a fundamental first step. Workshops and interviews were conducted to highlight the areas where there is an absence of information or research or education. The results from these sessions have formed the basis for much of the Centre's business plan.

The need to create an infrastructure for the Centre to function efficiently and effectively was urgent. I was delighted at the end of 2000 to secure the services of Dr Carol Holden, a well respected scientist with many years experience in the treatment of male infertility. Her understanding of the medical issues under review and her vast knowledge of reproductive healthcare in Australia are a considerable asset to the Centre.

In the second half of 2001 Carolyn Poljski joined the team as Health Promotion Officer. In just a few months she has developed a clearly defined consultation process for the community education strategy.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Centre's Administrative Assistant, Lesley Jones who has also been a key member of the team helping to establish the Centre.

2001 has been a year of transition from an interim to an operational phase. However a number of milestones have been reached over the past 12 months and significant progress has been made on several projects. Details of several of these projects can be found elsewhere in this report.

The Board of the Centre has been appointed and has met on four occasions. I personally thank all the busy men and women who have accepted their appointments and shown considerable commitment to the cause of improving men's reproductive health in Australia. They have already given considerably of their time and talents.

Eight advisory groups, comprising a total of 65 volunteers with specific expertise in designated areas of male reproductive health, have been established to further identify the key issues relating to community and professional education and research in their nominated field.

The operational name of Andrology Australia was given to the Centre during the year. Officially it remains the Australian Centre of Excellence in Male Reproductive Health. However, the shorter title is intended to facilitate communication and quick recognition of the organisation.

Andrology is the study of the functions and diseases of the male reproductive organs or the male equivalent of gynaecology. Although the term is unfamiliar to many, it appeared an appropriate title for an organisation dedicated to male reproductive health. Through its work to increase awareness and understanding of male reproductive health, Andrology Australia will help define this term.

In closing, I wish to recognise the significant contribution made by Professor Chris Silagy AO during the short history of Andrology Australia. He sadly died on December 13, 2001 after a long battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Chris was appointed as a member of the Andrology Australia Board and Management Group in 1999 when the Centre was in its planning phase. As Director of the Monash Institute of Health Services Research and Chair of the recently formed National Institute of Clinical Studies, Chris brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise in epidemiology and community health. His energy, enthusiasm and intellect will be greatly missed by all those at Andrology Australia.

Professor David de Kretser AO
Director
Andrology Australia

GOALS



Community Education

Having acknowledged the lack of community information in many areas of male reproductive health, strategies to improve community awareness of many issues and provide authenticated, quality information were considered to be priorities for Andrology Australia. Maximising available resources, the strategy was also to avoid duplication of material from reliable sources. In the first year of the program, Andrology Australia aimed to educate the community regarding issues relating to male reproductive health and to improve men's understanding of such health disorders. Specifically the goals were:

- » **To evaluate the INFORMATION NEEDS of the community in terms of male reproductive health and to determine if there are needs which are specific to certain communities**

Support is being provided to develop a strategy to evaluate the information needs of the community in terms of male reproductive health. It involves a comprehensive consultation process to determine the community issues that need to be addressed. Consumer and Service provider advisory groups have been established to obtain both specialist and consumer perspective. A comprehensive literature review of existing education strategies is planned. Statistics about the prevalence and incidence of each health issue will be collected to ensure effort is put into implementing education strategies which target groups and areas that are most vulnerable and at risk. The use of focus groups with both consumers and general practitioners will also be a key feature of the strategy. Semi structured interviews will be used to consult other key stakeholders. The strategy also includes the development of an audit tool to be distributed to organisations undertaking community education programs in male reproductive health to determine current relevant education strategies in each health area. Special consideration will be given to the needs of particular groups within the community when reviewing the priority health issues. These groups would include youth, aged population, and indigenous and rural communities.

Key participants: Andrology Australia

Status: Study in progress

- » **To develop a WEB-SITE for the Centre and to utilise the site to deliver community education to ensure the community has access to quality information**

A web-site for Andrology Australia has been developed to deliver community education in the fields of male reproductive health. The information at www.andrologyaustralia.org is intended to be educational in nature, to improve understanding and knowledge of the range, causes and treatment options of male reproductive disorders. The site provides quality, authenticated information on prostate disease, testicular cancer, male infertility, erectile dysfunction and androgen replacement therapy. Subsequent stages of web site development will include information for health professionals.

As part of the web-site development Andrology Australia has also committed to participating in a baseline study to assess the quality and accessibility of male reproductive health information on the Internet. The study outlines the development of a tool that can be applied to the Andrology Australia website so that consumers can identify whether other sites provide quality information on male reproductive health.

Key participants: Andrology Australia and Monash Institute of Health Service Research (Monash University, VIC)

Status: The site went live in September 2001. Updates and reviews are ongoing.

» **To explore the possibility of delivering community education in the field of PROSTATE CANCER in co-operation with the State Cancer Councils**

The Cancer Council Victoria recognised the need for prostate cancer services throughout Australia and with the assistance of Andrology Australia developed a model for a National Prostate Cancer Program into a form that can be presented to potential national sponsors. The Program is intended to draw together the skills and expertise of the State and Territory Cancer Councils to allow sharing of resources and provision of a national approach to prostate cancer education. It will be achieved through partnerships with other member organisations, Andrology Australia (The Australian Centre of Excellence in Male Reproductive Health), the Australian Prostate Cancer Collaboration (APCC) and The Cancer Council Australia. All State and Territory Cancer Councils will be provided with the resources developed by the National Prostate Cancer Program and subsequently trained in their use to ensure a national approach to this major health issue. It is envisaged that the Program will provide the education and support Australian men are seeking.

Andrology Australia has not made a financial commitment to the program but, as with other partnerships, will be able to assist with the development of content and resources and review existing information.

Key Participants: Andrology Australia and Cancer Council Victoria representing The Cancer Council Australia. National sponsor to be identified.

Status: Proposal under review by potential sponsors.

» **To raise the awareness of men's health issues by using FATHER'S DAY as a promotion tool**

Andrology Australia provided financial support for a Fathers' Day campaign to raise the awareness of men's health issues in the community. Organised by Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development, the campaign used Fathers' Day as a vehicle to promote "dad's" health and encourage men to have more regular health assessments and to develop closer associations with their GP. A pilot program was conducted in Victoria in September 2001 with the intent to subsequently launch the program nationally in future years. The central feature of the campaign was a "DadCare Kit" to be given as a gift to fathers. It included a greeting card, letter from the Minister, simple health questionnaire and an entry form for a competition. It was sold in Coles retail outlets in Victoria. Although sales of the kits were disappointing, the campaign was considered worthwhile in relation to promotion of the health message.

Key Participants: Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development (Monash University, VIC)

Status: The campaign was conducted in Victoria in 2001.

GOALS cont.



Professional Education

Consultations with advisory groups highlighted the need to develop an educational strategy for the professions involved in the delivery and management of male reproductive health. Andrology Australia recognise that to deliver an effective community education strategy it is imperative that health professionals are equipped with the necessary skills to manage the expectations of the public that would be raised by the public education program.

With general practitioners acknowledged as representing the gatekeepers of the health care system in Australia, strategies to provide GPs with relevant skills and understanding were considered to be a key activity in the education strategy for professionals. It was considered crucial that a GP education program be initiated before implementing the community education strategy to any degree.

The specific goals of Andrology Australia's education program for health professionals in 2001 were:

» To develop a DISTANCE EDUCATION program covering the male reproductive disorders for general practitioners

Andrology Australia has provided support to the Department of General Practice (Monash University) to develop a single subject distance education course for GPs on the subject of Male Sexual and Reproductive Health. It is an evidence-based approach to the management of reproductive health disorders in men. As a distance education course, it also provides rural GPs with access to quality education. Designed as a short certificate course that may be credited towards the Graduate Diploma or Master's Degree in Family Medicine offered by Monash University, the course offers a generous quantum of Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Clinical Audit (CA) points for vocationally registered GPs. The objective of this five week course is to increase General Practitioners' knowledge of andrology, and to make them confident and comfortable in dealing with patients suffering from disorders of the male reproductive organs.

Key Participants: Department of General Practice (Monash University, VIC)

Status: Module available from the second semester (July) 2002.

» To develop a strategy to utilise the DIVISIONS OF GENERAL PRACTICE to raise the standard of care by GPs in the fields of male reproductive health

A strategy has been developed to utilise the Divisions of General Practice on a national basis to raise the standard of care by general practitioners in the fields of male reproductive health. Representative GPs from all states, including some from rural areas, who have a demonstrated interest in the discipline and ideally previous training experience, will be invited to participate in training workshops. Commitment must be given from trained GPs to participate in two or three cycles of subsequent training programs in their own state. The first stage of the program will include the development of material together with a pilot program for eight Victorian Divisions (six metro and two rural). The second phase of the program will be a National roll-out in which a cohort of national trainers and consultants will roll-out the programs in Divisions throughout Australia, concentrating on their own State.

This will also include the education of GPs in rural areas. The goal is to provide a wider skill base and resource pool so that about one in eight practices around the country has a GP who has attended a training program.

This approach provides a cost-effective option to educate a large number of GPs across both metropolitan and rural areas. It also provides a resource base in other States that can be utilised for other programs and to maintain the effectiveness of the program in the longer term.

Key Participants: Department of General Practice (Monash University, VIC)

Status: First phase of the program expected to take place in 2002.

- » **To develop a program to monitor the use, misuse and abuse of ANDROGENS in the Australian community.**

Appropriate clinical use of androgens is a major issue in male reproductive health and a priority area of concern for Andrology Australia. There is currently little awareness of the extent and significance of androgen use, misuse or abuse in the Australian community. Consequently, Andrology Australia has provided support for the appointment of a project officer at the ANZAC Research Institute (NSW) to review androgen abuse in high schools to look for trends and further predictors of abuse. Monitoring of androgen prescription patterns in individual States and changes in prescription patterns over the last decade will also be undertaken. It is anticipated that the final report from the study will assist in the development of future public health policy.

Key Participants: ANZAC Research Institute (Sydney, NSW)

Status: Study in progress with anticipated completion date of December 2002.

- » **To consider the manner in which to enhance the understanding of clinical laboratories concerning the issues governing the accurate DIAGNOSIS OF ANDROGEN DEFICIENCY**

A preliminary survey has been conducted as part of the Royal College of Pathologists Quality Assurance Program to determine the reference ranges and methods used for diagnosing androgen deficiency. These varied widely between laboratories. The survey highlighted that a well-calibrated reference range is currently not available. The development of a serum panel on a reference population is proposed to enable pathology laboratories to re-evaluate reference ranges for the different assays currently available. Guidelines for androgen measurements will then be developed. This will be the first national approach to standardise biochemical diagnosis of androgen deficiency.

Key Participants: Andrology Australia, Royal College of Pathologists (RCPA) & Australian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB)

Status: A detailed proposal and budget for this project are currently being developed.

GOALS cont.



Research

A key objective for Andrology Australia is to draw together and facilitate research to enhance the reproductive health of males. Support to research institutions working in areas of male reproductive health will be provided in the form of research infrastructure, where appropriate, that is not available through other funding bodies. This will supplement, rather than usurp the role of major funding bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Andrology Australia's specific research goals in 2001 were:

» **To explore the possibility of creating a National PROSTATE TUMOUR TISSUE BANK in collaboration with other agencies**

Andrology Australia has committed research infrastructure support for the development of a national prostate tumour tissue bank in association with the Australian Prostate Cancer Collaboration (APCC) and other agencies. The aim of this project is to improve the collaborative effort nationally by providing a comprehensive tissue resource and associated clinical database that will enable research institutions to access quality material and data to enhance research activity in prostate cancer. The resource will have a web-based "virtual face" that can be accessed nationally with the participation of multiple "real" tumour bank nodes Australia-wide. It will enable wide and equitable availability to all researchers.

Key Participants: Australian Prostate Cancer Collaboration (APCC)

Status: This project is ongoing.

» **To explore the development of a DNA bank from patients with IDIOPATHIC DISORDERS OF SPERM PRODUCTION resulting in infertility**

Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development has established a repository containing DNA from patients with a variety of infertile disorders to provide a resource for investigators to identify genetic causes of male infertility. This database has proved useful in collaborative studies with colleagues in North America in the identification of patients with Y chromosome deletions. Through the provision of research infrastructure, Andrology Australia hopes to assist in the expansion of the repository to form a national resource. A

second site is to be established at the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne.

Key Participants: Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development (Monash University, VIC) and Royal Women's Hospital (Melbourne, VIC)

Status: This project is ongoing.

» **To determine the need for a LONGITUDINAL STUDY of middle aged and older men to provide information concerning the frequency of prostate disease, erectile dysfunction and androgen deficiency**

A study of middle aged and ageing men to determine the frequency of male reproductive health disorders is proposed. A Project Steering committee has been established with representatives from epidemiological research organisations and researchers with interests in male reproductive health. Review of other longitudinal studies has been undertaken to identify issues experienced when conducting studies of this magnitude. Study size, methodologies and areas where data from other longitudinal studies is absent are the initial focus.

Key Participants: Andrology Australia

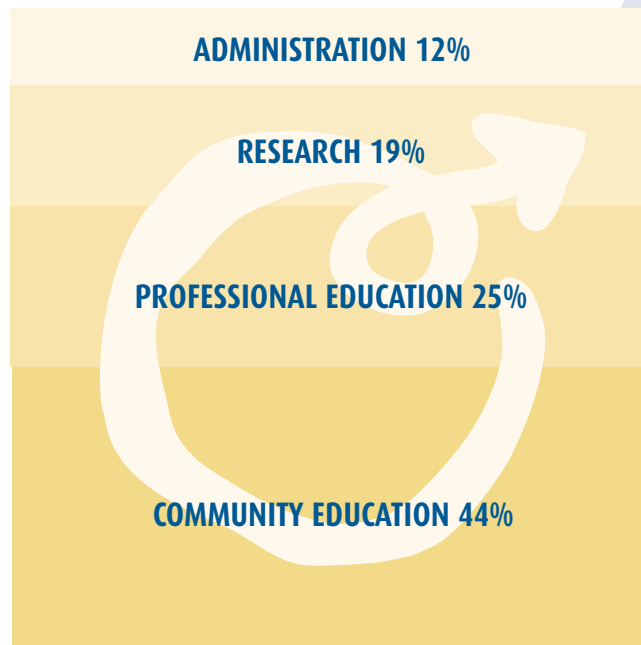
Status: The project objectives are currently being defined together with a draft protocol. Avenues for outside funding and support are being explored.

The 1998-1999 Federal Budget allocated \$4 million over four years for an Australian Centre of Excellence in Male Reproductive Health, based on a submission to the Minister for Health from Professor David de Kretser, Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development.

The funding provided by the Commonwealth is designed to enhance what is already happening in the identified priority areas. It is not intended to be the only source of funding for any activity. It is envisaged that support, either financial or otherwise would be provided by various organisations to contribute to identified projects.

A proportion of funding is allocated to infrastructure and administrative expenses. Remaining expenditure is allocated to community and professional education programs, and support of national research infrastructure, as indicated below. A collaborative approach ensures that the use of financial resources is maximised.

Financial allocations for 2000-2001





Advisory Groups

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Androgen Advisory Group | 22 |
| Impotence Advisory Group | 22 |
| Infertility Advisory Group | 23 |
| Prostate Disease Advisory Group | 23 |
| Testicular Cancer Advisory Group | 24 |
| Consumer Advisory Group | 24 |
| Service Provider Advisory Group | 24 |

Working Groups

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Longitudinal Study Group | 25 |
| Androgen Testing Project Group | 25 |

Presentations

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Conference Presentations | 25 |
|--------------------------|----|



Advisory Groups

Advisory Groups comprising specific expertise in the Centre's priority areas of male reproductive health have been appointed to assist the Director and Board achieve the objectives of the Centre.

Androgen Advisory Group

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Dr Carolyn Allan | Consultant Endocrinologist, Monash Medical Centre, Vic |
| Professor Ross Cuneo | Associate Professor, Dept of Medicine, University of Queensland, Qld |
| Professor David de Kretser AO | Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Professor David Handelsman | Director, ANZAC Research Institute & Dept of Andrology, University of Sydney, NSW |
| Assoc Professor Douglas Lording | Medical Director, Cabrini Hospital, Vic |
| Dr Michael Lowy | Director, Australian Centre for Sexual Health, NSW |
| Assoc Professor Rob McLachlan | Principal Research Fellow, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Vic |
| Dr Tony O'Sullivan | Senior Lecturer in Medicine, University of New South Wales, NSW |
| Professor Gail Risbridger | Associate Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Vic |
| Dr Bronwyn Stuckey | Medical Director, Keogh Institute for Medical Research, WA |
| Dr Gary Wittert | Associate Professor, Dept of Medicine, Adelaide University, SA |

Impotence Advisory Group

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Professor David de Kretser AO | Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Dr Michael Gillman | General Practitioner, Qld |
| Professor David Handelsman | Director, ANZAC Research Institute & Dept of Andrology, University of Sydney, NSW |
| Dr Noel Hayman | Lecturer, Centre for General Practice, University General Practice, Qld |
| Assoc Professor Douglas Lording | Medical Director, Cabrini Hospital, Vic |
| Professor Marita McCabe | Professor, School of Psychology, Deakin University, Vic |
| Dr Chris McMahon | Australian Centre for Sexual Health, NSW |
| Professor Leon Piterman | Head, Dept of General Practice Education, Monash University, Vic |
| Professor Doreen Rosenthal | Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Health Sciences, Latrobe University, Vic |
| Dr Phillip Stricker | Urologist, St Vincent's Centre, NSW |
| Dr Bronwyn Stuckey | Medical Director, Keogh Institute for Medical Research, WA |
| Dr Peter Sutherland | Urologist, SA |



Infertility Advisory Group

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Professor John Aitken | Head, School of Biological & Chemical Science, University of Newcastle, NSW |
| Dr Gordon Baker | Dept of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Royal Women's Hospital, Vic |
| Professor David de Kretser AO | Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Assoc Professor Suzanne Garland | Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, Royal Children's Hospital, Vic |
| Professor David Handelsman | Director, ANZAC Research Institute & Dept of Andrology, University of Sydney, NSW |
| Dr Anne Jequier | Medical Director, Joondalup IVF, WA |
| Assoc Professor Rob McLachlan | Principal Research Fellow, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Vic |
| Dr Moira O'Bryan | Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Dr Deon Venter | Pathology Department, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Vic |
| Dr Hennie Williams | Family Planning Victoria, Vic |

Prostate Disease Advisory Group

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Assoc Professor Judith Clements | Deputy Director, Centre for Molecular Biotechnology, Queensland University of Technology, Qld |
| Dr Ronald Cohen | Director of Pathology, UroPath, WA |
| Professor David de Kretser AO | Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Assoc Professor Mark Frydenberg | Chairman, Dept of Urology, Monash Medical Centre, Vic |
| Assoc Professor Frank Gardiner | Head, Dept of Surgery, University of Queensland, Qld |
| Professor Graham Giles | Director, Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria, Vic |
| Professor David Handelsman | Director, ANZAC Research Institute & Dept of Andrology, University of Sydney, NSW |
| Professor John Hopper | Cancer Council Victoria, Vic |
| Professor Villis Marshall | Director, Flinders Medical Centre, SA |
| Dr Carole Pinnock | Division of Surgery, Repatriation General Hospital, SA |
| Professor Gail Risbridger | Associate Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Professor Pam Russell | Director, Oncology Research Centre, Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW |
| Professor Robert Sutherland | Director, Cancer Research Program, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, NSW |
| Professor Wayne Tilley | Director, Flinders Cancer Centre, Flinders University, SA |
| Dr Deon Venter | Pathology Department, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Vic |

Testicular Cancer Advisory Group

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Dr Michael Boyer | Medical Oncologist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW |
| Mr Laurie Cleeve | Royal Melbourne Hospital, Vic |
| Professor David de Kretser AO | Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Assoc Professor Gillian Duchesne | Radiation Oncologist, William Buckland Radiotherapy Centre, Vic |
| Assoc Professor Mark Frydenberg | Chairman, Dept of Urology, Monash Medical Centre, Vic |
| Dr Hedy Mameghan | Head, Urology Group, Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, Vic |
| Assoc Professor Rob McLachlan | Principal Research Fellow, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Vic |
| Dr Martin Pera | Senior Research Fellow, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, VIC |
| Professor Gail Risbridger | Associate Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Mr John Rogers | Consultant Urologist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW |
| Dr Guy Toner | Medical Oncologist, Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, Vic |

Consumer Advisory Group

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Mr Spence Broughton | Qld |
| Mr Mark Campbell | Vic |
| Mr Jim Clark | NSW |
| Mr James Giles | SA |
| Mr Brett James | NSW |
| Mr Brett McCann | NSW |
| Mr Phil Morley | Vic |
| Mr Stephen Russell | Vic |
| Mr Michael Schulz | SA |
| Mr David Stanley | Vic |
| Mr Rob Woods | Vic |

Service Provider Advisory Group

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Mr Bernard Denner | Health Educator, Centre for the Advancement of Men's Health, Vic |
| Dr Jeffrey Grierson | Research Fellow, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University, Vic |
| Mr Rick Hayes | Associate Lecturer, Public Health, La Trobe University, Vic |
| Dr Greg Malcher | General Practitioner, Vic |
| Ms Robyn Metcalfe | Cancer Council Victoria, Vic |
| Ms Janet Michelmore | Director, Jean Hailes Foundation, Vic |
| Mr David Mill | Men's Network (NSW), NSW |
| Dr Carole Pinnock | Australian Prostate Cancer Collaboration, SA |
| Dr Mark Wenitong | Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, Qld |



Working Groups

Longitudinal Study Group

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Professor Robert Cumming | Head, Dept of Public Health & Community Medicine, University of Sydney NSW |
| Professor David de Kretser AO | Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, Vic |
| Professor David Handelsman | Director, ANZAC Research Institute & Dept of Andrology, University of Sydney, NSW |
| Assoc Professor Rob McLachlan | Principal Research Fellow, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Vic |
| Professor Marion Pitts | Director, Australian Research Centre in Sex Health & Society, La Trobe University, Vic |
| Dr Gary Wittert | Associate Professor, Dept of Medicine, University of Adelaide, SA |

Androgen Testing Project Group

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Professor David de Kretser AO | Director, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University, VIC |
| Professor David Handelsman | Director, ANZAC Research Institute & Dept of Andrology, University of Sydney, NSW |
| Assoc Professor Rob McLachlan | Principal Research Fellow, Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Vic |
| Dr Ken Sikaris | Medical Director, Mayne Health-Dorevitch Pathology, Vic |
| Dr Nick Balazs | Unit Head, Biochemistry, Southern Cross Pathology, Monash Medical Centre, Vic |

Presentations

Conference presentations highlighting the activities supported by Andrology Australia

Allan C and Wright A. Androgen deficiency and prescription in older men. 4th National Men's and Boys' Health Conference, September 2001, Sydney, NSW

Holden CA, Hankin A and de Kretser DM. Campaign to Promote Men's Health: Victorian Pilot program. 4th National Men's and Boys' Health Conference, September 2001, Sydney, NSW

Wijesinha S, de Kretser DM and Piterman L. Development of a distance learning course for general practitioners in men's sexual health. 4th National Men's and Boys' Health Conference, September 2001, Sydney, NSW

de Kretser DM, Men's Reproductive Health: The approach of Andrology Australia. The Reproductive Health Seminar, October 2001, Brisbane, Qld

de Kretser DM, Cram D, Holden CA, O'Bryan MK, Baker HWG and McLachlan RI. A National DNA Repository. A tool to investigate the genetics of male infertility. The 17th World Congress on Fertility and Sterility, November 2001, Melbourne, Vic



CONTACT US



If you would like more information about the activities of the program please visit our website at www.andrologyaustralia.org

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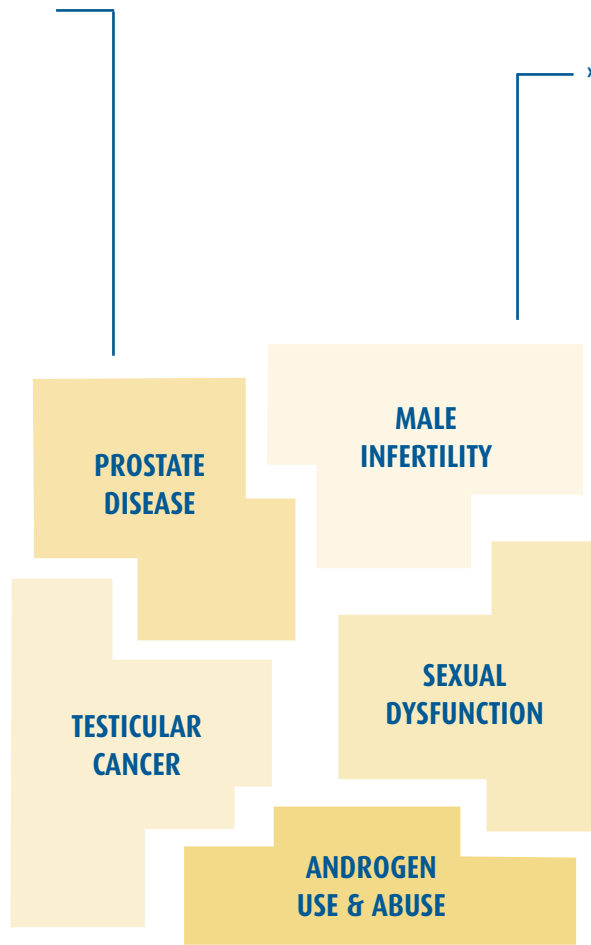
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PRIORITY AREAS

- » **Clinical benign prostate hyperplasia (BPH) is a common diagnosis in older men.** Some estimates suggest a prevalence of 25% in men aged 40-79 years.^[2]
- » Prostate cancer causes approximately 2,500 deaths in Australia each year.^[3]
- » Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer in men in Australia, excluding some forms of skin cancer.^[3]

- » **Approximately 1 in 20 Australian men are infertile** and in approximately 40% of these men the cause of the disordered sperm production is unknown.^[1]



- » **The incidence of testicular cancer is increasing worldwide** and Australian data indicate that approximately 500 new cases are reported each year^[4], affecting men before the age of 40.
- » Early detection can result in 90-95% cure rates through surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

- » **One in 200 men under 60 years of age suffer from androgen deficiency.**^[6]
- » Classical androgen or testosterone deficiency is under diagnosed in the community.
- » Androgen abuse for performance enhancement or body building is increasing.

- » **It is estimated that approximately one million Australian men are affected to some degree by erectile dysfunction (impotence).**^[5]

References

- [1]: McLachlan RI & de Kretser DM (2001). Male infertility: the case for continued research. Medical Journal of Australia 174: 116-117.
- [2]: Garraway WM et al (1991). High prevalence of benign prostatic hypertrophy on the community. Lancet 338: 469-471
- [3]: Cancer in Australia, 1997. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare publications. AIHW Cat. No. CAN-10. AIHW: Canberra. Accessible at www.aihw.gov.au/publications/
- [4]: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare accessible at AIHW data online (1997 data) www.aihw.gov.au/dataonline/index.
- [5]: Lowry MP (1999) Erectile dysfunction in the Australian community. Medical Journal of Australia 171: 342-343.
- [6]: Testosterone - action, deficiency, substitution 2nd ed. Eds Nieschlag E and Behre HM Publisher Springer-Verlag 1998



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