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Mates 500 Relay closes in on \$100,000 target

AARON CORLETT

A MATES 500 function with former Fremantle Dockers coach and Essendon champion Mark Harvey has put the men's health fundraisers closer to their \$100,000 goal.

The Mates 500 was an 11-day, 1500 km run from Mukinbudin to Manjimup during March and April to raise money and awareness for the Regional Men's Health Initiative and Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

Fundraising functions were

held with special guests such as former Australian cricketer Bruce Yardley, former Carlton coach David Parkin and West Coast Eagles players Dean Cox and Nic Naitanui.

A function was held with Mark Harvey at Landmark in Manjimup last Thursday.

Mates 500 Relay Paul Omodei said the figure raised for the charities was into the high \$90,000s.

"We are getting very close to \$100,000 and we have always quietly hoped to reach that figure," he said.

"To have an Essendon legend like Mark Harvey at the function was great and we also had Tiny Holly in full flight auctioning memorabilia."

Mr Omodei said the figure had far exceeded what they had raised during runs in 2011 and 2012.

"I feel like the event is growing and we are creating further awareness of the event and the charities, too."

Mr Omodei said the Mates 500 Relay model had not been settled for next year.

"We will meet with our man-

agement committee soon to work out where to go from here," he said.

"It needs to be sustainable and with the small number of runners we had this year, we need to take significant time off," he said.

Mr Omodei said as each of the runners had their own work and family commitments, the general consensus was to run only two or three days each.

For more information about Mates 500 Relay, visit <http://www.mates500relay.org.au/>.