



press clip

# Mates happy to hand over rally proceeds

THE Aglime of Australia Mates 500 Relay has surpassed its \$100,000 target for men's health charities by \$1000.

The relay was a 1500 km, 11-day running event from Mukinbudin to Manjimup completed at the end of March to raise money for the Regional Men's Health Initiative and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

Sixteen runners from regional areas completed the 1500km, running an average of 26km a day.

Guest speakers during the evenings at various regional towns proved popular, with full venues to see the sportsmen such as West Coast Eagles players Nic Naitanui and Dean Cox, former Australian cricketer Bruce Yardley and others.

Aglime of Australia Mates 500 Relay chairman Paul Omodei

said he was humbled at the level of support received during the run and at the health promotions event at night.

"As well as receiving such generous donations, it was great to see so many people speaking about regional men's health issues," he said.

"We would not have been able to accomplish this without the fantastic support of sponsors, as well as the unwavering generosity of rural communities."

Mr Omodei said he would particularly like to recognise Aglime of Australia for providing significant sponsorship and volunteer support.

"We are thrilled to donate \$50,500 each to the RMHI and PCFA – these funds will go a long way to assisting men's health in regional areas," he said.

Mr Omodei said the Aglime of Australia Mates 500 Relay would be run again in 2016 and it would become a biannual event.

"We have decided with the logistics involved and the pressure on the runners that the best fit for the organisation is to run it every two years," he said.

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia WA manager Cate Harman said she was grateful for the efforts of the runners and those who supported the Aglime of Australia Mates 500 Relay.

"How the money will be used hasn't been absolutely decided," she said.

"But I would like to see it go towards our resources with regional health support."



**Manjimup Bridgetown Times**

**Wednesday 9/07/2014**

Page: 3  
Section: General News  
Region: Manjimup WA, AU  
Circulation: 2693  
Type: Regional  
Size: 351.00 sq.cms.



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Regional Men's Health Initiative executive officer Owen Catto, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia WA State manager Cate Harman and RMHI chairman Bruce Thorpe try to keep up with Mates 500 Relay chairman Paul Omodei, second from left. PICTURE: DANELLA BEVIS