



Countryman(WA)

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Mates relay raises more than \$100,000

A running relay of epic proportions has managed to raise more than \$100,000 for the Regional Men's Health Initiative and Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

The Aglime of Australia Mates 500 Relay's 16 runners were given "rock star welcomes" across the State during the course of the 1500km event, which passed through more than 40 towns and kicked off on March 24 in Mukinbudin and finished at Manjimup 11 days later.

After averaging a 26km run each per day, the runners, with their enthusiastic support crew in tow, still found the energy to hold fundraising events in the evenings with a host of high-profile guest speakers at packed-out venues in 10 towns.

The third of its kind, the Mates 500 has raised a whopping \$220,000 over the past four years as organisers endeavour to raise the profile of men's health in regional WA.

Mates 500 chairman Paul Omodei



Regional Men's Health Initiative executive officer Owen Catto, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia WA 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

said the team was thrilled to be able to donate \$50,500 each to the RMHI and PCFA, knowing the funds would go a long way to assisting men's health in regional areas.

Mr Omodei said the team had been humbled by the level of support they had received right across

the State and it was great to see people talking about regional men's health issues.

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