

# EQUIMUNDO IN AUSTRALIA

Equimundo's work in Australia is shaped by longstanding collaboration with Australian partners who have been leading efforts to advance caring masculinities, gender equality, and the well-being of men, boys, and their families for decades. Equimundo is working to deepen and expand collective work already underway through research, convening, and innovation in digital and cultural spaces. Spanning nationally representative studies on fathers, men, and boys; global leadership initiatives such as the MenCare Changemaker Journey culminating in a major international summit in Australia; and collaborations like the Young Men and Media Collective, this joint work is designed to generate evidence, shift narratives, and catalyse systems change. Together, these efforts grow Australia's position as a key hub within a broader global movement, linking local and global rigorous research with practical solutions that influence policy, reshape online and offline environments, and promote more caring, equitable communities.

## ABOUT US AND OUR FRAME

Equimundo is a global organisation dedicated to advancing gender equality by engaging men and boys, and those around them. Our work spans research, advocacy, and programming, and is grounded in collaboration with local civil society organisations, communities, and institutions. We focus on transforming harmful gender norms that perpetuate inequality, violence, and poor health outcomes, while promoting models of masculinity rooted in care, accountability, and shared responsibility. Across diverse regional contexts, Equimundo works to ensure that efforts to prevent violence and improve wellbeing are inclusive, evidence based, and locally led.

Equimundo defines engaging men and boys for gender equality as a comprehensive, cross sectoral approach – breaking silos where violence prevention, men's health, caregiving, education, and economic participation are treated as separate domains. Through our work, we know these areas are deeply interconnected and shaped by the same underlying gender norms, power dynamics, and relational contexts. Restrictive constructions of masculinity simultaneously contribute to violence, poor health outcomes, disengagement from care work, and resistance to gender equality.

Equimundo advances care-centred frame through community-based, culturally grounded programming, research, and advocacy that engages men and boys as caring, connected, and non violent contributors to society. Our approach combines individual reflection with collective norm change, addressing both interpersonal behaviours and the broader systems that shape them. By integrating care into violence prevention and men's health strategies, Equimundo supports sustainable, long term transformation that strengthens relationships, promotes equity, and builds safer communities.

## ECOSYSTEM MAPPING

To inform and strengthen ongoing collaboration in Australia, we conducted an ecosystem mapping of organisations, institutions, researchers, advocates, and initiatives working across masculinities, gender equality, fatherhood, boys' development, violence prevention, health, education, and digital culture. This work recognises the deep history of Australian leadership, innovation, and achievement across these fields. The mapping does not attempt to summarise or represent this full body of work; rather, it provides a point in time to better understand connections and opportunities for partnership within a rich and long-established gender equality ecosystem that goes beyond what is captured.

Together with Dalberg Associates, we identified key actors, existing evidence and programmatic gaps, emerging innovations, and opportunities for collaboration across sectors – including civil society, academia, government, philanthropy, and media. Beyond cataloguing who is doing what, the process helped surface areas of strong momentum, under resourced priorities, and strategic entry points where collective action between Australian organisations and Equipundo can enhance impact through research, convening, narrative change, and systems level interventions. In the coming years, Equipundo will continue to develop approaches that foster bi directional capacity strengthening – bringing insights from the global movement into the Australian context and elevating Australian expertise and innovations to inform and shape global efforts.

## RESEARCHING EMERGING TRENDS

Building on our previous research partnerships in Australia, Equipundo is committed to collaborating with local partners to elevate Australian led research, connect national trends to global conversations, and deepen our understanding of how norms around manhood shape the lives, relationships, and wellbeing of Australians. Over the next three years, Equipundo and its partners will conduct the following reports.

**The State of Australian Fathers 2026** is part of Equipundo's global State of the World's Fathers 2026. The Australia report will feature robust mixed- methods research including quantitative survey data from 500 fathers and mothers, qualitative interviews with men and their partners, and compelling photovoice data from qualitative participants. Led by The Fathering Project and funded by the Caring Masculinity Fund, this research will provide deep insights into the experiences, challenges, and aspirations of Australian fathers today. With a focus on the systems that prevent men from being involved and equitable carers, this State of Australian Fathers 2026 is set to launch at the Women Deliver conference in April 2026.

Equipundo is launching the first **State of Australian Men**, a nationally representative survey of Australian men and women aged 18–45 to understand their lives, relationships, and aspirations in today's world. The study examines contemporary masculinity and manhood, exploring men's roles in society, politics, and at home, their relationship to work amid current economic challenges, and their experiences with purpose, connection, violence, and care. In partnership with Jesuit Social Services, Professor Michael Flood, and the University of Melbourne, this research aims to launch by November 2026, providing crucial insights into the realities facing young Australians both online and offline.

Building on the promise and potential of boyhoods around the world, Equipundo's inaugural **State of Australian Boys** will explore four key themes: boys' online lives; boyhood and education and aspirations; boyhood and belonging and connection; and boyhood and care and family. This comprehensive study will capture the lives, experiences, hopes, and anxieties defining boyhoods today across both online and offline spaces. Equipundo is currently scoping additional Australian researchers to partner with on applying this global research methodology to the Australian context. This will ensure the project is shaped by Australia's leading researchers and authentically reflects the realities of Australian adolescents and addresses critical gaps in research and advocacy around boys' development.

Finally, Equipundo will prepare another iteration of **State of Australian Fathers**. While the focus is still being finalized, the report will centre on the MenCare Cities Initiative and examine the systemic factors that drive city level change to support caring men and their loved ones. This report will provide crucial insights for advancing policies and programs that promote engaged fatherhood and caregiving across Australian communities.

## FOSTERING A GLOBAL CONVERSATION

Our engagement with Australian civil society, public institutions, and the private sector is an opportunity for Equipundo to support deepened links between Australia's gender equality sector and global advocacy initiatives, as well as curate moments for national advocacy around care, violence prevention, and healthy masculinities drawing on international best practice.

The **MenCare Changemaker Journey** is a global initiative led by Equipundo that mobilizes more than 100 influential leaders from business, media, culture, civil society, and government to advance health and wellbeing for men and boys, alongside women and girls. Together, Changemakers address urgent challenges shaping men, boys, and manhood today, while building more caring and equitable societies worldwide.

The Changemakers are currently engaged in a dynamic two-year journey that includes the two global summits on caring manhood, taking place in Rio de Janeiro in May 2026 and then in Melbourne in 2027, convene Changemakers, and international leaders in a global movement to promote caring manhood and transform how care is valued and shared. Each Changemaker participates in one of seven themed action tracks, guided by a shared problem statement and a focus on practical solutions: caring online spaces; caring manhood in cities and regions; democracy, violent extremism, and tech enabled violence; men's health and health for all; caring manhood in workplaces; men and care policies; and boys and education.

The Australia summit showcases the early impact of solutions being implemented across each action track, bringing Changemakers together with Australian and international leaders to share lessons, highlight what works, and accelerate the scaling of successful approaches. This milestone moment marks both a celebration of progress and a launchpad for the next phase of global action.

In 2028, Equipundo will coordinate a national model – the **Australian MenCare Changemaker Journey** – which will bring together 40 leading voices around Australia to design and iterate on solutions that address the most pressing issues related to men and boys and gender equality more broadly.

Much of this work is supported by Minderoo Foundation and the Caring Masculinity Fund.

## SHIFTING NARRATIVES AROUND MANHOOD

Equimundo's portfolio around narrative shift strategies within online ecosystems has been taking shape around the world. In Australia, we have co convened the **Young Men and Media Collective (YMMC)** with Movember. This initiative brings together content creators, producers, influencers, media platforms, and organisations reaching men and boys online to collaboratively challenge and reshape harmful narratives about masculinity. The Collective is being implemented across multiple regions – including Australia, alongside Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom – with at least one organisation selected from each of these contexts to participate.

In its next year of implementation, YMMC has mobilized 1.2 million USD to deploy targeted interventions aimed at shifting online narratives related to young men's health and financial wellbeing, while simultaneously conducting rigorous evaluation to identify which messages and messengers are most effective in moving young men away from narratives that sustain harmful mindsets in these areas.