

Let's keep the light on HIV



AIDS Action Council of the ACT

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

AIDS Action Council of the ACT

VISION

Getting to zero in our community.

MISSION

To minimise the transmission of HIV and reduce the associated social and personal impacts of HIV and AIDS.

VALUES

Our work is part of a shared community response to HIV and AIDS. In doing this work we value:

- **Respect:** by honouring people's stories, valuing our history and treating everyone with dignity
- **Inclusiveness:** by being unbiased and fair in all that we do and focusing on where we can make the most difference
- **Partnership:** by knowing, supporting and collaborating with individuals, groups and organisations to strengthen our response to HIV and AIDS
- **Empowerment:** by supporting people to make their own informed choices



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‘WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, AND WE REMAIN, A GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY ORGANISATION AND WE SEEK TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF OUR COMMUNITIES AS BEST WE CAN’

President's report

DR NATHAN BOYLE

For almost 30 years, the success of the ACT's and Australia's response to HIV has largely been a result of a collaborative partnership between our community, governments, researchers and health professionals. This year has again demonstrated the effectiveness of this partnership approach.

The 2013–14 financial year has been very productive for the AIDS Action Council. We have seen particularly strong involvement from the Board, staff and volunteers and a greater participation by members in programs. We have made clear achievements, despite increases in operational and program demands. This includes developing new partnerships and maintaining existing alliances. The Council is delighted to have developed more formal links with community sector partners, which will help us to deliver and facilitate accessible, high-quality services, education programs and campaigns.

The Council participated actively in the development of new strategies and continued to be guided by key documents including the AIDS 2014 Legacy Statement, the 2012 Melbourne Declaration and the recently released Seventh National HIV Strategy 2014–17. These documents guide our work at a strategic level, in partnership with key affected communities and sector partners, to remove barriers to HIV testing, treatment, prevention, care and support across legal, regulatory, policy, social, political and economic domains.

It would be remiss of me not to note that the organisation has experienced some difficulties — over the last two financial years (2012–13 and 2013–14) the Council has incurred a financial deficit. This was a result of a business model adopted by the Council in early 2013 that has proven unsustainable.

In addition, our bottom line was impacted by infrastructure and governance changes that were implemented to meet compliance and regulation requirements.



Over the last 12 months the Board has been working closely with the Executive to address these deficit issues and implement a sustainable business model. This has included a staff restructure and an achievable plan to return the balance sheet to surplus.

The Board and the Executive are also focussed on stronger governance, financial management and administration for the Council, all with an eye on reducing costs.

Despite these difficulties, the Council has continued to deliver on all its Service Funding Agreement commitments with ACT Health. In fact, the Council has increased its services for people living with HIV with a new diagnosis program and increased counselling and peer support capacity.

Our education and prevention work is strongly focused on working towards the virtual elimination of new Australian HIV transmissions by the end of 2020.

We have always been, and we remain, a grassroots community organisation and we seek to serve the interests of our communities as best we can. Despite some difficulties, we have had a year of solid achievements and we are grateful to the hundreds of people willing to get involved with us. Our connection to the community remains our most important foundation.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their outstanding support throughout this busy year, staff for their continuing hard work and commitment, and members for their invaluable support. I commend this annual report to you.

'OUR STAFF HAVE DELIVERED QUALITY CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES, DEVELOPED MAJOR POLICY AND PROGRAMS IN HIV PREVENTION...'

Executive Director's report

PHILIPPA MOSS

The AIDS Action Council has a clear mandate to deliver care and support to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and to deliver education and prevention campaigns, events and health promotion activities. This year the Council has demonstrated a high level of responsiveness to HIV and continued to demonstrate the vibrancy and resilience of its workforce. There have been many organisational changes and it has been a particularly challenging year.

After the departure of several team members, we realigned the organisation to focus on high-quality service delivery and ensure our health messages reach our target audience. In recognition of an increasing number of HIV infections, the Council has ensured that we are well placed to meet the challenge of continuing to provide a proactive community-based response.

Reflecting on the work of the Council in 2013–14, there have been many highlights including the organisation's first Reconciliation Action Plan, the new LGBTI Aged Care work, a focus on strengthening stakeholder relationships and reinvigorating the volunteering program. After taking on the Executive Director role halfway through the year, my main focus has been on consolidating our strategic partnerships, ensuring a high level of service delivery, addressing financial issues and working towards a holistic approach to PLHIV leadership and advocacy within the community.

Board members continue to invest valuable time and energy contributing to decision making, reflecting on and reviewing diverse areas of work and performing a governance role that involves many meetings outside business hours.



Our staff have delivered quality care and support services, assisted in the development of major policy and programs in HIV prevention, and contributed to HIV positive health promotion, advocacy, representation and stakeholder communication. Their skills and enthusiasm are reflected in their work and the positive reception it receives.

As we head towards the target of no new HIV infections by 2020, I look forward to the significant role the Council will play, working together with our community, other organisations and government.

SPRINGOUT FAIRDAY 2013



Let's keep the fight on HIV



ALTHOUGH THE HIV MORTALITY RATE
IN AUSTRALIA CONTINUES TO DECLINE,
THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE LIVING WITH
HIV IN AUSTRALIA THAN EVER BEFORE.

**HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : THE COUNCIL HELD A SUCCESSFUL
WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT AND AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL**

Key statistics about HIV in the ACT

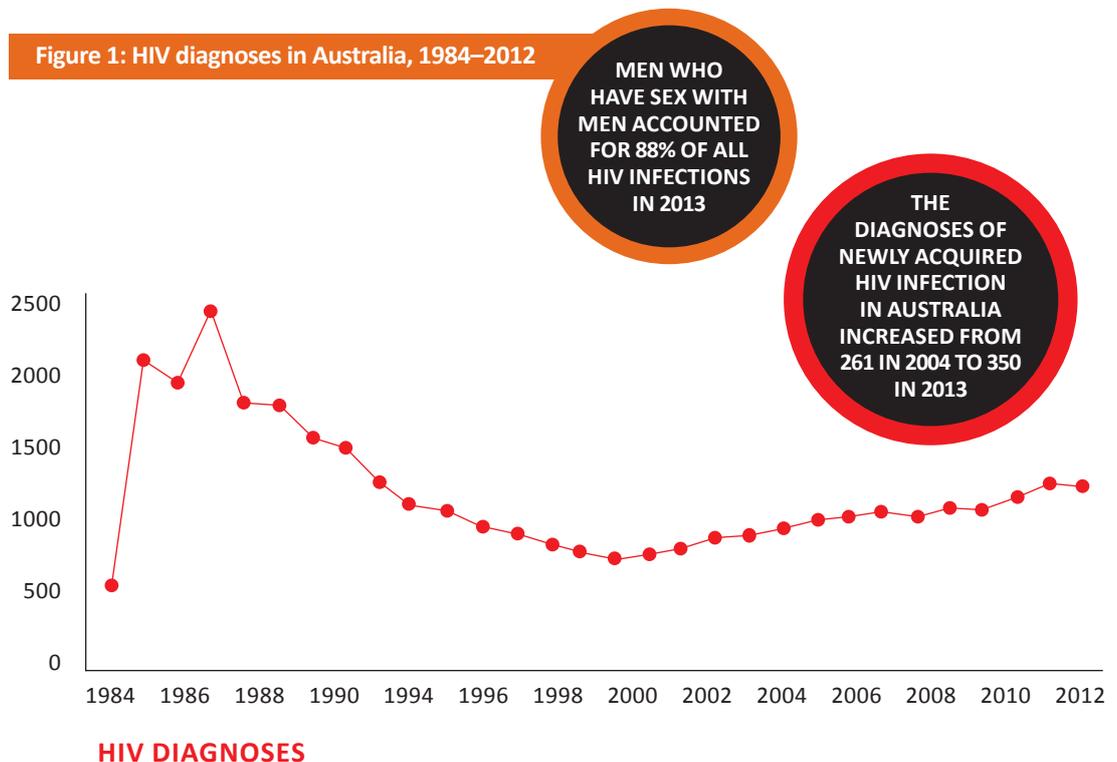
The rate of new HIV diagnosis in Australia continues to rise after nearly a decade of stability. As the HIV mortality rate in Australia continues to decline, there are more people living with HIV in Australia than ever before.

The Kirby Institute provides detailed analysis of new HIV diagnoses in Australia. It informs us that gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to represent over two-thirds of new diagnoses in Australia and account for 88% of all HIV infections acquired within the last 12 months at the national level. A further 26% of new HIV diagnoses in 2013 were attributed to heterosexual contact, and almost half of these were men and women from high prevalence countries.

The 2009–13 per capita rate of HIV diagnosis in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was higher than that of the Australian-born non-Indigenous population. The distribution of HIV infection among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people also differed — a substantially greater proportion was attributed to injecting drug use (12% compared with 3%) and heterosexual exposure (21% compared with 13%) in the five years 2009–13. A substantially greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cases were women (20%) compared with Australian-born non-Indigenous cases (5%).

The ACT has also seen a rise in the number of new HIV diagnoses. However, as a small jurisdiction ACT data needs to be interpreted with some caution. The AIDS Action Council has been working with ACT Health to understand this data. Comparison between ACT and national data suggests a similar distribution of diagnoses in terms of age, gender and sexual orientation.

Figure 1: HIV diagnoses in Australia, 1984–2012



Source: The Kirby Institute, (2014). 'HIV viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia', Annual Surveillance Report 2014 HIV Supplement, University of NSW.

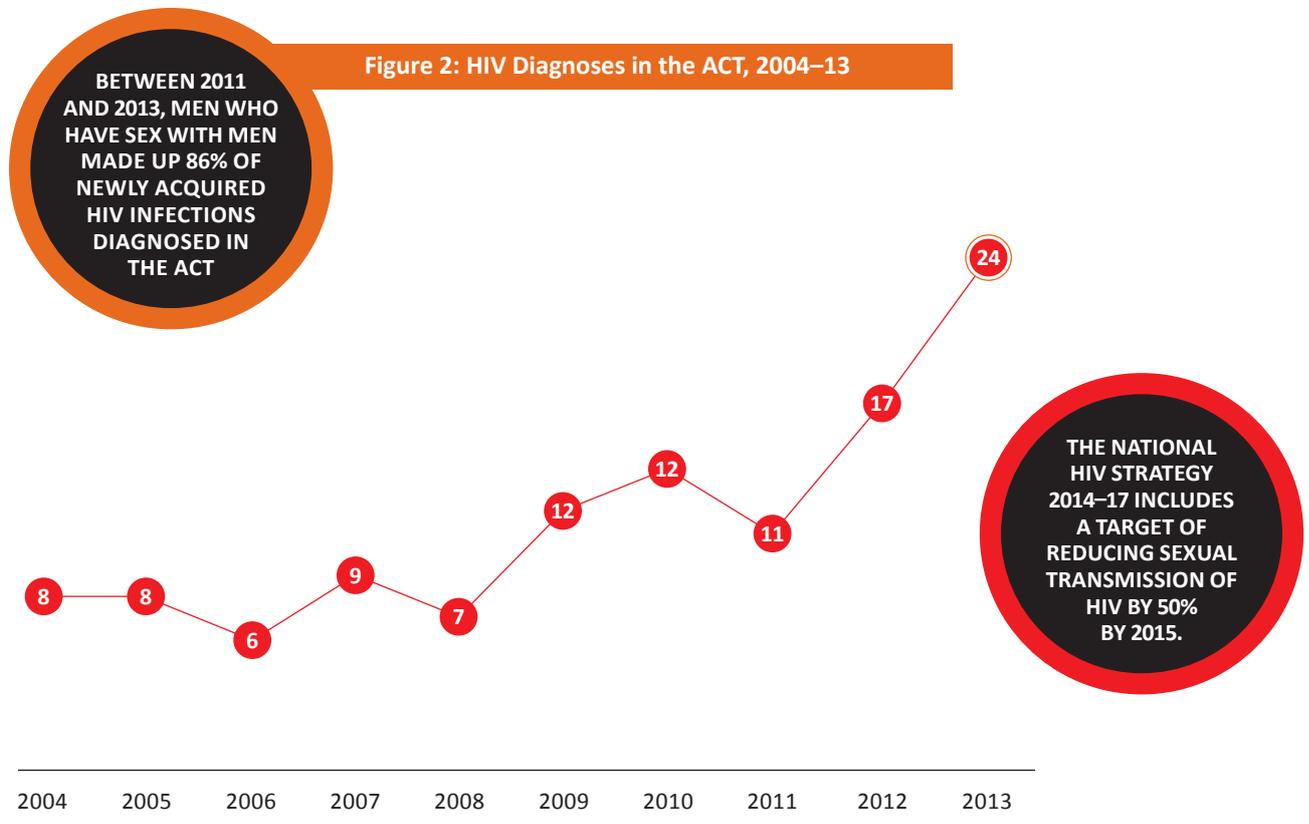
After so many years of sustained low numbers of new HIV diagnoses, this increase is obviously concerning and more work is needed to understand why it is happening and how best to respond. Although numbers are increasing, the figures could also reflect more people being tested, or testing more regularly. The rate of newly acquired HIV infections diagnosed in the ACT rose significantly from 2010 to 2012. Between 2011 and 2013, men who have sex with men (MSM) made up 86% of newly acquired HIV infections diagnosed in the ACT.

AIDS 2014 LEGACY STATEMENT

The AIDS 2014 Legacy Statement was agreed by all Australian Health Ministers in June, following the International AIDS Conference held in Melbourne. The statement includes a commitment from the Australian Government and the eight States and Territories to take all necessary action – in partnership with key affected communities and sector partners – to remove barriers to HIV testing, treatment, prevention, care and support, across legal, regulatory, policy, social, political and economic domains. This commitment includes working towards the virtual elimination of all new Australian HIV transmissions by 2020.

This commitment echoes the 2012 Melbourne Declaration which was endorsed by all leading HIV community, professional and research organisations in Australia. Further, the recently released Seventh National HIV Strategy 2014–17 includes a earlier target of reducing sexual transmission of HIV by 50 per cent by 2015.

To work towards these goals, we need to understand our current position and learn from other jurisdictions. We need to keep a light on HIV and work towards the 2020 target together.



NEW HIV DIAGNOSES IN ACT, IN ABSOLUTE NUMBERS, PER CALENDAR YEAR

Source: ACT Health notification data

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : FORMED NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Supporting our community

It was another year of consolidating and establishing programs, activities and opportunities for communities to engage with each other and the Council. We continued to commit to quality improvement and raising the standard.

‘Raising the Standard’ is a self-assessment tool to help community service organisations to continuously improve the quality and management of their work with clients and communities.



FAIRDAY, WHICH IS HELD DURING NOVEMBER EACH YEAR, IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT THAT HELPS US CONNECT THE COMMUNITY



OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

THE TREVOR DALEY FUND

This service provides vitamins to HIV positive people as part of their individual living well plan; and also delivers a dietitian clinic funded by the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) and facilitated by Jenny McDonald. The provision of this service enables HIV positive people to make informed lifestyle decisions to improve their health.

THE WILLIAMS HOUSING PROJECT

In partnership with Havelock Housing Association, this project provides long-term stable accommodation to HIV positive people. We continue to advocate for best outcomes for people accessing community housing and to provide evidence for the need for people living with HIV to be given appropriate housing to enable the best health outcomes possible.

SPECIAL NEEDS DENTAL PROGRAM

We continue our strong working relationship with the ACT Dental Program to maintain fast, appropriate access to dental services for eligible HIV positive people living in the ACT.

MIGRATION LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE

Delivered in partnership with registered migration agents, this service provides free one-off advice to the whole of the Canberra community. It continues to attract much interest with the clinics booked out up to two months in advance.

COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

A priority has been ongoing support to our Peer Support Network (PSN) with monthly dinners for positive people to connect over a meal; and also through the coffee club group activities, including a private tour of the 'Gold and the Incas' exhibition. Other activities included a Floriade outing, an International Women's Day lunch at the conference centre attended by a women's group and various outings to other local attractions.

Council clients contributed to community dialogue about living with HIV by generously providing their time to talk to ANU medical school students. They provided insights into what makes a mutually respectful interaction when dealing with medical providers and how students can educate themselves to ensure good outcomes for all involved.

Several therapeutic groups were held this year including a new diagnosis group known as the Phoenix Workshop. Facilitated by Positive Living Victoria, the workshop was held over a weekend at Westlund House for gay and bisexual men who had been diagnosed as HIV positive within the last five years.

The Gay and Bi Men's Health Promotion Forum on Prostate Cancer brought together a group of men for discussion and information sharing. The forum was facilitated by Greg Milan, a leading men's health advocate and President of the Men's Health Forum NSW Inc.

Early this year yoga classes were conducted every Wednesday night for 10 weeks and will recommence again in February 2015. We thank Kim-Maree Janszen for her ongoing support and for volunteering her time to this community activity.



Thirty-five people participated in a 'CHIN WAG chat show all about Love, Life, Sex, HIV and the whole damned thing...!', which was held at the Novotel Hotel in Canberra. Hosts Vanessa Wagner and Nurse Nancy and a panel of local professionals – including S100 Prescriber Dr Sarah Martin, counsellor Julia Byford, and service providers Marcus Bogie and Philip Habel – discussed relevant issues and provided a safe space for positive people and supporters to ask questions. Once again we thank NAPWHA for arranging this event and the panellists and attendees who made this event so successful.

Council staff maintained professional linkages by participating in community sector networking groups, HIV interagency networks, HIV medical interest groups and clinical care presentations. At a national level, the Council is represented on the African Reference Group, Teens in Transition working group and the Treatments Officer Network.

Peer Support Worker Mandi Collins resigned this year after contributing to the work of the Council over many years. Her calm and kind manner of working in the community sector will be greatly missed.

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : INCREASED SERVICES TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV, WITH A NEW DIAGNOSIS PROGRAM AND INCREASED COUNSELLING & PEER SUPPORT

COUNSELLING AND CASE MANAGEMENT

This year the Council developed a comprehensive case management manual for client services which includes policy, procedures, guidelines and forms. Designed to be easy for any member of the client services team to use, it sets out the rules, framework and standards for operating the organisation's client services. The manual's purpose is to:

- provide people working in the organisation with a framework for actions that helps them get on with the job they need to do;
- ensure employees do not need to keep reinventing the wheel – one decision can be applied to many similar cases, thereby increasing efficiency;
- ensure legal requirements, funding agreements, the organisation's constitution and other requirements can be met; and
- provide a tool for quality improvement.

The manual includes a practice framework and represents a resource document for practitioners and other interested professionals and brings together current knowledge and practice strategies reflecting best practice.

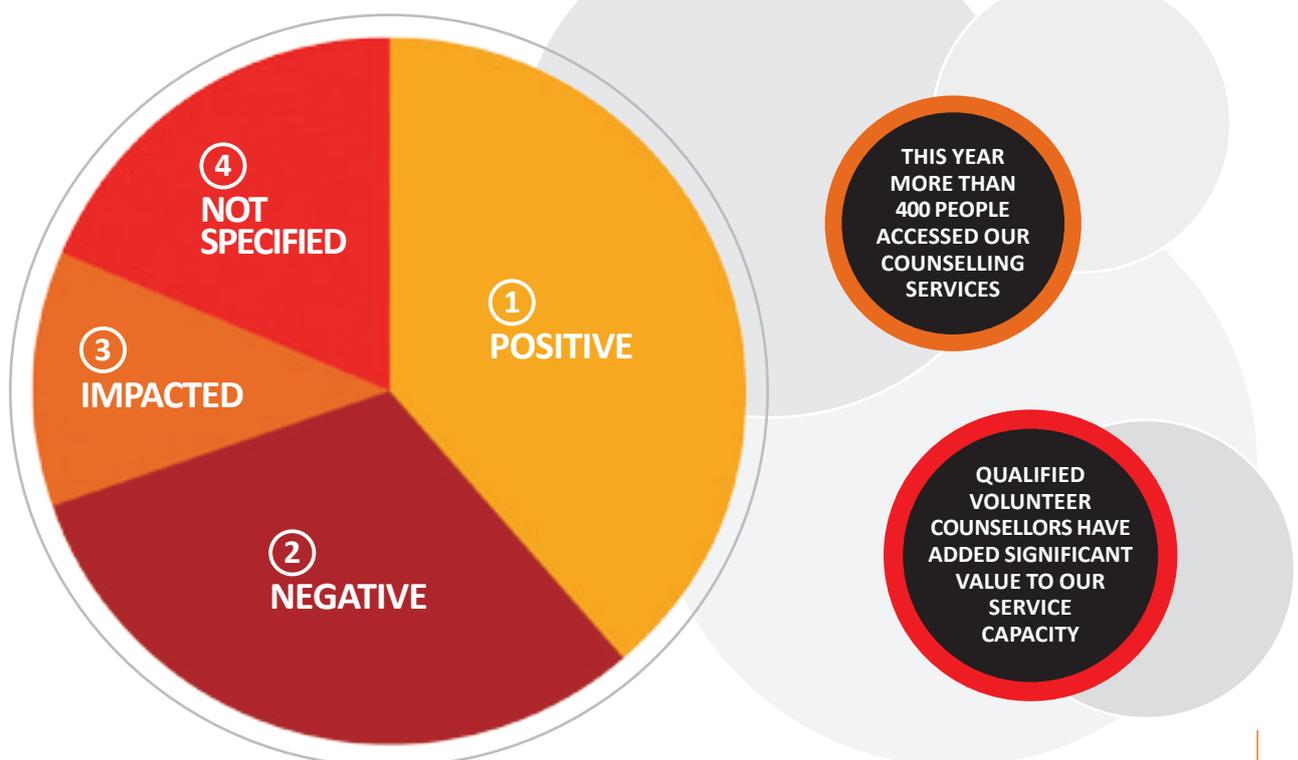
COUNSELLING SERVICES

The Council provides professional counselling support services for individuals, families and communities in the ACT and region. This year the service was redeveloped and revitalised through the use of qualified volunteer counsellors, adding significant capacity to the service. Counselling is offered Monday to Friday during business hours and two evenings per week.

Counselling services are provided to members of the community regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, lifestyle choice, cultural background, religious belief or economic circumstances. Through counselling we provide assessments, as well as support and advocacy for issues including coming to terms with sexuality, emotional and physical health, relationships, employment, finance, legal issues, education and accommodation.

A free and priority service is provided to those affected by or at risk of HIV, including individuals, partners and family. It is targeted to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and people coming to terms with their sexuality. Throughout the year more than 400 people accessed the counselling service. Most were people living with HIV and a smaller percentage were people impacted by HIV – the partners, friends or family members of those living with HIV.

Figure 3: HIV status of clients accessing AIDS Action Council counselling services





WE WERE PROUD TO AGAIN PARTNER WITH SEXUAL HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING ACT (SHFPACT) TO HAND OUT ROSES WITH CONDOMS ON NATIONAL CONDOM DAY, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS VALENTINE'S DAY.

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : LAUNCHED OUR FIRST RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Educating our community

SEX WORKER OUTREACH PROGRAM (SWOP)

The Sex Worker Outreach Program (SWOP) delivers outreach and other educational programs which promote the benefits of sexual health testing and the use of support services to sex workers in brothels and to private sex workers across the ACT. SWOP provides outreach on a monthly basis to all 16 brothels in Canberra. This high level of contact with sex workers and workplaces in the ACT informs our knowledge and understanding of issues affecting the sex industry.

The areas in which SWOP is involved include workshops for new sex workers and sex worker awareness training with agencies engaged with the sex worker community; health promotion strategies aimed at safe working practices and HIV/AIDS and STI prevention; legislation and policy to ensure sex workers are informed of their rights and are protected from discrimination and stigma; and education through resource dissemination to ensure sex workers are kept up to date on model sex industry law reform, gender and identity politics and the latest ethical research.

The Cultural And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Sex Worker Outreach Program provides accessible information and services to CALD sex worker communities. The program was delivered by Thai, Korean and Chinese peer workers with the assistance of Scarlett Alliance. The CALD program has contributed to the development, delivery and evaluation of a range of appropriate educational resources for CALD sex workers, including those from Asian language backgrounds. It aims to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections by ensuring:

- sex workers from Asian and other backgrounds can access health promotion information and services that are CALD friendly;
- understand their legal rights and obligations; and
- understand and implement safe sexual practices for themselves and their clients.



EXPOS AND STALLS

Throughout the year, the Council participated in many events, expos and stalls including the Multicultural Festival, one of the highlights of Canberra's summer calendar. The AIDS Action Council's stall provided information about our services, an opportunity to talk with the general public and answer questions from interested visitors.

The Council was proud to again partner with Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (SHFPACT) to hand out roses with condoms on National Condom Day, more commonly known as Valentine's Day, on Friday 14 February 2014.

Information events, expos and stalls were also held during International Women's Day events, Men's Health Week, Mental Health Week and major events at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), the Australian National University (ANU) and Canberra University (UC). Our presence at these events helps to build our profile, increase health awareness and reduce the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS.

AFAO CAMPAIGNS AND RESOURCES

Once again the Council took the lead in the local roll-out of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations' (AFAO's) national campaigns. Some of the messages, resources and campaigns we worked on were carried over from 2012–13 while others will take shape in 2014–15. Campaigns are delivered through a variety of formats including websites, social media, posters, booklets and other materials.



THE COVER IT CAMPAIGN WORKS TO NORMALISE CONDOMS AND TO RAISE AWARENESS OF HIV AND STIS AMONGST CIT STUDENTS



HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : CONDUCTED TARGETED RESEARCH OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY HIV (SEARCH CONFERENCE)**ENDING HIV CAMPAIGN**

The Ending HIV campaign is a comprehensive community mobilisation campaign which aims to end the transmission of HIV in Australia by 2020. The campaign uses innovative ways of reaching target populations at risk of HIV – including gay men, men who have sex with men, people living with HIV and other affected communities – with a three-phase message:

**PHASE 1:
I'M IN**

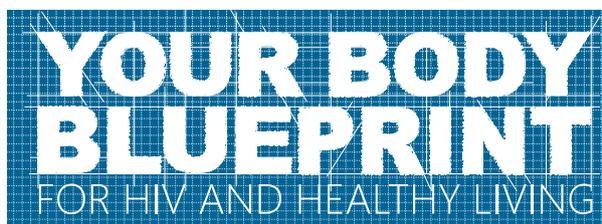
Encouraging individuals to commit to doing what it takes to ending HIV transmission.

**PHASE 2:
TEST MORE + TREAT EARLY + STAY SAFE
= ENDING HIV**

Spelling out what is required to make ending HIV a reality.

**PHASE 3:
STAY SAFE = ENDING HIV**

Reinforcing that condoms continue to be our best defence against the HIV virus. The campaign targets not only the at-risk communities but also people living with HIV who are a key component of the campaign's success.

**YOUR BODY BLUEPRINT**

In late 2013 the Council rolled out the first phase of Your Body Blueprint – a website that PLHIV can use either on their own or with their HIV specialist and GP to better understand the impact of HIV and medications on their body, especially in the long term. The website can be found at yourbodyblueprint.org.au

COVER IT CAMPAIGN

In 2013 the Council developed a campaign to normalise condoms and to raise awareness of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) amongst CIT students. The campaign received a significant amount of support from the CIT Student Association which provided us with plastic cases, which were packed with safe sex information and materials including condoms, water-based lubricant and dental dams supplied by Glyde condoms. The student association also hosted a free sausage sizzle to attract students to our stall.

By signing up to a mailing list, students received a pack and a sausage sandwich. Signing up also conferred student level membership of the Council. This model was used at the Reid, Bruce, Fyshwick and Phillip CIT campuses.

While signing up, students were also encouraged to engage with staff and volunteers, learn more about condoms and STIs, and be photographed holding messages of support for the campaign. The images were loaded onto a Facebook page (facebook.com/coveritact) where students could like the page, tag themselves and their friends, and share their support for the Cover It campaign.

HIV HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

The Council refined and revised the HIV Today training program – a flexible package which can be tailored to a range of settings, including workplaces. The Council delivered the training to a wide range of people and services including:

- new wardens at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (in partnership with Hepatitis ACT)
- Lifeline volunteers
- Psychology students in the CIT Year 12 Program
- AFP Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers
- Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (the HIV component of 'Introduction to Sexual Health'), and
- ACT Libraries

Volunteering with the Council

Volunteers continued to support the work of the Council and were crucial in working with and within our communities, including those affected by HIV and our key target groups. They contributed to peer support, outreach, workshop facilitation, administrative support, events and fundraising. Although the tasks varied greatly, the common thread was an understanding of, and dedication to, our mission: to minimise the transmission of HIV and AIDS and reduce their associated personal impact.

This year we reinvigorated the volunteer program with new volunteer policy and procedures. The volunteer information pack was reviewed and will be continuously improved based on participant feedback.

We provided volunteer training for our Sexual Health Testing Referral and Information Project (STRIP) outreach program and for the Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey recruiters. New volunteers were trained in HIV essentials and specialist volunteers were provided with more in-depth education to support their roles.

The Council continues to recognise the value of volunteers to create a stronger and more community-linked organisation. We will continue to support and train volunteers, and to value and utilise their skills in the work we undertake.

In the coming year, we look forward to delivering more comprehensive and specialised volunteer training and organising events to ensure our volunteers continue to be engaged and recognised as a crucial part of the organisation.

All volunteers working in the ACT are now required to obtain a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration as this is a Government requirement and part of the Council's policy framework.

Table 1: AIDS Action Council volunteers in ACT, 2013–14

Number of registered volunteers	126
Number of active/regular volunteers	29
Specialist volunteering	10
Total number of volunteer hours	2136

VOLUNTEERS REFLECT COMPASSION, UNSELFISH CARING, PATIENCE, BUT MOST OF ALL LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

WE CAN DO NO GREAT THINGS ONLY SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE

MOTHER TERESA



HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : REVITALISED OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, WITH A NEW POLICY, PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION PACK AND SPECIALISED TRAINING

Engaging our community

ACCESSIBLE SERVICES AND INFORMATION

Accessible information and services are provided to the community through printed resources, phone and face-to-face contact, in-house and off-site services and workshops, and through IT infrastructure such as the website and social media.

The Council's website underwent a major facelift in 2013 which resulted in a more modern, user-friendly resource. The Council regularly updates the website with current information and key resources for the community. The website can be viewed at aidsaction.org.au

The Council produces monthly client newsletters and a quarterly general newsletter featuring news, events, information and stories of interest to the general community. Recent newsletters are available on the Council website.

The Council reviewed its social media platforms and launched a new social media strategy. The Council has a strong and well-supported presence on Facebook and is in the early days of working with Twitter. Monitoring social media platforms requires a consistent approach, and this is managed in-house by dedicated staff. Social media provides an opportunity to share information and opportunities more easily with Council members and interested community members. It also allows us to engage with the community about emerging ideas and sometimes controversial topics such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), undetectable viral loads and other HIV risk reduction strategies.

The Council recognises its communication channels must continue to expand and its messages maintain a high standard and appeal to the broad, and often unconventional, range of communities it works with.

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO COMPREHENSIVE TESTING (PACT)

The Partnership Approach to Comprehensive Testing (PACT) is a partnership between the Council, the Canberra Sexual Health Centre, SHFPACT and Medicare Local ACT. It also includes BitBent, youth services and brothels. The aim of PACT is to make clinical testing services more relevant and accessible by taking the screening services to the community. The Council continued to support the STRIP (Sexual Health Testing, Referral and Information Project) outreach clinics of PACT. Sexual health testing delivered in brothels (SWOP SHOP) is also a significant component of PACT.

The clinics provide access to testing for population groups determined to be at high risk of HIV and other STIs and those hard to reach through traditional clinical settings. The priority populations for the STRIP clinic are men who have sex with men (MSM) as well as the broader LGBTI community, particularly LGBTI young people, and sex workers.

During 2013–14, three STRIP clinics were conducted in 'pulses' of four to five week intervals at key points in the year to ensure regular testing and to leverage off opportunities to promote testing. The clinics were strategically aligned with the SpringOUT Pride Festival (late spring), the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (post-summer) and also held during winter. The clinics continued to be well utilised across the range of venues, including Westlund House, the Ranch at Fantasy Lane (a men's sex-on premises venue) and BitBent LGBTI youth groups at the Belconnen and Woden Youth Centres.

The clinics seek to normalise the concept of regular screening and sexual health care and to establish a routine of regular sexual health testing among members of the at-risk groups. Evaluation of the annual data from PACT showed an overall increase in the use of services at the Ranch and at Westlund House.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE



HIV SEARCH CONFERENCE

In 2013–14 the Council began a journey known as the HIV Search Conference. This conference is a multifaceted approach to community engagement using participatory action research. It included:

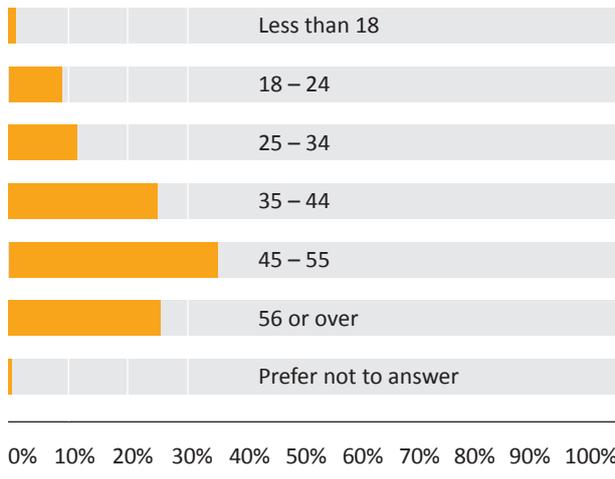
- a comprehensive online survey;
- several targeted focus groups; and
- up to 20 one-to-one interviews.

The HIV Search Conference was well received during the year. Preliminary results are available, and a full report will be released by the end of 2014. The following is a snapshot of some of the key results:

- Of the approximately 100 people who completed the survey, more than 30% identified as people living with HIV. The second largest group of respondents was partners/friends/family of people living with HIV;
- The respondents' ages ranged from under 18 to over 56, with most in the 45–55 age group. More than 70% of the respondents were male, and 65% of those identified as gay.

Q1: What age are you?

Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



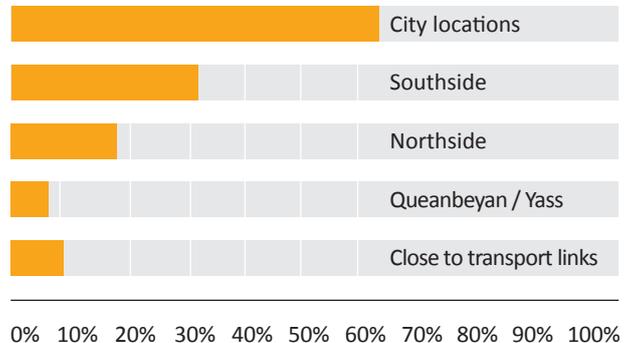
More than 60% of respondents accessed information and/or support from the Council, with the second highest ranking source being the Internet. More than 70% of respondents preferred to access services in city locations; however, the same percentage indicated they would like the Council to provide more outreach services.



... just a brief email to say thanks for the help to date from yourself and the team. It's much appreciated and makes a difference. As I said I reckon Jenny McDonald (Dietician) 'walks on water'. And Pauline (Counsellor) doesn't walk on water, she 'hops skips and dances on it' ;-)

Q3: Where do you prefer to access services?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 5



Key issues identified in the survey responses were:

• PEER SUPPORT

A large percentage of respondents indicated that the Council was their main source of peer support and that peer support was very important to them.

• MEDICATION

100% of respondents would like better access to medication and most people living with HIV indicated they would benefit from access to medication through a community pharmacy (an option which is not currently available).

• AGEING

Ageing was identified as a key issue, with respondents being concerned about access to aged care and ageing with HIV.

• DISCRIMINATION

More than 60% of respondents identified discrimination as a key issue and indicated that discrimination mainly occurred socially and through sexual encounters.

• USE OF THE INTERNET

Most respondents indicated they preferred to use the internet to access health information, and men who identified as gay were almost twice as likely to use the internet as others. Employed people were more likely than unemployed people to have used the internet for health information. More than 70% of respondents indicated they currently accessed the Council's website and the same percentage had found it useful.

In addition to the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide feedback and general comment. The Council continues to listen to its key stakeholders in a proactive and positive way.

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : INITIATED NEW WORK ON LGBTI AGED CARE AWARENESS WITH A WORKING GROUP, TRAINING PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED PARTNERSHIP WITHIN THE SECTOR.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The Council launched its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) this year. The plan provides an independent and public verification of the Council's commitment to reconciliation.

The launch of the Council's first RAP signifies the start of the reconciliation journey. The RAP was developed after extensive consultation with traditional owners, Elders, Aboriginal representatives, the HIV positive community, the wider community, Council staff and the Board. From our experience of working with the positive community, we know the worth of cherishing traditions that stretch back over decades, and our RAP pays respect to the history and traditions of Australia's first people.

The plan can be found on our website under 'Strategic documents' at aidsaction.org.au/resources/strategic-documents

CANBERRA GAY COMMUNITY PERIODIC SURVEY

The Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey has been conducted regularly since 2000. In 2013, men were recruited to undertake the survey at five venues: SpringOUT, Fairday, Canberra Gay & Lesbian Tennis Club Bushdance, Cube Nightclub, the Ranch sex-on-premises venue, and Canberra Sexual Health Centre. The results are used to inform policy and programs for HIV prevention and sexual health services.

The research is funded by ACT Health and conducted by the Centre for Social Research in Health at the University of NSW, in association with the Kirby Institute and the Council.



GAY COMMUNITY PERIODIC SURVEY SNAPSHOT

- 61% of guys had regular sexual partners, with monogamous relationships the most common relationship type in Canberra, reported by 31%.
- 61% of guys with a regular partner said they had unprotected anal sex with their partner in 2013. This proportion is stable.
- 30% of men with casual partners reported having at least one unprotected anal sex encounter. This number has not changed significantly between 2009 and 2013, but the trend over time is upwards.
- Nearly 50% of relationships had no agreements about sex outside of the relationship. 70% of relationships had agreements about sex and condom use within the relationship.
- With reference to online dating, use of the internet has dropped significantly since 2009 (to 28% in 2013) while the use of mobile apps has become the most popular way to meet guys for sex (35%).
- Non-HIV-positive men who reported having a HIV test in the 12 months prior to the survey was 67%. In 2003 this was 57%. One in six had never had an HIV or STI test.
- HIV-negative men in a relationship that do not know the HIV status of their partner has risen from 14% in 2003 to 28% in 2013.

> To read the full report visit: aidsaction.org.au/research

Events

WORLD AIDS DAY SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2013

World AIDS Day is one of the most globally recognised events of the year. Each year the Canberra event raises community awareness about the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS.

Whereas the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is used as a call to action and an opportunity to remember those who have been lost in the fight against HIV and AIDS, World AIDS Day has a more general community awareness-raising approach. While much of the Council's work and messages target key affected populations, World AIDS Day seeks to raise general awareness about HIV among a broader population.

This year we held a Red Ribbon Race to mark World AIDS Day, attracting widespread media coverage, engaging with diverse audiences and promoting HIV awareness to the ACT community.

Teams competed with each other in physical, mental and skills-based challenges. Contestants answered questions about HIV to unlock directions to their challenges, which were held at iconic Canberra locations.

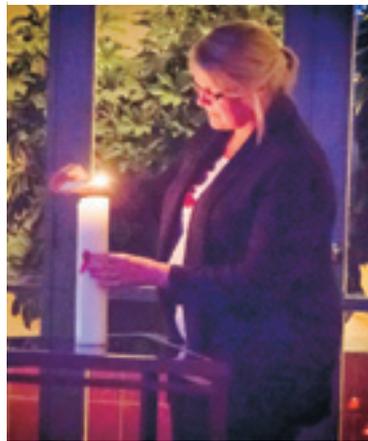
The 12 challenges included an event which required participants to eat a meal worm at the Canberra Zoo, an agility test at the Australian Defence Force Academy, manoeuvring a Segway through an obstacle course, and a culinary challenge hosted by the Canberra Institute of Technology's Student Association.

Canberra FM's Claire Wheaton was the host at race headquarters, which featured live music, dancing and lunch stalls for participants and guests.

The aim of the Council's World AIDS Day event this year was to encourage all Canberrans to be aware of HIV and AIDS; to take action to reduce the transmission of HIV by promoting safe sex practices; and to help ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS can participate fully in the life of the community, free from stigma and discrimination.



WORLD AIDS DAY SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2013



INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SUNDAY 18 MAY 2014



FAIRDAY SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2013

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : PROMOTED HEALTH MESSAGES TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH INNOVATIVE EVENTS SUCH AS 'CABARET' AND FAIRDAY

**INTERNATIONAL AIDS
CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL
SUNDAY 18 MAY 2014**

The theme for this year's International AIDS Candlelight Memorial was 'Let's keep the light on HIV'. Approximately 140 people attended Canberra's 25th anniversary of this event. Genevieve Jacobs from 666 ABC Radio hosted the event for the second year with her usual professionalism, sensitivity and passion. The Canberra Gay and Lesbian Qwire, Johnathan Davis and Kai-Kai Toh donated their time and talents to ensure the event was beautifully accompanied.

Two exceptional speakers shared their personal stories at the event and encouraged guests to 'take up the fight to end HIV'. Sally Richards, who lost her brother to HIV, spoke of her family's journey of acceptance, support and love. In a moving speech, US Ambassador to Australia, Mr John Berry, shared his personal story of losing his first partner to HIV and spoke of the United States of America's commitment to end HIV.

**CABARET
SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2013**

The elegant stage at Tilley's Devine Café at Lyneham came to life with song, dance and comedy for Cabaret. Dressed in theme, guests enjoyed performances from a cast of local and interstate performers.

The performers included local artist Chrissie Shaw, as her character Bijou; winners of 666 ABC's 'Exhumed' competition, Sparrow Folk; acclaimed comedian Bobby Macumber from Melbourne; the Canberra Gay and Lesbian Qwire; local entertainer Johnathan Davis; drag sensation Flangelina Jolie; and channelling her inner Liza Minelli, Miss Poppi Button. The event showcased the talents of the community, helped to promote our health messages and raised more than \$6,000 for the Council's programs and services.

**FAIRDAY
SATURDAY
9 NOVEMBER 2013**

The 2013 Fairday was held in the lovely gardens of Westlund House and attracted record crowds — with perfect weather and new activities, it earned the accolade of 'Best Fairday ever'. Celebrating the ACT's LGBTI community, Fairday is the largest event of its kind in Canberra. The full program featured live music, rainbow costumes, community stalls, free activities for kids and the fiercely contested pet parade — it was a day that truly had something for everyone.

We thank sponsors Money Mechanics, IMB, Here's the Coffee, Women's Affairs, Tosolini's Food to Go, Aqua Harmony Swim School and Northside Community Service which raised money to support Council programs.

Fairday provides a unique occasion to build and maintain LGBTI social capital, attracting people who rarely attend other LGBTI events. With Westlund House situated literally at the centre of the Fairday — reflecting our ongoing role in the LGBTI community — the event provides an opportunity to build the Council's profile, showcase our resources, and highlight our health promotion messages to a captive audience.



CABARET SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2013





Working with the Council

In the light of the HIV legacy statement, the AIDS Action Council's development as an effective and dynamic service delivery and health promotion agency continues apace.

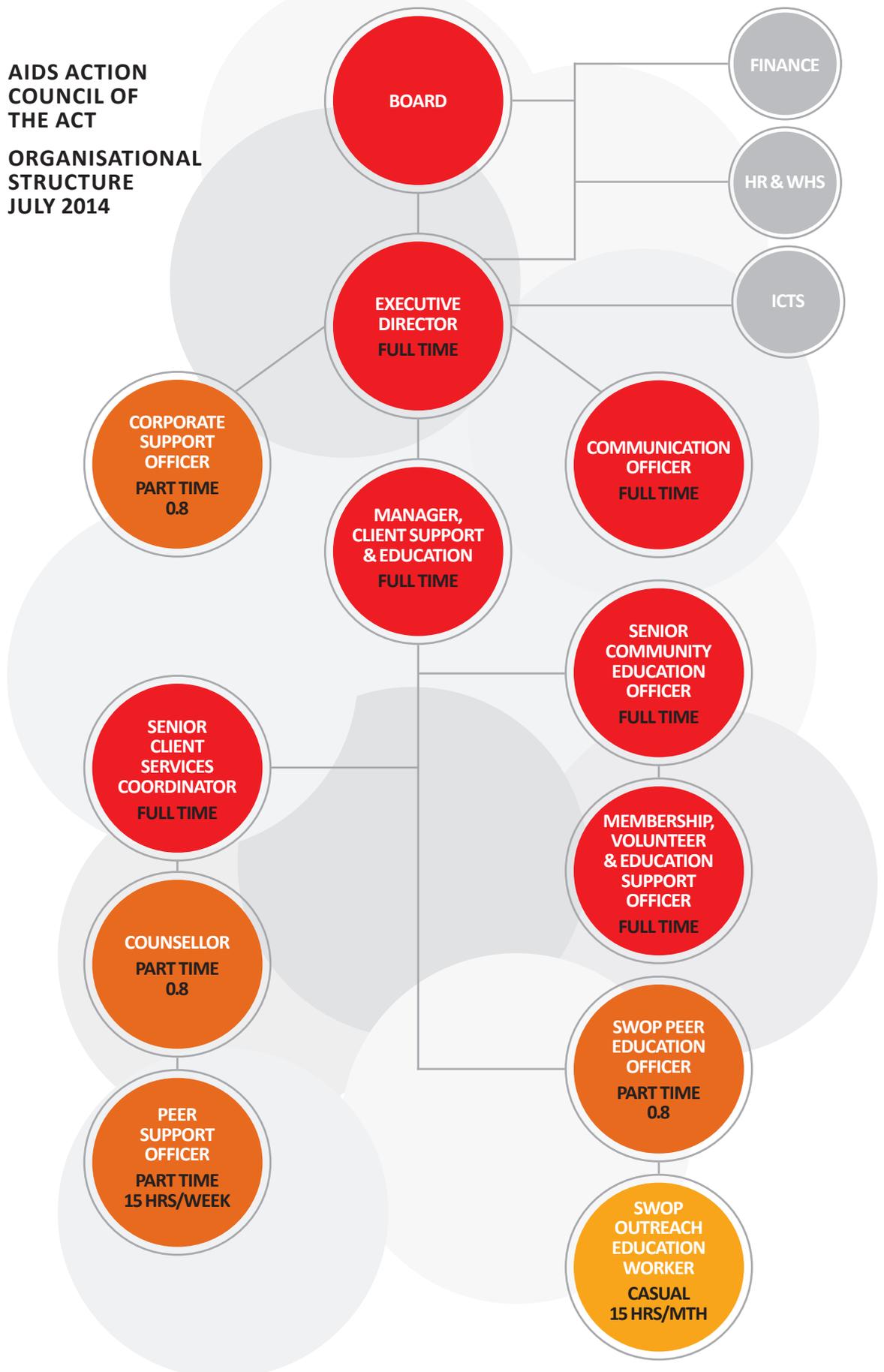
The organisation's evolution has largely been shaped by the evolving response to the HIV epidemic, and we continue to adapt to meet the community, social, cultural, economic and technological issues which impact the people and communities we serve.

Despite some major workforce challenges and structural changes, our staff have worked diligently with absolute commitment to ensuring the organisation continues to be responsive and engaged with the community.

The Council has restructured its human resources to provide a more 'hands-on' approach, and outsourced book-keeping and information technology to provide a stronger focus on better governance, financial management and administration for the Council.

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : REVIEWED THE CONSTITUTION TO ENSURE IT MEETS NEW REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

**AIDS ACTION
COUNCIL OF
THE ACT
ORGANISATIONAL
STRUCTURE
JULY 2014**



Governance

Governance is the backbone of the organisation.

In the previous financial year the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* came into effect and as a result, the Council now falls under a new independent statutory office: the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). The Council continues to operate under the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991* along with the new regulatory framework for the sector.

During the year the Council constitution was reviewed and amended to ensure all governance processes aligned with the new framework. This was a major piece of work and the Council's constitution now meets the ACNC requirements.

The Council is an incorporated association and the constitution articulates the Council's membership, operating procedures and division of responsibilities between the Board and management.

The Board members are responsible to members for the Council's performance. Their focus is to ensure the organisation is properly managed and that it remains committed to its vision and mission. The Board draws on relevant corporate governance and best practice principles to help it contribute to the performance of the Council. The Board delegates the day-to-day management of Council affairs and the implementation of corporate strategy and policy initiatives to the Executive Director.

MEET THE BOARD



**NATHAN
BOYLE**
President

Nathan has been the President since October 2013 and was first elected to the Board in 2010. He is currently a member of the Finance and Governance Standing Committees. Nathan has a background in social policy, service delivery and Indigenous affairs. He is a trained anthropologist and has a long history with Amnesty International, campaigning and advocating for human rights for more than 15 years.



**SCOTT
MALCOLM**
Vice President

Scott joined the Board in 2006, wishing to give something back to the Canberra community. Scott was previously the President for three years. Scott chairs the Council's Strategic Development Standing Committee. He has a professional background in the finance sector and is on the ACT Government's LGBTI Ministerial Advisory Council.



**PETER
KENSEY**
Secretary

Peter joined the Board in 2012. He has a background in biological science, corporate governance, and audit and risk management. Before joining the Board, Peter volunteered for the Council for many years. He was on the Canberra Pride Committee for four years and helped organised the annual SpringOUT Pride Festival. Peter is keen to help ensure that the Council's strategic direction is supported by a strong governance framework and continues to provide essential HIV and AIDS related services to all those in need.

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : LAUNCHED A NEW SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY AND REVAMPED THE WEBSITE**STREPHON
BILLINGHURST**
Member

Strephton has worked in the health industry, across the continuum from the beginning of life to death. He has worked in senior executive roles in public and private health in the ACT and South Australia. During his career, Strephton has also cared for patients with HIV and AIDS as a Registered Nurse at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. He brings a depth of life experience in the area of HIV and AIDS and a world of knowledge of the health arena with strong connections with ACT Health, the Pharmacy Guild and Medicare Locals.

**CLARE
DRAKE**
Member

Clare has been involved with the AIDS Action Council since 2005 and has served in several different roles on the Board. She has public sector experience in international development, foreign affairs and Indigenous affairs and previously worked for the WA AIDS Council on HIV education programs and peer-based support services for same sex attracted and gender diverse young people. She is interested in the role the Council can take in supporting the LGBTI community in Canberra and in ensuring the representation of women's issues on the Board.

**MELANIE
CANTWELL**
Member

Melanie was elected to the Board at the 2013 AGM. She has worked and volunteered in the health and community sectors for more than 20 years in a range of roles, including volunteering for a number of client care teams in the Council during the 1990's. She was employed by the Council as Health Maintenance and Treatments Officer from 1997 to 2000. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is currently undertaking further postgraduate studies in corporate governance.

**ANDREW
GRIMM**
Member

Andrew previously served for four years as Secretary/Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Standing Committee. He recently completed his PhD in Law and has provided advice on the Council's constitution over many years. Andrew has provided the Board with support on the constitutional changes required for the Council to comply with the new Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission guidelines.



I just wanted to pass on some feedback about last night's event (AIDS14 community forum). We really enjoyed the night and thought the Forum was a "really classy event".

Also, whoever has been in charge of the AIDS Action Council Facebook Page lately has been doing a fantastic job. I really enjoying seeing more posting and reading all of the interesting articles that have been popping up.

Financial Statements

SUMMARY

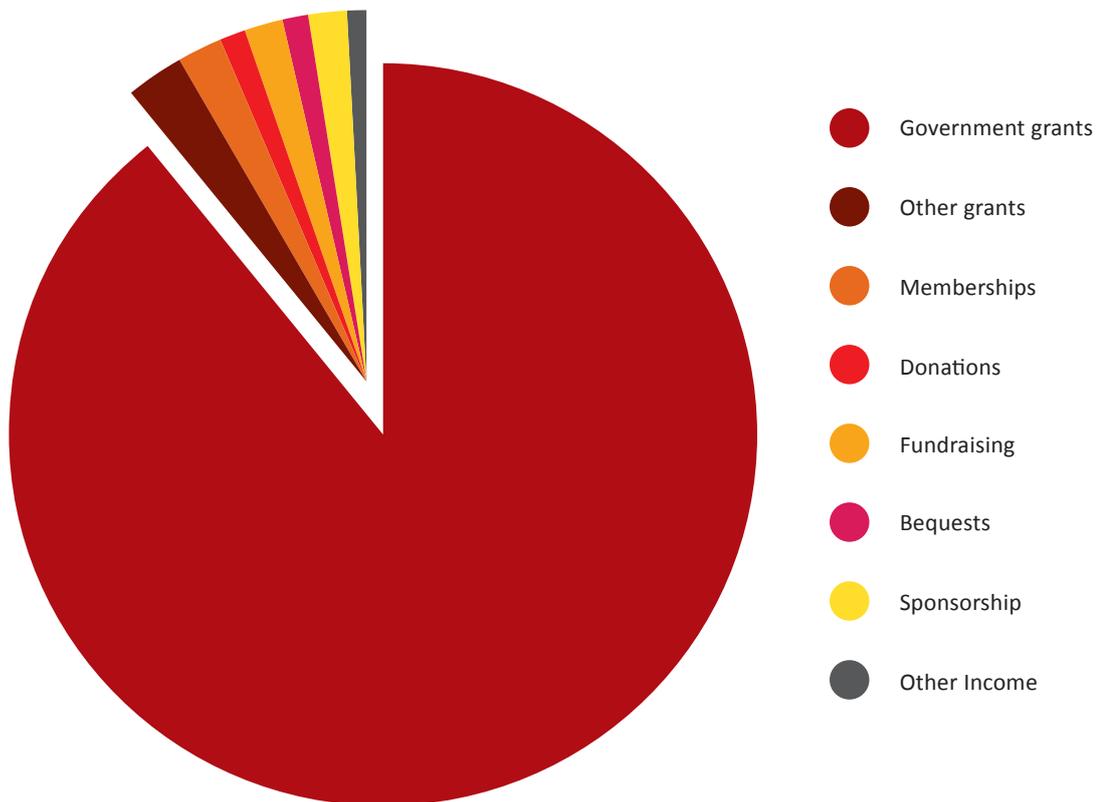
The AIDS Action Council’s continued objective has been to increase its capacity and ability to support people with HIV and AIDS, along with their families and carers. To achieve this increase in capacity we need to grow and develop new and existing services. To this end, this year has again seen an increase in income from \$965,173 in 2012/13 to \$1,121,513 in 2013/14 demonstrating the Council’s revenue continues to increase with each passing year.

A significant component of the increase is a result of successful tendering for programs. Consistent with our strategic plan, these additional programs have seen the Council expand its footprint in Canberra and surrounding areas; increase the number of people with HIV receiving support; and expand the number of prevention campaigns and events run and supported by the Council.

The Council receives donations and bequests, as well as sponsorship and contributions to membership. This continued generosity has enabled the Council to invest and further expand its range of services for people living with HIV and to strengthen its financial position for future growth opportunities.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those individuals, community groups and organisations who have generously contributed to the work of the Council. The organisation is truly grateful for the continued gift of donations and time to support the many activities undertaken.

Figure 4: Revenue 2013/2014



STATE OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
Income	1,121,513	1,015,827
TDF expenses	(3,389)	–
Communications	(87,043)	–
Cost of sales	(11,259)	–
Administrative expenses	(145,965)	(71,281)
Buildings	(58,784)	(70,207)
Resources and projects	(44,744)	(191,005)
Purchase of stock for resale	(22)	(14,293)
Depreciation	(28,978)	(28,173)
Employee benefits expense	(983,310)	(896,412)
Current year deficit before income tax	(241,981)	(255,544)
Income tax expense	–	–
Net current year deficit attributable to members of the entity	(241,981)	(255,544)
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity	(241,981)	(255,544)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
Cash flow from operating activities:		
Receipts from customers	1,112,049	995,830
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,030,542)	(1,249,446)
Interest received	2,436	20,234
Net cash provided by (used in operating activities)	83,943	(233,382)
Cash flow from investing activities:		
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	7,823	20,430
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(37,742)	(45,845)
Net cash used by investing activities	(29,919)	(25,415)
Cash flow from financing activities:		
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	54,024	(258,797)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	259,871	518,668
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	313,895	259,871

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

The operating result was a deficit of the association for the financial year amounting to \$241,981 (2013: deficit of \$255,544).

The summary financial statements contained in the 2014 Annual Report are a summary of the audited general purpose Financial Statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting interpretations and the Associations Incorporations ACT (ACT) 1991. The full Financial Statements are available and were authorised for issue on the 27 October 2014 by the members of the committee.



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AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated
ABN: 97 812 719 846

Report of Auditors to the members of AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and management's assertion statement.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Associations Incorporations Act 1991, (ACT), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



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AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated
 ABN: 97 812 719 846

Report of Auditors to the members of AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated as at 30 June 2014, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Associations Incorporations Act 1991, (ACT).

Emphasis of Matter

Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1(c) in the financial report which indicates that the AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated incurred a net loss of \$241,981 during the year ended 30 June 2014 and, as of that date, the AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated's current liabilities exceeded its total assets. These conditions indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the AIDS Action Council of the ACT Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern.

Hardwickes

Hardwickes

R Johnson

Robert Johnson FCA
 Partner

Date: 27 October 2014

Canberra, ACT



Support us

HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DONATIONS

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Become a member – your financial membership will help to support our work. The annual cost of General Membership is only \$50.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Become an AIDS Action Council Corporate Member. We can partner with your team to meet your needs and engage your customers in enjoying a healthier life.

WORKPLACE GIVING

We can develop a workplace giving campaign to enable your staff to give on a regular basis and receive an immediate tax benefit.

VOLUNTEERING

We offer a diverse range of volunteer opportunities and would love to hear from you.

For more information on any of these opportunities, please call the AIDS Action Council on **02 6257 2855** or visit aidsaction.org.au

Thanks to our supporters

The Council has built and strengthened key strategic partnerships to support its objectives. Our key partners include:

- people living with and impacted by HIV and AIDS
- community and at-risk groups
- health professionals and educators
- clinical and medical providers
- ACT Government and other governments
- non-government organisations and community groups, and
- corporate partners

The Council worked closely with ACT Health to support the International AIDS Conference held in Melbourne in 2014. Five clients and one staff member attended the conference's Global Village and enjoyed many events in the conference program. Several key staff won ASHM Scholarships to attend. The Council also held a successful community feedback forum on highlights from the conference.

AFAO and the SWOP peak body, Scarlet Alliance, are two organisations the Council works with closely. Formal engagement with these organisations provides insight, direction and links to best practice and research.

A contract was signed between the Council and ACON to deliver LGBTI Aged Care Awareness Training.

Other non-contractual partners who have provided support, direction and expertise include A Gender Agenda and Northside Community Services.

Northside Community Service has been a key partner for several major projects including the LGBTI Aged Care Awareness Training, Peer Education Workshops e.g. Stepping Out and the Safe Schools Coalition.

The Council formalised a partnership with Queer Minds and submitted a grant application which was successful. The joint project culminated in a panel discussion for LGBTI people with mental health issues.

The Canberra Gay and Lesbian Tennis Club provided a \$2000 grant to the Council which was made possible by the highly successful Bushdance hosted by the Tennis Club every year as part of the SpringOUT Pride Festival. The grant will be used to develop new technologies for LGBTI young people to access appropriate local information, resources and pathways and to support mental health, sexual health and positive messages about identity.

The Council was very pleased to participate in developing and implementing the project that eventually led to the ACT Sport and Recreation's Inclusive Sport Survey Report. The report was launched on 17 May, 2014 on IDAHOT (International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia).

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : HELD INNOVATIVE FORUMS SUCH AS 'CHIN WAG CHAT SHOW ALL ABOUT LOVE, LIFE, SEX, HIV AND THE WHOLE DAMN THING'



FAIRDAY IS AN
IMPORTANT
PART OF OUR
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
PROGRAM



Acknowledgements

THE COUNCIL HAS MANY SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS, WHOSE INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SERVICE DELIVERY. THE COUNCIL WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING:

- 2XX FM Community Radio
- 666 ABC Local Radio
- A Gender Agenda
- ACON
- ACT Health
- ACT Human Rights Commission
- ACT Office for Women
- ACT Sport and Recreation
- ACTCOSS
- ACTQueer
- AIDS Trust of Australia
- Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)
- Alex Bellis
- Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)
- Ambassador John Berry (USA)
- Andrew Barr MLA
- Andrew Leigh MP
- Ansell International
- ANU Health Centre
- ANU Postgraduate and Research Students' Association (PARSA)
- ANU Queer Department
- ANU Students' Association (ANUSA)
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
- Australian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)
- Bears Canberra
- Belconnen Community Services (Belconnen Youth Centre)
- Bit Bent
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Brendan Smyth MLA
- Burnet Institute
- Canberra Gay and Lesbian Qwire
- Canberra Gay & Lesbian Tennis Club
- Canberra Pride
- Canberra Institute of Technology Student Association (CITSA)
- Canberra Sexual Health Centre
- Care Inc.
- Centre for Social Research in Health, University of NSW
- Claire Wheaton
- Community Services Directorate, — ACT Government
- Cube Nightclub
- Directions ACT
- Diversity ACT
- Douglas Robinson
- Dr Chris Bourke MLA
- Dr Elizabeth Reid
- Dr Martin Holt
- Dr Sarah Martin
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Er-Kai Wang
- Four Seasons
- FUSE Magazine
- GelWorks Pty Ltd
- Genevieve Jacobs
- Glyde Health
- Gungahlin Family Health Centre
- Haemophilia Foundation of the ACT
- Hepatitis ACT
- Hyatt Hotel Canberra
- Interchange General Practice
- International AIDS Society
- Jen Lewis
- Jenni Atkinson
- Jenny McDonald
- Johnathon Davies
- Julia Byford
- Kai-Kai Toh
- Kate Diggie
- Katy Gallagher MLA
- Kenn Basham
- Kevin Schamburg
- Kim-Maree Janszen
- Kirby Institute, University of NSW
- Lifeline Canberra
- Marianne Dickie
- Medicare Local ACT
- Men's Health Services
- Mental Health Community Coalition
- Mick Gentleman MLA
- Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT)
- National Association of People Living with HIV
- National LGBTI Health Alliance
- Northside Community Service
- People and Strategy Pty Ltd
- Philip Habel
- Positive Life NSW
- Prisoner's Aid ACT
- Queer Minds Canberra Region
- Reconciliation Australia
- Rodney Cole
- Sally Richards
- Scarlet Alliance
- Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (SHFPACT)
- Shane Rattenbury MLA
- Shine Dome
- Simon Corbell MLA
- Stephanie Marion-Laundas
- Studios of the ACT (visited by SWOP)
- Sue Driscoll
- Suzanne Eastwood
- Teatro Vivaldi Restaurant
- The New Canberra Transgender Network
- The Ranch at Fantasy Lane
- Tilley's Devine Café
- Tim Bavinton
- TressCox Lawyers
- ViiV Health Care
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
- Woden Community Service (Woden Youth Centre)
- Women's Centre for Health Matters
- Women's Legal Services
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- YWCA of Canberra

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : PARTICIPATED IN A PROJECT THAT LED TO THE INCLUSIVE SPORT SURVEY REPORT, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

Glossary

ACNC	Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission	PLHIV	People living with HIV
ACON	AIDS Council of NSW	PrEP	Pre-exposure Prophylaxis
AFAO	Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations	RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse	S100 Prescriber	Qualified HIV medical practitioner
CNC	Clinical Nurse Consultant	SHFPACT	Sexual Health & Family Planning ACT
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex	STI	sexually transmissible infections
MSM	Men who have sex with men	STRIP	Sexual Health Testing, Referral and Information Project
NAPWHA	National Association of People with HIV Australia	SWOP	Sex Worker Outreach Program
PACT	Partnership Approach to Comprehensive Testing		



OVER THE PAST YEAR THE AIDS ACTION COUNCIL OF THE ACT HAS MADE SUCCESSFUL BIDS FOR GRANTS TO SUPPORT LGBTI YOUNG PEOPLE



On behalf of the ANU Medical School and the year 4 medical students I would like to thank the AIDS Action Council for your contribution to the all day session last Friday concerning sexual health, health promotion and public health.

Partnerships between the medical school, the Canberra Hospital and the community sector are very much valued by the ANUMS. Such partnerships ensure that the students' learning is based in the "real world" and that they are better able to appreciate the important role played by community based organisations.

All doctors need to develop skills in health promotion and the imparting of health information. Relating this to sexual health challenges them and helps them to see beyond the biomedical paradigm.

Feedback from the students has been very positive, especially around having the opportunity to meet people from the community sector and ask questions.

Director Research Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Practice — ANU and UC

AIDS 2014 Legacy Statement

AUSTRALIA'S MINISTERS FOR HEALTH

Hon Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Health
Parliament of Australia

Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA
Minister for Health
Western Australia

Hon David Davis MP
Minister for Health
Victoria

Hon Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Health
Tasmania

Hon Jillian Skinner MP
Minister for Health
New South Wales

Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health
Queensland

Hon Robyn Lambley MLA
Minister for Health
Northern Territory

Hon Jack Snelling MP
Minister for Health
South Australia

Hon Katy Gallagher MLA
Minister for Health
Australian Capital Territory



**COAG
HEALTH
COUNCIL**

HIGHLIGHTS 2013–14 : EXPANDED OUR PROGRAM OF COUNSELLING SERVICES AND INTRODUCED YOGA CLASSES.**AUSTRALIAN HEALTH MINISTERS COMMIT TO:**

Working towards the virtual elimination of new Australian HIV transmissions by the end of 2020.

- A rejuvenated response to HIV and ensuring that the HIV responses of all jurisdictions reflect new scientific advances and the vision of ending HIV and AIDS.
- Continue measures to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain a high priority area for Australia's HIV response and to achieving HIV prevention and treatment targets – with a focus on research and health literacy.
- Take necessary actions, in partnership with key affected communities and sector partners, to remove barriers to accessing HIV testing, treatment, prevention, care and support across legal, regulatory, policy, social, political and economic domains.
- Continue to support high quality, multi-disciplinary, collaborative research that incorporates basic science, clinical research, social and behavioural science and operational research to inform local and international action to eliminate HIV.
- Advance actions to ensure an appropriately trained and supported HIV workforce, including in clinical, community, research and policy and program areas.
- Continue to demonstrate global leadership in the response to HIV.

Thirty years after the discovery of the HIV virus, the HIV epidemic remains one of the greatest public health challenges of our time. However, as each year has passed, our understanding of HIV and our capacity to prevent and treat the disease has steadily advanced thanks to the dedicated work of scientists, clinicians, people with HIV, affected communities and governments.

These exciting developments are transforming the global HIV response and have led many political, scientific and community leaders to acknowledge the real possibility of achieving an 'AIDS free generation' and eventually a cure.

Achieving this vision will require bold leadership and a strengthened enabling environment where all people feel confident about accessing HIV testing, prevention and treatment services. It is everyone's responsibility to help advance the dignity and human rights of people affected by HIV and to counter stigma and discrimination.

The Australian non-partisan HIV response — built on a foundation of meaningful partnership — is widely acknowledged as being remarkably successful and underpins our virtual elimination of HIV transmission among injecting drug users and in the sex industry.

However, despite our many achievements in policy, research and prevention, Australia is facing serious challenges in our HIV response, including the highest rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections seen in many years. Yet the science is unequivocal and through a combination of new diagnostic and prevention tools and highly effective antiretroviral treatments it is possible to eliminate the transmission of HIV and for people with HIV to live longer, healthier lives.

Now is the time to commit to galvanising actions and for all involved in Australia's HIV partnership to refocus efforts to meet these challenges and to fully capitalise on the opportunities before us to end the HIV epidemic.

Australia has joined other countries in committing to the global goal of an 'AIDS free generation' and to meeting the actions and targets endorsed in the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Meeting these commitments will require Australia to be brave in its vision — especially on the eve of the Melbourne 20th International AIDS Conference we need to act on the Conference's theme and 'Step up the Pace'.



Please convey to all concerned my appreciation for the great event last night (Candlelight Memorial). It was one of the best yet and it was good to see all the new volunteers in attendance. I welcomed the opportunity to take in the event without associated volunteer duties for once, but make myself available for future events.



Join the Council

THE AIDS ACTION COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

If you are interested in issues concerning sexual health, HIV and AIDS and want to support a grass roots community organisation, we want you!

Throughout the world, people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS are banding together in organisations in an effort to increase awareness about the virus and to address stigma and discrimination and to educate themselves and their communities on HIV prevention, care and treatment. In Canberra the organisation is the AIDS Action Council.

The Council is in the vanguard of social change, creating networks of support, producing educational materials, and advocating for a positive voice for positive people.

The Council works to ensure that people living with HIV and AIDS have input into the creation, development, and implementation of services and policies within the organisation and advocates and lobbies for change within the broader community.

This is achieved through the members of the organisation working with people living with HIV and AIDS, by supporting community events, being informed and educated and working together to address stigma and discrimination.

Our members encourage others to get tested, speak out, raise awareness, seek medical help, provide support, and advocate for change.

BECOME A NEW COUNCIL MEMBER TODAY, EACH PERSON CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE!

Members receive access to discounted safe sex products, information and news on sexual health, can access special free services, two awesome safe sex packs per year, invitations to all our events, newsletters and access to 'members only' offers from our partners. And importantly, you get to support the ongoing work of the Council.

Call **6257 2855** or email: contact@aidsaction.org.au or download the membership form directly at: aidsaction.org.au/become-a-member



**BECOME A
SUPER PERSON
AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE BY
BECOMING A
COUNCIL MEMBER
TODAY!**





PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



AIDS ACTION COUNCIL OF THE ACT

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Let's keep the light on HIV