

AIDSACTIONCOUNCIL

ANNUAL  
REPORT

14



15

# 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

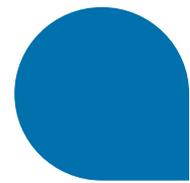


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# ANNUAL REPORT

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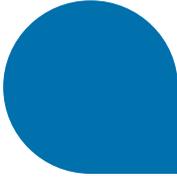


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EMPOWERMENT

COMMUNITY



PRESIDENT  
AND EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
**REPORT**



NATHAN BOYLE  
**PRESIDENT**



PHILIPPA MOSS  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**The AIDS Action Council is proud to be Canberra's leading community based HIV and AIDS organisation.** The 2014-2015 financial year has seen ongoing growth and development as the Council continues to meet the needs of people impacted by HIV and AIDS, and respond to new and emerging issues.

Since its establishment in 1983, the Council has been delivering important outcomes for the health and wellbeing of the community. These services have evolved with the community, and there have been three distinct phases in the Council's evolution. When HIV emerged in the community in the 1980s, the organisation aimed to provide vital services with much of our activity focused on prevention, supporting people as they became sick, helping them to die with dignity, and supporting family and friends dealing with this devastating illness. Between 1992 and 2000, our programs began to change to take a more holistic approach to people's health and wellbeing. Medical advances meant we could support individuals and the community, as people were now able to 'live with HIV'. The Council worked in partnership with the community to break down stigma and discrimination. For the past 15 years, HIV work has stayed at the heart of what we do and this work now sits within a broader focus of health promotion, prevention, treatment, community acceptance and the celebration of diversity across our community.

Over the past year, the Council has continued to work to build its capacity to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, transgender and queer (LGBTIQ) communities in areas including increased health and wellbeing, health promotion, and supporting individual and community capacity. This period has seen a focus on supporting these communities to have ownership and control over the services provided through involvement in the development of programs and initiatives, building partnerships and alliances, and highlighting the contribution these communities make to the broader Canberra community.



This year has been one of new beginnings with a move to new premises and returning to a financially stable position. This has strengthened the focus on the Council's ability to develop and grow sustainably into the future. The move from Westlund House to Havelock House has provided a unique opportunity to reflect on our history, and protect the fascinating collection of local and national material which has been amassed over the Council's last 30 years.

Through the collaboration of board members, staff and volunteers a special project was undertaken to photograph and document these artefacts, with papers, linens, dyes, photographs and multimedia formats being preserved by conservation specialists. The collection is now permanently housed at the ACT Heritage Library and the Gay and Lesbian National Archives. It can be accessed for research and exhibition purposes and will be supplemented into the future.

Along with our new office space at Havelock House, the Council was excited to launch a new brand and logo that reflects the modern and progressive direction of the organisation. After significant community consultation, the logo was developed based on a number of core principles that reflect guidance, direction and coming together around action.

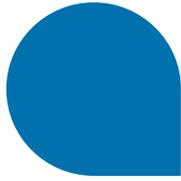
The new logo aims to enable us to better connect with our audiences, ensuring our continuing value and relevance within the changing HIV landscape, and help enhance recognition in an increasingly competitive environment.

Our work in preventing HIV and other blood borne viruses (BBVs) and sexual transmitted infections (STIs) continues to be a core focus. We continue to be committed to the ACT being part of the collective response to ensure Australia's response to HIV prevention and treatment is world leading.

The Council is acutely aware that HIV remains a life-long condition that continues to pose significant challenges, despite the good prognosis for people who take and stay on treatment.

Our work continues to look at innovative ways we can reduce the risk of new infection, support early diagnosis and treatment and engage members of the community who are living with HIV. In order to demonstrate our contribution to national HIV processes, the Council is keen to add our support to the proposed adoption of key principles outlined in the five HIV National Strategies, in particular focusing on the principles of 'partnership' and 'meaningful involvement of affected communities' as they are essential to the ongoing debate and discussion. The Council also continues to commemorate people who have died of HIV and AIDS and maintain the legacy of more than 30 years of international HIV activism.

The achievements of the Council over the past year would not have been possible without our team of dedicated board members, staff, volunteers and friends who have contributed in many ways to ensure that everything the Council undertakes and achieves is of the highest standard. This is a partnership effort and we are very aware that many of our partners give much more of their time, talents and resources than could be asked or compensated. The Council is a grassroots peer-based organisation and volunteers play a significant role in supporting our work and we would like to pay particular tribute to the more than 100 volunteers, many of whom are peers, who support the organisation and its work.



## KEY STATISTICS AND TRENDS AROUND HIV IN THE ACT

**Information is power. It enables us to support the community's understanding of the prevalence and impact of HIV in the community.**

Understanding trends is vital to working towards the vision of zero new diagnoses in the community. The Annual Surveillance Report on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual transmissible infections in Australia is produced by the Kirby Institute and provides vital information regarding HIV in Australia. <sup>1</sup>

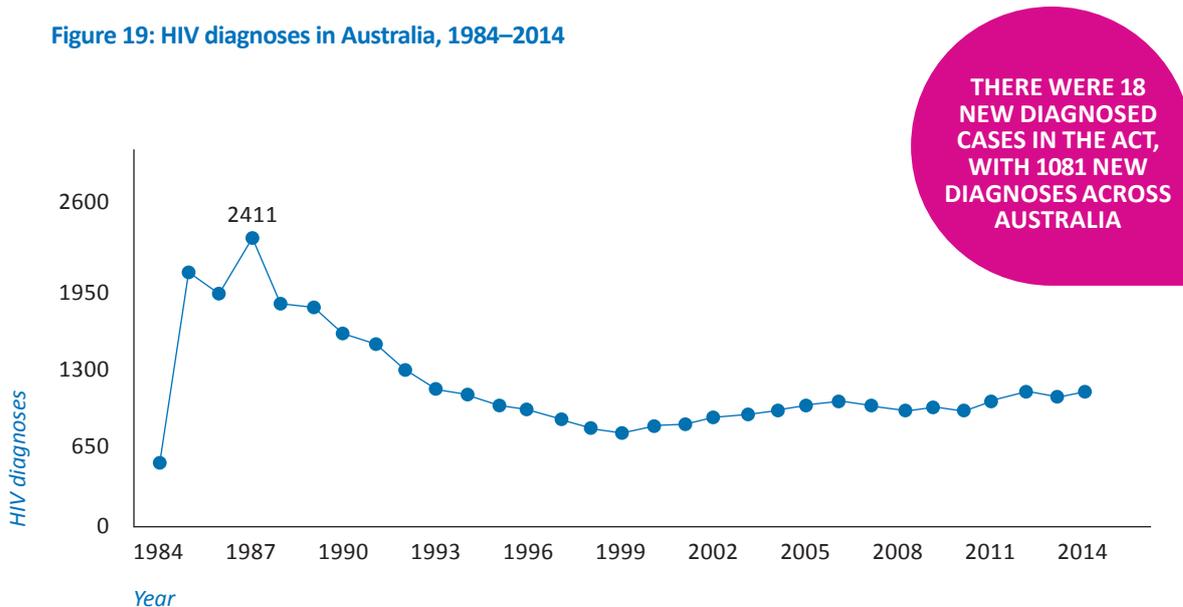
### KEY TRENDS AROUND NEW HIV INFECTION INCLUDE:

- New HIV diagnoses are stabilising in Australia and the ACT. There were 18 new diagnosed cases in the ACT, with 1081 new diagnoses across Australia. (See Figure 19 from the Kirby Institute report on the following page). This equates to 2% of the total newly diagnosed cases in 2014.
- Australia continues to have a low prevalence of HIV infection among adults aged 15 year or older compared to similar countries. In 2014, approximately 27,150 people were living with HIV in Australia (this is 0.14% of the population). This is low compared to other high income countries such as the United Kingdom (0.3% in 2014) and the United States (0.5% in 2012).
- HIV infection is one health related area where the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are impacted at lower levels than the general community. In 2014, the prevalence rate was 0.11% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia.
- Particular groups in the community are disproportionately impacted by HIV with men who have sex with men (MSM) comprising the greatest majority of HIV diagnoses within Australia. In 2014, there was a prevalence rate of 17% for MSM. (See Figure 5 from the Kirby Institute report on the following page).
- Risky behaviours continue to be a key factor in new HIV infections. Sexual contact between men accounts for 70% of new HIV diagnoses in 2014 (758 of the 1081 cases). Other common routes of HIV transmission include heterosexual sex (19%) and injecting drug use (5%).
- There is still a high number of people who delay testing and a HIV diagnosis. However, there has been some success in reducing the number of newly detected HIV cases (classified as a late diagnosis or advanced HIV infection) with this figure dropping from 28% in 2004 to 15% in 2014.

<sup>1</sup> The Kirby Institute. HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 2015. The Kirby Institute, UNSW Australia, Sydney NSW 2052.

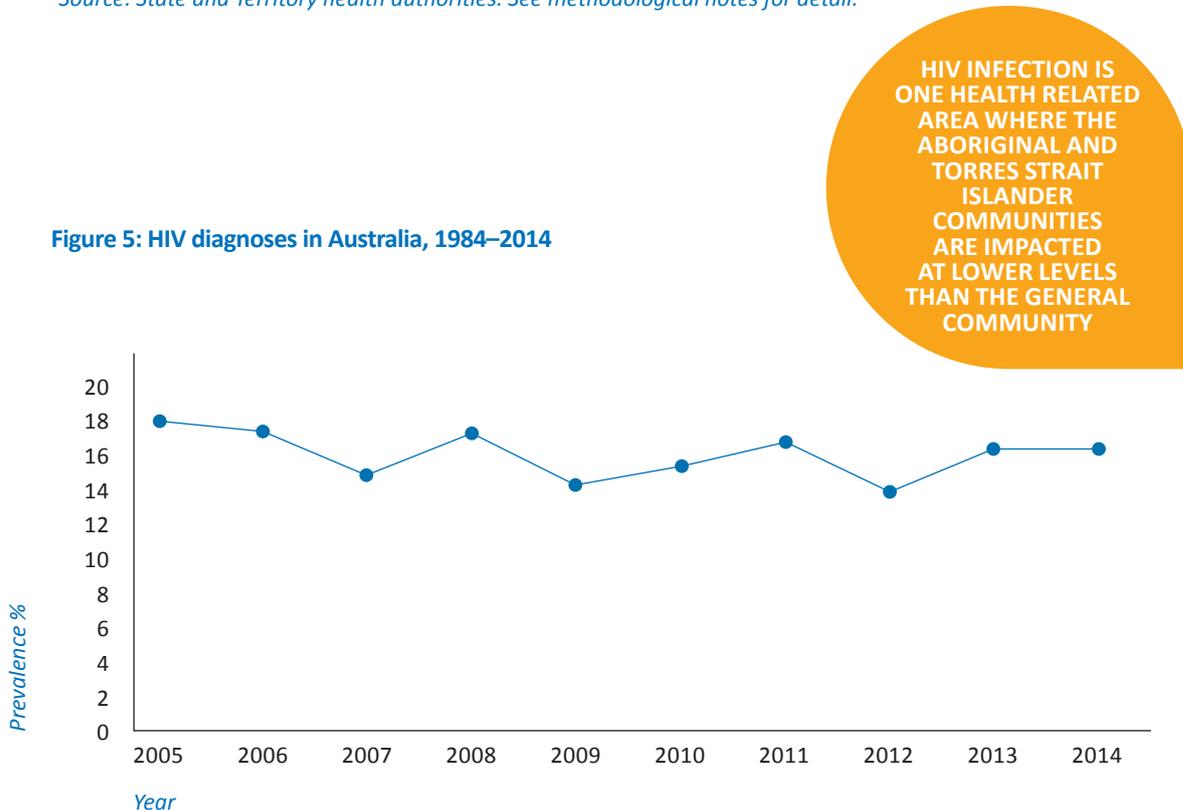
There has been a large increase over the past 10 years in the number of people living with HIV and the proportion taking effective treatments that stop the disease from causing illness and minimise the risk of transmission to sexual partners. For the first time, the Kirby Institute provided analysis of the rate of new notifications of HIV against the number of people diagnosed and living with HIV. The report indicates that over the past 10 years the rate of notifications per 100 people diagnosed and living with HIV has declined by 25% (from 6.1% to 4.6%).

Figure 19: HIV diagnoses in Australia, 1984–2014



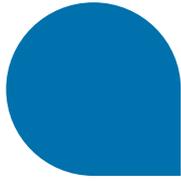
Source: State and Territory health authorities. See methodological notes for detail.

Figure 5: HIV diagnoses in Australia, 1984–2014



Age standardised by ABS populations and weighted by different recruitment types. Source: Gay Community Periodic Survey. See methodological notes for detail.





**SUPPORTING  
THE COMMUNITY**

**The AIDS Action Council was created by and for the community and continues to be guided by community members.** The Council is proud of its origins as a grassroots community organisation that responds creatively and efficiently to the changing needs of the community. The Council achieves this by facilitating a connected and inclusive response to HIV and providing holistic support services to people living with and impacted by the disease.

**PROVIDING SERVICES AND SUPPORT**

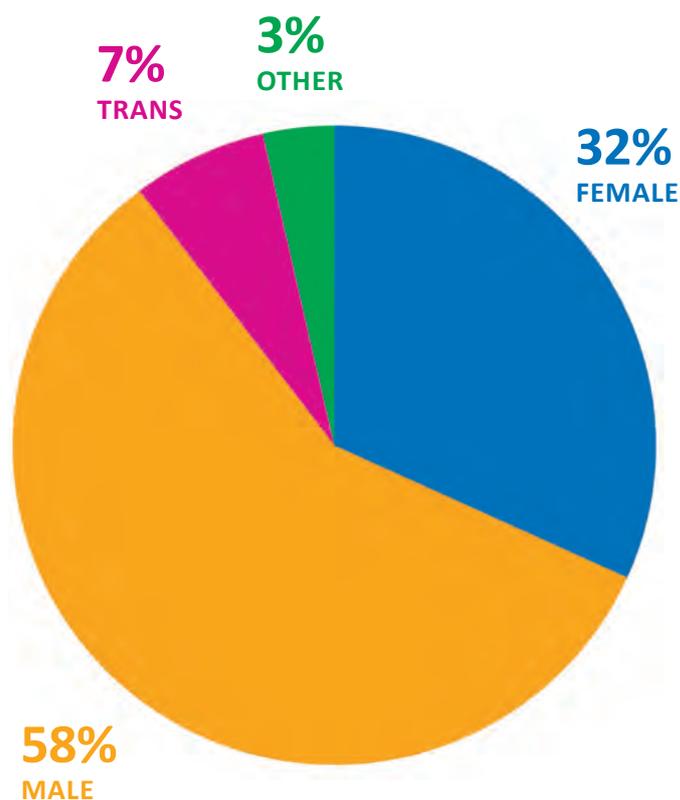
In recognition of the crucial role treatment, care and support plays in ensuring people living with HIV are living optimally, the Council provides services, programmed activities and support for community connections for this client group. The Council also works to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS in the wider community through regular events and advocacy campaigns.

- A safe community space
- Counselling
- New diagnosis groups
- An active peer support network
- Women’s groups
- Case management
- Peer-education workshops
- Professional workshops
- Information / referral / support
- Vitamin dispensing service
- Dietician clinic
- Trevor Daley Fund for people experiencing financial hardship
- Community events

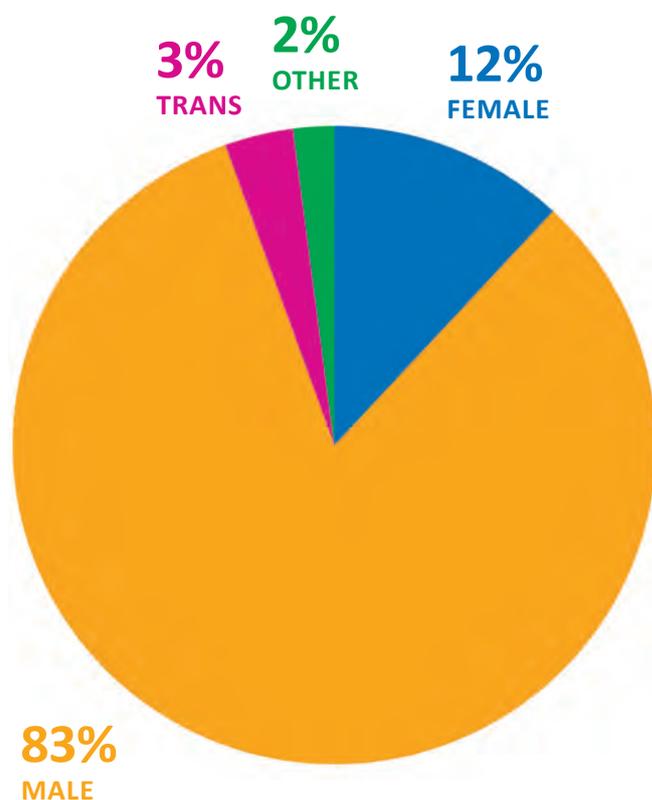
The Council also runs speciality programs and groups based on identified unmet needs.

**FAIR DAY,  
IS OUR LARGEST  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
EVENT WITH OVER  
2000 PEOPLE  
ATTENDING  
IN 2014**





THE GRAPH ABOVE REPRESENTS ALL COUNSELLING PROVIDED IN 2014-2015 AND GENDER BREAKDOWN



THE GRAPH ABOVE REPRESENTS THE GENDER BREAKDOWN OF COUNSELLING PROVIDED TO PEOPLE WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE

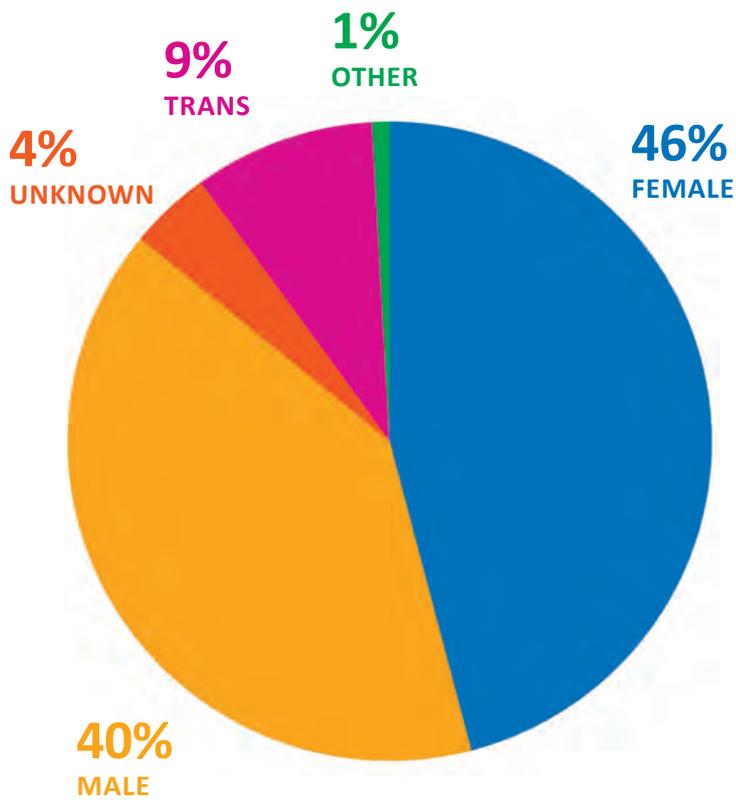
## PROVIDING COUNSELLING SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Counselling services are provided to all members of the community regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, lifestyle choice, cultural background, religious belief or economic circumstances. A free and priority service is provided to people impacted by or at risk of HIV, including individuals, partners and family. Through counselling services, the Council provides assessments as well as support and advocacy for issues including coming to terms with one's sexuality, emotional and physical health, relationships, employment, finance, legal, education and accommodation concerns.

This service is rapidly expanding in response to increased demand for counselling from LGBTIQ communities and reflects that the Council is known for its experience and expertise in providing counselling to clients with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and is seen as a safe, supportive service by these groups.

Over the past 12 months, the Council has been investing in strengthening the counselling service, including recruiting additional staff and expanding the volunteer program. The qualified volunteer counsellors have added significant capacity to the service and their contribution is highly valued by both the Council and the community. Currently the Council provides around 25 counselling hours per week.

Over the financial year, 560 counselling sessions were provided. Forty percent of the clients seen are HIV positive.



THE GRAPH ABOVE REPRESENTS THE GENDER BREAKDOWN OF COUNSELLING PROVIDED TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT HIV POSITIVE

### INTEGRATING PEER SUPPORT AS A CENTRAL WAY TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

Peer-based strategies underpin the Council’s service delivery model. Peers with the knowledge, skills and determination to end the epidemic are considered best placed to understand the experience of others.

Given the influence that peer norms have on sexual behaviour, peer education is one of the most successful strategies in the response to HIV.

There have been many studies into the return on investment for HIV prevention programs. The findings consistently demonstrate that the cost of prevention programs are far exceeded by the savings in clinical care for people living with HIV. The research also indicates that peer-based approaches are most effective given the nature of stigma and discrimination associated with HIV.



**COUNSELLING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY**



# GENESIS

**A WEEKEND WORKSHOP RAN BY THE AIDS ACTION COUNCIL FOR GAY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH HIV WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.**

It's a peer-based workshop which means it's run by other gay men with HIV who can relate to the experience of a new diagnosis.

Genesis aims to provide participants with practical help and knowledge to manage their HIV diagnosis, gain confidence, build resilience and make informed decisions around the various issues that may confront them after a HIV diagnosis.

Genesis also provides participants with an opportunity to meet other guys in the same situation in a safe, confidential and supportive environment.

**GENESIS GIVES PARTICIPANTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- Explore HIV and its impact on your life
- Understand how HIV and your immune system work
- Get an overview of current and future treatments
- Understand HIV and its impact on your health, sex life and relationships
- Work out who to tell about your status and when to tell them
- Take charge of your own health

Genesis is collaboration between the AIDS Action Council, ACON and Positive Life NSW.

**LOOK OUT FOR 2016  
GENESIS WORKSHOP DATES**



**The breadth and depth of peer work undertaken by the Council is continually evolving to respond to the needs of the community.**

Some of the examples of peer-led activities provided in the past financial year include:

**PEER SUPPORT NETWORK (PSN)**

The Council has continued to provide ongoing support to the Peer Support Network (PSN) which seeks to build community connectedness between positive people. The Network runs monthly dinners and organises a range of cultural activities around Canberra.

**GENESIS PEER-BASED WORKSHOP FOR HIV+ GAY MEN**

Genesis is a free weekend workshop for gay men who have been diagnosed with HIV within the last five years. Genesis is run by other gay men with HIV and aims to provide participants with practical help and knowledge to manage their HIV diagnosis, gain confidence, build resilience and make informed decisions about the various issues they may confront after a HIV diagnosis. Genesis is a collaboration between the AIDS Action Council, ACON and Positive Life NSW.

**STEPPING OUT**

Stepping Out is a peer support program for people who identify as female and are same sex attracted and is delivered in partnership with Northside Community Services. The program provides a safe, supportive and confidential environment for lesbian, bi and same sex attracted women to explore a range of themes concerning sexuality and relationships.

**LOOKING OUT WORKSHOP**

Looking Out is a short discussion-based workshop for men aged over 25 who are attracted to other men. Topics discussed include coming out, self-esteem, homophobia, sexual health (including HIV/AIDS), relationships, negotiating safer sex, LGBTI networks in Canberra, and where and how to meet other guys.





**The Council’s education activity focuses on providing general information and education to the broader community, people living with and at risk of HIV, and the LGBTIQ community.**

Much of this work is delivered in partnership with other organisations and draws on the resources of stakeholder organisations nationally.

### **PROVIDING INFORMATION AND SUPPORT ACROSS THE COMMUNITY**

Accessible services and information are provided in a variety of ways, including printed resources, phone and face-to-face contact, services and workshops in-house and off-site and through IT platforms including social media. The Council’s website is regularly updated to ensure current information and key resources are consistently made available for the community. The website can be viewed at [aidsaction.org.au](http://aidsaction.org.au)

The Council also produces regular newsletters specifically for clients, and a community newsletter featuring news, events information and stories of interest for the whole community. Recent newsletters are available on our website [aidsaction.org.au](http://aidsaction.org.au) and at [issuu.com/aidsaction](http://issuu.com/aidsaction)



A range of social media platforms are used to ensure the Council has a strong and well supported presence in the community with Facebook and Twitter continuing to be the primary means of social media interaction. More recently media-sharing platforms such as YouTube and Instagram have also been used. Monitoring social media platforms requires a consistent approach and this is managed by dedicated staff in-house.

Innovative ways to deliver health messages and services to the community are consistently being explored. This includes methods of service provision and engagement with the community through social media channels. The Council continues to ensure that the platforms being utilised are appropriate for the client and stakeholder groups. Young people, in particular, are keen to receive services over the Internet and via social media.

## DELIVERING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Over the past year, the Council’s ‘HIV Today’ education program was reviewed and redesigned. The program now includes a series of values exercises and innovative, creative ways to inform diverse target groups including ‘at-risk’ groups.

All education programs are culturally appropriate and tailored to individual communities where required. The program is evaluated to ensure the needs of diverse participants are being met. This has been particularly effective for updating volunteers’ knowledge and skills on HIV, so they are better equipped to convey the most up-to-date information about HIV in the ACT, Australia and internationally.

In 2014/2015 HIV community education programs have been delivered to a wide range of stakeholder groups including:

- Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) — monthly training sessions with both inmates in the general prison and the Solaris Therapeutic Community Program, in partnership with Hepatitis ACT. The Council has also delivered training to new Custodial Officers, as well as regular sessions to wardens and other staff at AMC and ACT Corrections.
- CIT Student Association (CITSA).
- A Gender Agenda.
- SHFPACT — Introduction to Sexual Health Course.
- AFP Gay and Lesbian Liaisons Officer (GLLO) Training.
- International College and High School Students.
- ANU Griffin Hall.
- UN Youth ACT Human Rights Forum.
- Karralika Programs Inc.



**THE COUNCIL RUNS MONTHLY TRAINING SESSIONS FOR INMATES AND OFFICERS AT THE ALEXANDER MACONOCHIE CENTRE**

## SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION WITHIN SCHOOLS

The Council acknowledges the difficulty with delivery of sexual health education within schools. The Council works with key stakeholders to encourage the local jurisdiction to advocate for inclusion of STI and HIV education at the highest level, within a context of integrated sexual health education including support for sexual and gender diversity.

The Council also advocates the inclusion of sexual health education for young people that focuses on building knowledge about HIV, and understanding the risks and consequences of decision-making in sexual health matters.

## RESPONDING TO CURRENT AREAS AND EMERGING TRENDS

The Council has a clear mandate to work with groups within the community that are at higher risk of HIV infection than the general population. There is also a key role to play in supporting programs that eliminate barriers to successful prevention and increasing rates of testing, which is acknowledged as a key strategy to reduce the rate of new HIV infections.



**WE VALUE OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER VITAL COMMUNITY GROUPS IN CANBERRA AND SURROUNDING REGIONS**

## CAMPAIGNS

Peak body Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) and ACON allow us to utilise their campaigns which are contextualised for the Canberra community. The campaigns were rolled out via print media, social media and through many events, expos, stalls and general promotion. New campaigns implemented and resources distributed from AFAO during 2014-15 include:

- Your Body Blueprint: Resource for people living with HIV and their bodies.
- Time to Test: Gay men and STI screening.
- The Bottom Line: Gay men, Human papillomavirus (HPV) and anal cancer.
- Ending HIV: Community mobilisation campaign for gay and bisexual men to end HIV in Australia by 2020.
- The Drama Downunder: Gay men, HIV and STIs.
- Us Mob & HIV: Aboriginal and Torres Strait culturally appropriate HIV information.
- Taking a Look: Gay men and HIV risk.
- And locally produced and marketed ACT Testing Month.



TESTING MONTH OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO GET QUICK, EASY AND CONFIDENTIAL SEXUAL HEALTH CHECK-UPS IN THE ACT

## SUPPORTING AT RISK COMMUNITIES

Sex between men accounts for the large majority of new HIV diagnoses and the Council has a long history of adapting to emerging trends. However there are challenges to working in this space, including working with men who have sex with men and do not identify as gay or bisexual.

The Council has engaged with new technologies and creative ways to deliver messages that find receptive audiences. All work is based on a holistic model that addresses individual behaviours, community norms, and structural, environmental and behavioural issues. This is evidenced in the information and resources used in a range of strategies including social marketing, peer groups and outreach work.

Peer education remains an important part of the work that the Council does reaching out to gay and bisexual men, as well as lesbian and bisexual women. The Council ran a number of successful workshops for young gay men, older gay men and for lesbian women. This work helps to create supportive environments, opportunities to discuss important issues such as coming out, relationships and negotiating sex safely. They also provide an opportunity to create more meaningful connections with the Council, including the volunteer and counselling services.

In 2014/2015 the Council continued to facilitate the Counsellors Network for counsellors involved in the Blood Borne Virus (BBV) sector. This serves to increase the knowledge and skills of clinicians and other professionals regarding HIV and AIDS. The network has approximately 15 members who meet regularly.



ENDING HIV IS A COMMUNITY MOBILISATION CAMPAIGN FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN TO END HIV IN AUSTRALIA BY 2020

## REDUCING BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL PREVENTION

Stigma and discrimination continue to be significant barriers to reducing HIV infection. As well as diminishing the quality of life for people impacted by HIV living in the community, these barriers reduce access to effective treatment and diminish the positive impact of support for people living with HIV. Research continues to demonstrate the detrimental impacts of stigma and discrimination and this was a key theme of AIDS 2014. The prevailing message coming from this event was the continued focus for all organisations such as the Council to address stigma and discrimination for ALL affected communities including people living with HIV.

The Council works to reduce HIV related stigma and discrimination by advocating for enabling environments; social, legal and political through implementing education and health promotion activities and by seeking additional funding for programs to reduce these barriers. However, the Council recognises that attitudes and values are fundamental to addressing stigma and discrimination, such as attitudes to sex work, and this can be challenging. As such, a core part of the Council's work is addressing attitudes, values and behaviours regarding sexual orientation, gender identity and drug use within target communities, and the community at large.

One example that demonstrates the Council's significant success in reducing stigma and discrimination is the Sex Workers Outreach program (SWOP). SWOP provides sex worker awareness training to a broad range of health and community providers, including government agencies. This program works to demystify sex work and reduce stigma and discrimination. SWOP also provides a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) program in partnership with the sex worker peak body, Scarlet Alliance, and has developed excellent working relationships with every brothel in Canberra.

The Council recognises the important contribution that people with lived experience have to make in relation to the debate, discussion and work towards successful prevention. With the support of AFAO, the Council was able to send one positive community member to the Positive Leaders Development Institute in Victoria. This program aims to develop leadership skills and increase capacity for meaningful engagement in the community.

## PROMOTING AND FACILITATING TESTING AS A KEY STRATEGY FOR DECREASING HIV INFECTION ACT TESTING MONTH

November 2014 saw the Council undertake one of the largest HIV campaign rollouts in the ACT. The inaugural ACT Testing Month was launched by Yvette Berry MLA at Fair Day. This month-long project was designed to raise awareness of the importance of viral Hepatitis, HIV and STIs testing to help reach an end to new HIV diagnoses by 2020 ([www.endinghiv.org.au](http://www.endinghiv.org.au)).

ACT Testing Month was a partnership of a range of ACT-based health, HIV and STI organisations including:

- AIDS Action Council of the ACT
- ACT Health
- Canberra Sexual Health Centre
- Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
- ACT Medicare Local
- Hepatitis ACT
- CAHMA

Testing was held at the regular Sexual Health Testing, Referral and Information Project (STRIP) clinics at Westlund House and The Ranch at Fantasy Lane (a men's sex on premises venue), with extra M-Clinics held at Canberra Sexual Health Centre every Monday throughout November. The Council also ran additional clinics at Westlund House during business hours, while O'Connor and Charnwood Pharmacies and Canberra headspace also provided opportunities for testing.

This campaign garnered success through exposure of the issue beyond the Council's usual audience and into the mainstream community. For example, there was an increase in interest by mainstream media with an ACT Testing Month 2014 interview and advertisements on commercial radio stations FM104.7 and Mix 106.3. This campaign also saw the Council engaged in its most extensive and comprehensive paid social media campaign, utilising platforms including Facebook, Grindr and Instagram.



**ACT TESTING MONTH**

**GET**

**TESTED**

**GETTING A SEXUAL HEALTH TEST IS THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE IF YOU ARE OK!**

**Get in control** of HIV, STIs and Hepatitis

**Stay in control** of your health

**Get regular check-ups**

**TESTING MONTH RUNS NOVEMBER EACH YEAR**

Check out [testingmonth.info](http://testingmonth.info) for information about testing and your health



## **PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO COMPREHENSIVE TESTING (PACT)**

The Partnership Approach to Comprehensive Testing (PACT) is a partnership between the Council, the Canberra Sexual Health Centre and ACT Medicare Local.

It also includes BitBent (LGBTIQ-based youth groups), youth services, SHFPACT, The Ranch at Fantasy Lane (men's sex on premises venue) and local brothels.

The aim of PACT is to make clinical testing services more relevant and accessible by taking screening services to the community. The Council continues to support the STRIP outreach clinics of PACT. Sexual health testing delivered in brothels (SWOP SHOP) is also a significant component of PACT.

The STRIP clinics were conducted using 'pulses' of three intervals of four to five weeks at key points of the year.

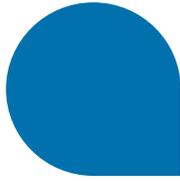
The clinics aligned with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (post-summer), winter and SpringOUT Pride Festival (late spring). These continue to be strongly accessed across the range of venues, including Westlund House, The Ranch and BitBent at the Belconnen and Woden Youth Centres.



**TESTING MONTH OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO GET QUICK, EASY AND CONFIDENTIAL SEXUAL HEALTH CHECK-UPS IN THE ACT**

**STRIP CLINICS WERE CONDUCTED USING 'PULSES' OF THREE INTERVALS OF FOUR TO FIVE WEEKS**

**SEXUAL HEALTH CHECK-UPS FROM STRIP ARE CONFIDENTIAL QUICK, EASY AND FREE!**



## ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

**As well as an organisation focused on supporting people impacted by HIV, the Council is increasingly working to support the LGBTIQ communities.**

In this, the Council aims to create safe spaces for community members to explore their sexual orientation, to nurture their health and wellbeing, to celebrate the diversity of the community, and support the broader community to also accept and celebrate the diversity of the community.

During the past year, the Council has continued to build links with LGBTIQ communities and respond to current and emerging issues. In this work, the Council aims to work across the life cycle of LGBTIQ people, with a focus on supporting young and ageing people. The Council has established a number of partnerships with other organisations who are working in these areas and developed several initiatives aimed at addressing gaps in service provision for LGBTIQ communities.

### **SUPPORTING THE LGBTIQ COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE LIFE CYCLE**

This year saw the Council enter into a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Encampment, a new youth-led LGBTIQ group. This group supports LGBTIQ young people 13-17 and is run entirely by dedicated volunteers. The Council assists Encampment in applying for project funding, overseeing the programs and providing governance and fiduciary responsibility. All volunteers with Encampment are registered volunteers with the Council and are provided with training, quality assurance and appropriate registrations. Encampment meets weekly at the Council, establishing a relationship with the volunteers and young people who attend the meetings. Encampment will begin to run workshops with young people in the near future and the Council will provide material, resources and assistance as required.

The Safe Schools Coalition in the ACT, led by SHFPACT, is another successful project the Council is proud to be actively involved in. Several staff members have been trained for program delivery and assist as required. The Council has participated in the Coalition's public events including the official launch and a special International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) event.

Throughout the year the Council continued to implement the LGBTIQ Aged Care Awareness Training which was developed by the National LGBTI Health Alliance and included non-contractual partners A Gender Agenda and Northside Community Services. In addition, the Council has formalised a partnership with Northside Community Service and A Gender Agenda to share volunteer programs. Even though the project is still in development, feedback from volunteers has been positive and encouraging.

## HOSTING EVENTS TO INFORM AND EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

Public events aim to inform, educate and reduce barriers to successful prevention. Public events provide the Council with opportunities to partner with relevant organisations and increase awareness of relevant HIV health messages within the community.

## COUNCIL MAJOR EVENTS

The Council holds a number of important annual events for the HIV positive, LGBTIQ and the broader ACT communities. These events provide an opportunity for people to come together to connect, reflect, remember and celebrate.

## CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL

The Council provides an opportunity for the community to commemorate people who have lost their lives to HIV and AIDS at the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. This is a respectful commemoration for the whole community including people who have lost family members, friends and loved ones.

The theme for this year's International AIDS Candlelight Memorial was 'Supporting the Future'. Approximately 160 people attended the Canberra Memorial held at ANU's University House on Sunday May 17 which was hosted by Alex Sloan (666 ABC Radio) who spoke with professionalism, sensitivity and passion.

This is the third year that 666 ABC has provided a host for the Memorial, with Genevieve Jacobs hosting the previous two years. Canberra's Gay and Lesbian Qwire performed a moving performance of 'Seasons of Love' from the musical RENT and 'Stand by Me' as attendees stood outside before laying down their candles in the shape of a red ribbon. Cellist Harry Hall from the ANU School of Music played as the names of those being remembered scrolled on the screen at the front of the hall.

Chief Minister Andrew Barr was the keynote speaker at the Memorial, while HIV Activist Abby Landy provided reflections on her experiences as a young heterosexual woman with HIV. The Council was fortunate to have the Executive Director of AFAO, Rob Lake, present at the last minute for Professor John Dwyer who had been struck down with pneumonia in the week leading up to the Memorial. Rob discussed the importance of the community in Australia's response to HIV.



**THE COUNCIL PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO COMMEMORATE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TO HIV AND AIDS**

## PROMOTING AWARENESS: WORLD AIDS DAY — 1 DECEMBER 2014

World AIDS Day on 1 December is one of the most globally recognised events of the year. Each year the Canberra event raises awareness across the community about the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS. It is an opportunity for the community to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. The aim of the Council's World AIDS Day event 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 ensure that people living with HIV and AIDS can participate fully in the life of the community, free from stigma and discrimination.

In 2014 the Council hosted a community breakfast in Garema Place selling egg and bacon rolls for a gold coin donation and providing specially made red ribbon cupcakes for purchase. Promotional World AIDS Day items such as red ribbons, pens, tea towels and fridge magnets provided the community with an opportunity to donate to the work of the Council. The event was also used to cross-promote the ENDING HIV campaign with signs and posters displayed throughout Garema Place and on the t-shirts worn by staff and volunteers.

The Council also engaged with other community organisations and a shared space was utilised to promote World AIDS Day. These organisations work in harm reduction, STIs and BBVs. Other organisations included SHFPACT, Canberra Sexual Health Centre, Directions ACT, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) and Hepatitis ACT.

## CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY OF THE COMMUNITY: FAIR DAY

Fair Day 2014 was held on Saturday 1 November as part of the SpringOUT festival month. This is a key event in the Council's calendar and has been hosted annually since the early 2000s. Fair Day continues to be the highest attended event held by the Council and provides an opportunity to capitalise on health promotion messaging to the LGBTIQ community.

Fair Day continues to grow from strength to strength and 2014 saw its sustainability grow through a highly successful sponsorship program, which saw eight sponsors contribute the equivalent of \$10,250 worth of income to support the event and other Council programs. This was a significant increase of \$7,500 from 2013. Funds were also generated from stallholder fees, a sausage sizzle and non-alcoholic drink sales. There were an unprecedented number of stall-holders and record attendance.

Fair Day in 2014 also provided a unique occasion to build and maintain LGBTIQ social capital. The event provides an exclusive opportunity to build on the profile of the Council and showcase the resources and highlight health promotion messages to a captive audience. This year's event was also used as a platform for launching ACT Testing Month, the largest testing and health promotion campaign rolled out in the ACT for many years.



THE COUNCIL  
WAS PROUD TO  
BE PART OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
DAY AGAINST  
HOMOPHOBIA &  
TRANSPHOBIA



FAIR DAY  
IS OUR LARGEST  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
EVENT WITH OVER  
2000 PEOPLE  
ATTENDING  
IN 2014

OVER 100  
PEOPLE ATTENDED  
THE FUNDRAISER  
SCREENING OF  
'DALLAS BUYERS  
CLUB' AT DENDY  
CINEMAS



## TARGETED INFORMATION AND EDUCATION EVENTS

The Council provides an essential role in providing information and resources to the community around emerging evidence and trends as they become available. Throughout the year, the Council held a number of targeted events and activities.

### AIDS 2014 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FORUM

A Community Feedback Forum was held on 8 August 2014 after several staff, Council members and clients attended the International AIDS Conference in Melbourne in July. The Forum invited members of the community to hear from a range of speakers reflecting on their experiences and learnings at the Conference, as well as what this will mean for the ACT's future HIV response. Speakers included Zoya Patel from the YWCA, Dr Alexandra Grieg from ACT Health and Rob Lake from AFAO.

### PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PREP) COMMUNITY FORUM

A PrEP forum was hosted in September 2014 and aimed to respond to the increasing amount of information available about PrEP and conversations within the community, particularly gay men. Around 30 community members attended the panel discussion. The panel speakers included Keiran Rossteuscher, representing the Council, HIV activist and co-founder of The Institute of Many (TIM) Nic Holas, and local HIV specialist GP Dr Tuck Meng SOO from the Interchange General Practice.

The audience was encouraged to ask questions and raise concerns with the panel. The speakers' presentations were filmed and are available to view as three separate videos on the Council's YouTube channel — [youtube.com/aidsactionact](http://youtube.com/aidsactionact)

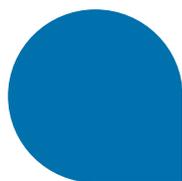
### MOVIE FUNDRAISER – DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

Approximately 100 people attended the fundraiser screening of Dallas Buyers Club held at Dendy Cinema on Wednesday 22 April. The event started with canapes, drinks and an opportunistic raffle to raise more funds. The screening and raffle raised nearly \$2,500 for the organisation. Excerpts of Ending HIV and 30 years of AIDS Action were screened prior to the movie. The event received support from FUSE Magazine, Dendy Cinemas and Paramount Pictures.

### INFORMATION EVENTS, EXPOS AND STALLS

Throughout the year, the Council participated in a number of community service and educational events, expos and stalls. Staff attended and contributed to major events at Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and the Australian National University (ANU), Mental Health Week and provided resources for display at the University of Canberra (UC). All these events assist to build the Council's profile and work towards increased health awareness and the reduction of stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS.

The Council was once again proud to partner with SHFPACT to hand out roses with condoms on National Condom Day (more commonly known as Valentine's Day) on Friday 14 February 2015 at the National Multicultural Festival.



## **CONTRIBUTING TO THE EVIDENCE BASE AND ADVOCATING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE**

**As well as providing services and education, the Council has a key role in advocating for systemic change. In this, the Council is working to:**

- Increase the level of prevention work to reach the vision of zero new HIV diagnoses.
- Ensure people living with HIV have access to adequate and affordable treatment.
- Encourage research to support better approaches across the continuum (from prevention through to end of life care).
- Eliminate stigma and discrimination within the community.

### **PARTICIPATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EVIDENCE BASE**

Research plays a critical role in providing a strong evidence base for informing policy, as well as for designing, monitoring and evaluating programs. The Council has played an active role in development of the Seventh National HIV Strategy through AFAO and individual submissions during the process. The Council continues to be involved with the ACT Ministerial Council on Sexual Health, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and related diseases (SHAHRD), the ACT-based work on the Seventh National Strategies and the ACT Action Plan.

The Council has been actively involved with the collection and use of evidence on the following issues and has made submissions to government where relevant:

- ACT Guidelines for Management of People with HIV who Place Others at Risk.
- Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the Drug of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014.
- Review of Medicines and Medical Device Regulations.
- Same sex law reform.
- GP co-payments.

**CONTRIBUTING**

## ENGAGING, ADVOCATING AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Engaging with the broader sector and interested stakeholders continued to be a focus throughout 2014/15.

The Council actively participates in a number of networking and interagency meetings, committees and groups which serve to strengthen current partnerships and provide opportunities for networking and discussion.

The Council is represented on the following groups and committees:

- ACT Ministerial Council on Sexual Health, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and related diseases (SHAHRD).
- AMC NSP Alliance.
- AFAO Policy Officers Network (ANPON).
- AFAO CEO's Meeting.
- HIV Clinical Care.
- HIV special interest group.
- NSP Advisory Group.
- Reclaim The Night Committee.
- Health Care Consumers ACT Executive Committee.
- TON Treatments officers Network (TON).
- BBV Counsellors Network.
- HIV Teens in Transition.
- HIV African working group.
- Community Sector Leaders Forum (CSLF).
- Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services LGBTIQ Advisory Group.
- Safe School Coalition ACT Governance Group.
- Safe School Coalition ACT Reference Group.
- Partnership Approach to Comprehensive Testing.
- AFAO Education Managers Forum.
- ACT Testing Month Working Group.
- Canberra StandBy Response Service Steering Committee.



**THE COUNCIL IS PROUD TO BE INVOLVED AND COMMITTED TO THE SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION PROGRAM IN THE ACT**



**RECLAIM THE NIGHT IS A CHANCE FOR WOMEN TO WALK IN SOLIDARITY AND DEMAND THE RIGHT TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR**

# TEST MORE

Everything has changed. Advances in HIV treatment offer improved health benefits and the potential to dramatically reduce the risk of HIV transmission among gay men by 2020 if we:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{TEST} \\ \text{MORE} \end{array} \right] + \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{TREAT} \\ \text{EARLY} \end{array} \right] + \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{STAY} \\ \text{SAFE} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{END} \\ \text{ING} \\ \text{HIV} \end{array} \right]$$

Get tested at least twice a year. To decrease undiagnosed infections, to increase access to treatments, more of us need to know our HIV status earlier.

Poz guys - advances in HIV treatment offer improved health benefits and the potential to dramatically reduce the risk of passing on HIV.

By testing more often, by treating earlier and by continuing to stay safe, we can drive new infections among gay men down by 80% by 2020.

# ENDINGHIV.ORG.AU

**OTHER EXAMPLES OF THE COUNCIL'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY INCLUDE:**

- Signing a new MOU with ACT Health to ensure free access for people living with HIV who have a Health Care card to the ACT Dental Health program until 2017.
- Working with the African HIV Reference Group.
- Active membership with Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility (CoPAHM).

The Council values its connection to peer networks across Australia and derives significant value from engaging with national peak bodies working in this area.

The Council supports and participates in many of these networks as they play a particularly important role in supporting policy development and advocacy.

Given the ACT is a small jurisdiction that does not have the resources or capacities that are available in larger states, these networks provide access to research, public policy development, resources and advocacy tools that would not otherwise be available.

The Council continues to be particularly concerned about the future of the national networks given the uncertainty in Australian Government funding.

**NETWORKS THE COUNCIL SUPPORTS AND PARTICIPATES IN INCLUDE:**

- Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations — AFAO.
- National Association of People Living with HIV Australia — NAPWHA.
- Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League — AVIL.
- The sex worker peak body — Scarlet Alliance.

The Council works hard to provide a leadership role in community-based response to HIV in the ACT and sees opportunities in the development of strong relationships with partner organisations as a way to increase impact and reduce duplication.

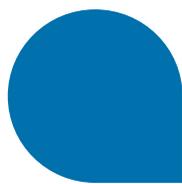


**THE COUNCIL ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF MANY WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**



**THE COUNCIL WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS TO HELP END HIV BY 2020**

**PARTNERSHIPS**



## STRENGTHENING THE ORGANISATION

**In order for the Council to meet its objectives, and deliver quality services and programs, the Council acknowledges the need to continually invest in strong governance, quality operations, and nurturing staff and volunteers as the backbone and foundation of the organisation.**

### GOVERNANCE

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 Council has also embraced the introduction of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as the regulator for the not-for-profit sector and complies with all requirements from this peak body.

Board members are responsible to members for the Council's performance. Their focus is to ensure the Council 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 organisation. The day-to-day management of Council affairs and the implementation of corporate strategy and policy initiatives are delegated to the Executive Director. The Board continues to invest in professional development and has been provided with training from ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS) on governance, financial management and auditing.

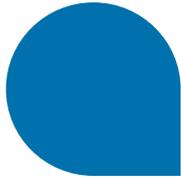
The next phase is an exciting one for the Council as it reviews and updates its Strategic Plan. This process provides an opportunity to engage with the community, clients and service users, stakeholders, volunteers, staff and others to ensure the Council is relevant, forward focused and utilising the opportunities of a more connected and engaged community.

### OPERATIONS

Over the last 12 months, the Council has undertaken a number of activities to strengthen its operational processes. These include:

- A review and update of the organisation's policy and procedures which focused on embedding best practice into the operational practice.
- A review and update of the human resource policies and procedures ensuring the organisation continues to be an employer of choice.
- A review and update of risk management policies and procedures.
- A review of stock control, sales and supply of safe sex products.

Improvements such as the move to new and updated premises means the Council will be able to continue to provide a safe and productive work place for staff and volunteers, for service users, and supporters and members of the community. The Council looks forward to further developing our new office as a space to provide quality services, community space and activities.



**BOARD  
MEMBERS**



**NATHAN BOYLE  
PRESIDENT**



**MELANIE CANTWELL  
SECRETARY**



**ANDREW GRIMM  
MEMBER**



**JULIA O'BOYLE  
MEMBER**



**ANNI DUGDALE  
MEMBER**



**CHRIS KENNEDY  
MEMBER**

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**Other committee members throughout  
the year and at the date of this report:**

**Vice President: Scott Malcolm**  
(until November 2014)

**Strephon Billingham**  
(until November 2014)

**Claire Drake**  
(until November 2014)

**Peter Kensey**  
(until January 2015)

**Roger Morrison**  
(from January 2015)

## WORKING FOR THE COUNCIL

The Council embraces an inclusive employment policy and encourages the engagement of members of our community as volunteers, peer educators and staff. The Council is proud to engender a workplace culture that celebrates diversity and responds to the holistic needs of staff, and will continue to operate in an environment of change and adaption. The Council also works hard to support staff, including increased support through the challenging transition in moving from our long-term premises at Westlund House.

Training and professional development of staff has been a focus of the Council over the last 12 months and the organisation recognises the need to provide professional services by trained and skilled staff. During this period staff members have been provided with opportunities to undertake training and development which aligns with current job roles and future planning. Training opportunities have included:

- Two staff members completed a Cert IV in peer-based mental health.
- Seven staff members enrolled in a Cert IV in Training and Assessment.
- One staff member completed a Cert II in Cleaning.
- One staff member completed comprehensive Work Health and Safety (WHS) representative training.
- Two staff members have recently enrolled in Cert IV in WHS.
- One staff member completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Company Directors Course.

Along with formalised registered training, Council staff have been offered a host of training on organisational change management, confidentiality, ethical practice and key training topics to ensure increased skill capacity to deliver quality services.

## VOLUNTEERING WITH THE COUNCIL

Once again, volunteers supported the work of the Council throughout the year and were crucial in working with and within our communities, including people affected by HIV and our key target groups.

Volunteers were involved in many and varied activities including peer support, outreach, workshop facilitation, office administration support, events and fundraising. Although the tasks and roles vary greatly, the common thread among the Council's volunteers is an understanding of and dedication to our mission: To minimise the transmission of HIV and AIDS and reduce their associated personal impacts.

This year the volunteer program was reinvigorated with renewed policies and procedures. The volunteer information pack was also reviewed and has been successfully implemented with positive feedback from volunteers.

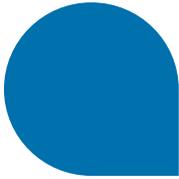
The Council has provided regular volunteer training and events to ensure volunteers are engaged and considered a crucial part of the organisation.

A Volunteer HIV Update training package was developed to update the knowledge of volunteers with experience and previous training.

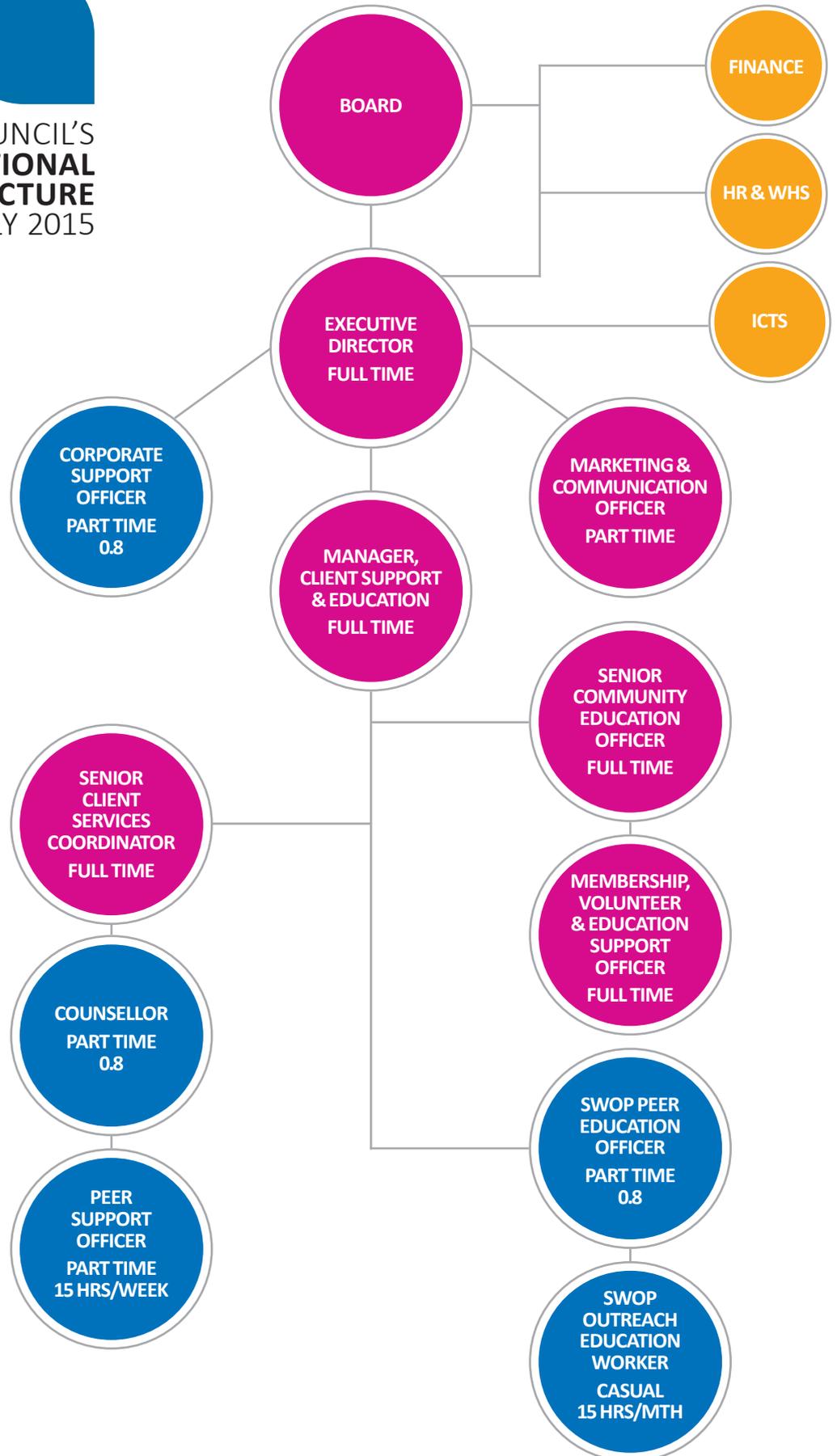
Advanced HIV training was provided to volunteers who do outreach to The Ranch and the Gay Men's Peer Education facilitation. It is vital that they have the most comprehensive knowledge of new HIV information to impart to men accessing these services.

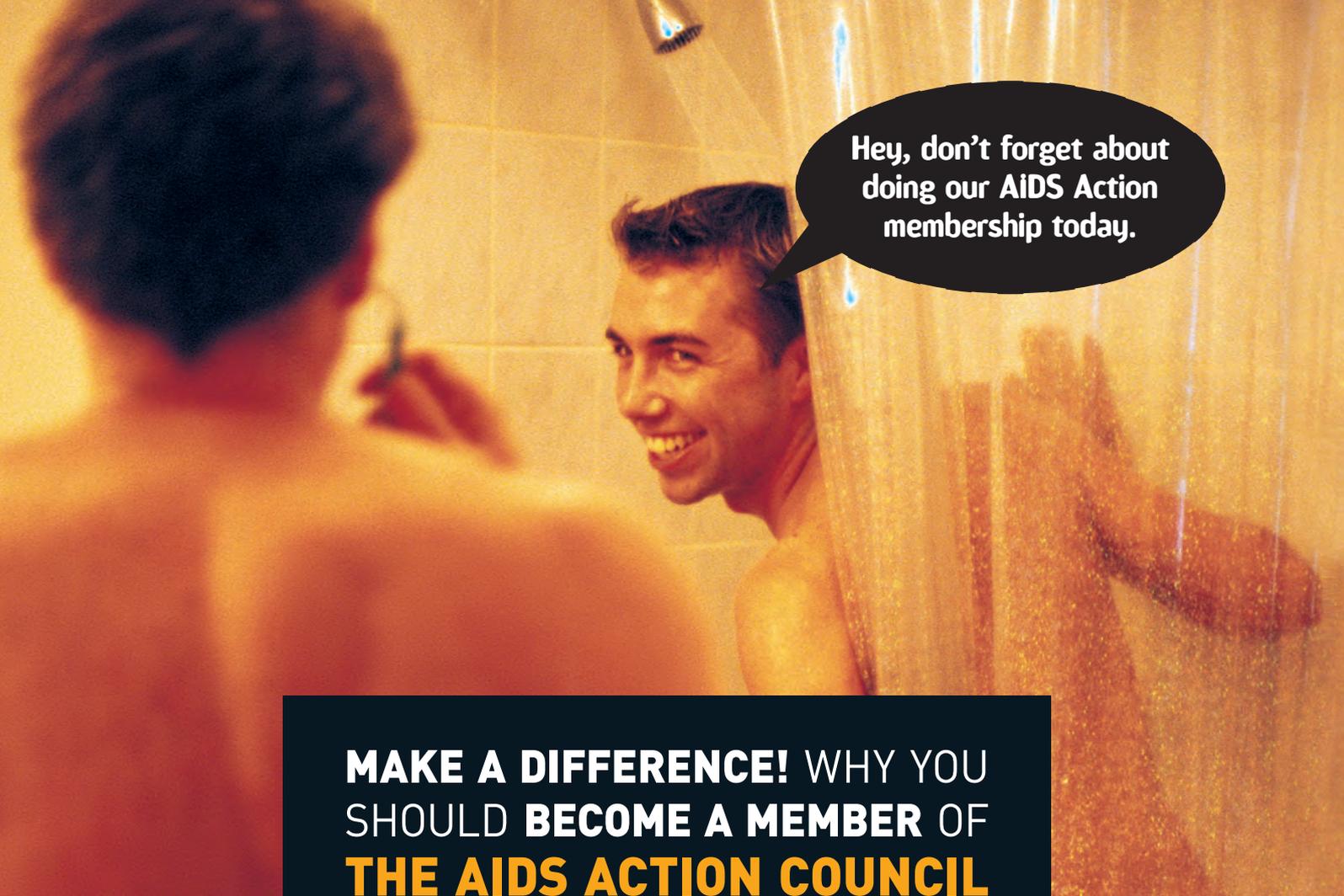


THE COUNCIL  
ENJOYS AN  
IMPORTANT  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE CANBERRA  
SEXUAL HEALTH  
CENTRE



**THE COUNCIL'S  
ORGANISATIONAL  
STRUCTURE**  
JULY 2015





Hey, don't forget about doing our AIDS Action membership today.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE! WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AIDS ACTION 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 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 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 Council events, newsletters and access to 'members only' offers from our partners. And importantly, you get to support the ongoing work of the Council.

### ALREADY A MEMBER — RENEWALS ARE DUE NOW!

We know how easily membership renewal can slip to the bottom of the task list. By renewing now you'll be ensuring that you continue to receive your members benefits and important information from the Council.

**Voting:** Although you can join at any time, to be an active 'voting' member, you need to apply or renew your membership at least 30 days prior to our Annual General Meeting.

**Don't let your renewal laps:** Anyone who has not renewed their membership since the last Annual General Meeting will be automatically removed from the list, please renew your membership ASAP.



BECOME  
A MEMBER  
OR RENEW  
NOW!

Call 6257 2855, email [contact@aidsaction.org.au](mailto:contact@aidsaction.org.au) or download the Council membership form directly at [aidsaction.org.au/become-a-member](http://aidsaction.org.au/become-a-member)



**The Council has built and strengthened key strategic partnerships to support its objectives. 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.
- Corporate partners.

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

The Council signed an MOU to expand a volunteer partnership with Northside Community Service and A Gender Agenda.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

### **DONATIONS**

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Become a member — financial membership supports the work of the Council. The annual cost of General Membership is only \$50.

### **CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP**

Become an AIDS Action Council Corporate Member. Partner with the Council to meet your organisation's needs and engage your customers and service users in enjoying a healthier life.

### **WORKPLACE GIVING**

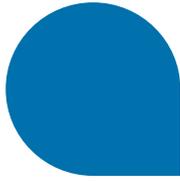
Develop a workplace giving campaign to enable your staff to give on a regular basis and receive an immediate tax benefit.

### **VOLUNTEERING**

The Council offers a diverse range of rewarding volunteer opportunities. Please call the AIDS Action Council on **02 6257 2855** or visit:

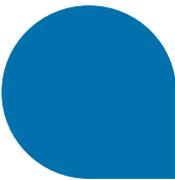
**[aidsaction.org.au](http://aidsaction.org.au)**

**SUPPORT**



**CANDLELIGHT  
MEMORIAL  
2015**





**FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

**Through careful financial management the Council has returned a small operating surplus.**

In the 2014/15 financial year the AIDS Action Council returned to a net asset position of \$9,227, from a net loss of \$26,859. This was as a result of both an increase in revenue of \$175,696 and decrease in total expenses by \$102,371.

The Council’s continued objective has been to increase its capacity and ability to support people impacted by HIV and AIDS. To achieve this increase in capacity the Council needs to grow and develop new and existing services. To this end, this year has again seen an increase in funding from \$1,095,701 in 2013/14 to \$1,221,261 in 2014/15.

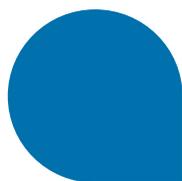
In the past four years the Council’s revenue has increased by over \$269,951 or 26%. A significant component of the increase is a result of successful tendering for programs and additional assistance from the Government for one-off activities like the recent relocation. Consistent with the Council’s Strategic Plan, the additional programs have seen the Council expand its footprint in Canberra and surrounding areas, as well as increasing the number of people impacted by HIV receiving support.

The Council received generous donations and bequests as well as sponsorship and a substantial portion of these funds went directly to assisting service users. Over the past five years donations, bequests and fundraising activities have raised over \$70,000. This continued generosity has enabled the Council to invest and further expand its range of services and 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 that have contributed to and supported the Council. The Council is truly grateful for the continued gift of donations and volunteers’ time to support our services, activities and events. In summary, these statements reflect the high standard of financial management within the Council, and a continued focus on both short-term services provision and long-term security.

**COUNCIL  
STAFF OUTSIDE  
WESTLUND HOUSE  
WHICH WAS OUR  
HOME FOR OVER  
20 YEARS**





## THE COUNCIL'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**The Council has many sponsors, partners and supporters, whose involvement and support is essential to our service delivery.**

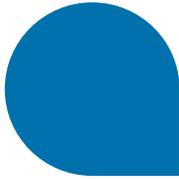
### **THE COUNCIL WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING:**

- 2XX FM Community Radio
- A Gender Agenda
- ACON
- ACT Health
- ACT Human Rights Commission
- ACT LGBTIQ Ministerial Advisory Council
- ACT Office for Women
- ACT Sport and Recreation
- ACTCOSS
- ACTQueer
- AIDS Trust of Australia
- Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)
- Alex Sloan
- Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)
- Ambassador John Berry
- 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
- Bit Bent
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Brendan Smyth MLA
- Burnet Institute

- Canberra Gay and Lesbian Qwire
- Canberra Gay and Lesbian Tennis Club
- Canberra Institute of Technology Student Association (CITSA)
- Canberra Pride
- Canberra Sexual Health Centre
- Centre for Social Research in Health, University of NSW
- Clayton Utz
- 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
- Duo Services Australia
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Er-Kai Wang
- Four Seasons
- FUSE Magazine
- GelWorks Pty Ltd
- Genevieve Jacobs
- Glyde Health
- Haemophilia Foundation of the ACT
- Havelock Housing Association
- Hepatitis ACT
- Hyatt Hotel Canberra
- Interchange General Practice
- International AIDS Society
- Jake Blight
- Jen Lewis
- Jenni Atkinson
- Jenny McDonald
- Joanne Byrnes
- John Mackay AM
- Johnathon Davies
- Julia Byford
- Kenn Basham
- Kevin Schamburg
- Kirby Institute, University of NSW
- Lifeline Canberra
- MAC Cosmetics
- Marianne Dickie
- Mick Gentleman MLA
- Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT)
- National Association of People Living with HIV Australia
- National LGBTI Health Alliance
- Northside Community Service
- Philip Habel
- Positive Life NSW
- Prisoner's Aid ACT
- Queer Minds Canberra Region
- Reconciliation Australia
- Rodney Cole
- Saan Ecker
- Scarlet Alliance
- Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (SHFPACT)
- Shane Rattenbury MLA
- Simon Corbell MLA
- Simon Troeth (Newgate Communications)
- Solve Projects
- Stephanie Marion-Laundas
- Studios of the ACT (visited by SWOP)
- Sue Driscoll
- The Ranch at Fantasy Lane
- Tim Bavinton
- TressCox Lawyers
- Tushara Wickramariyaratne
- Victoria Firth-Smith
- 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
- Yvette Berry MLA
- YWCA of Canberra



**THANK YOU**



**THE  
GLOSSARY**

<b>ACNC</b>	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
<b>ACON</b>	ACON Health Limited
<b>AFAO</b>	Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
<b>BBV</b>	Blood Borne Virus
<b>CALD</b>	Culturally and linguistically diverse
<b>LGBTIQ</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer
<b>MSM</b>	Men who have sex with men
<b>NAPWHA</b>	National Association of People with HIV Australia
<b>PACT</b>	Partnership Approach to Comprehensive Testing
<b>PLHIV</b>	People living with HIV
<b>PrEP</b>	Pre-exposure Prophylaxis
<b>RAP</b>	Reconciliation Action Plan
<b>S100 Prescriber</b>	Qualified HIV medical practitioner
<b>SGD</b>	Sex and gender diverse
<b>SHFPACT</b>	Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
<b>STI</b>	Sexually transmissible infections
<b>STRIP</b>	Sexual Health Testing, Referral and Information Project
<b>SWOP</b>	Sex Worker Outreach Program



**WORLD  
AIDS DAY ON  
1 DECEMBER  
IS ONE OF THE  
MOST GLOBALLY  
RECOGNISED  
EVENTS OF  
THE YEAR**

# Publishing Information

**AIDSACTION.ORG.AU**

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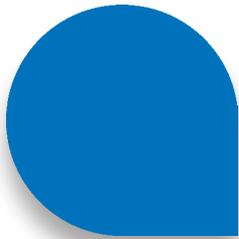
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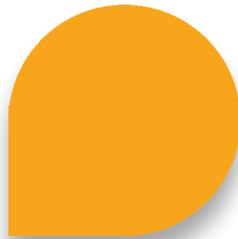
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# THE AIDS ACTION COUNCIL PROUDLY SERVING THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY



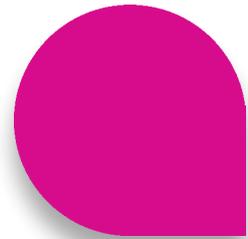
## CARE & SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV INCLUDING

New diagnoses groups  
Peer support network  
Peer based programs  
Women's groups  
Living well programs  
Counselling  
Case management  
A safe community space



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES

HIV awareness training  
Professional education  
Counselling services  
LGBTIQ awareness training  
Needle & Syringe Program  
Peer based outreach service  
to sex workers & brothels  
Health promotion activities  
and campaigns



## AIDS ACTION COMMUNITY EVENTS

World AIDS Day  
Candlelight Memorial  
Fundraising activities  
Youth engagement  
Living well programs  
Yoga & meditation  
Workshops,  
events & activities  
Fair Day

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The **AIDS Action Council** has been serving the Canberra community for over 30 years.

For more information about our programs and services please call **02 6257 2855**

or email us at [contact@aidsaction.org.au](mailto:contact@aidsaction.org.au)

Office hours: 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday



[aidsaction.org.au](http://aidsaction.org.au)

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