

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2015/16**



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CEO & PRESIDENT MESSAGE

“A decline in HIV transmission rates of this magnitude and speed would be unprecedented globally, an incredible outcome for our communities as well as all the people who have worked towards this since the beginning of the epidemic”



Following on from our 30th anniversary last year and the focus on our past, this year we looked firmly to the future with the introduction of the most significant advance in HIV prevention for more than 20 years.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP is a ground breaking HIV prevention treatment that is helping to radically change the way we respond to HIV transmission by providing HIV negative people with extremely effective protection from the virus. This year NSW began its own local trial of the drug, a study called EPIC-NSW through which over 3700 people at high risk of HIV transmission will be given access to PrEP for two years. The intention of the study is to examine the interruption to infection rates and the modelling suggests that the result will be a dramatic reduction in new transmissions in NSW.

When we take into account the increasing rates of HIV testing and HIV treatment among gay men that we've seen in the last few years, we're now in a position to potentially deliver the biggest reduction in HIV transmission rates in NSW for more than two decades. A decline in HIV transmission rates of this magnitude and speed would be unprecedented globally, an incredible outcome for our communities as well as all the people who have worked towards this since the beginning of the epidemic. Critical to the overwhelming success of EPIC-NSW specifically and NSW's HIV strategy more generally has been the tremendous leadership demonstrated by the NSW Government and NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner and we thank them for providing the policy framework that is enabling the success of our approach to ending HIV transmission.

Coupled with our work in relation to HIV prevention is the support we provide to people living with HIV and this year we continued to provide a range of vital programs and services to help people with HIV look after their health and wellbeing.

The introduction of PrEP into the HIV prevention landscape is also of considerable benefit to people with HIV, especially those in sero-discordant relationships, because the increased availability of PrEP in our community eases the fear that people with HIV have of transmitting the virus in the same way as it reduces anxiety among HIV negative people in relation to acquiring the virus.

Sadly, other anxieties which affect our community were heightened this year rather than eased. The furore over the Safe Schools program and the increasing divisiveness of the marriage equality debate had a massive impact on the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people and their families.

The discrimination and exclusion that many LGBTI people experience is one of the fundamental reasons we provide LGBTI-specific health services, and this year we continued to provide our community with programs related to mental health, sexual health, alcohol and drugs, domestic and family violence, safety and ageing.

The attacks on our community this year also highlighted the vital need for the LGBTI inclusion programs that we provide. To complement our hugely successful Pride in Diversity workplace program, this year we launched a new Pride In Sport initiative to improve LGBTI inclusion in the sporting arena and we look forward to this new program helping make Australia a more inclusive place for all.

This year we were also very proud to expand the care and support we provide for women in our community. We released a new smoking cessation campaign, launched a new breast cancer initiative and became a presenting partner of Australia's only health conference for lesbian, bisexual and queer women. We look forward to doing more work with women, and across the broad spectrum of diversity in our community, in the future.

As detailed in the pages of this report, this year we achieved many other important outcomes across all our work areas and we thank our staff, board, members, volunteers, partners and supporters for their time, effort, expertise and support.

ACON couldn't make the difference it does in so many people's lives without the energy and dedication of all these amazing people and organisations. We thank our clients and community members for caring for each other and working to make our community healthy and strong.

However, one person deserves a special mention this year and that is former ACON president Mark Orr who stood down from his role in November following almost a decade of shaping ACON's response to HIV and LGBTI health.

Mark's leadership has been vital to ensuring that ACON is an open, agile and responsive organisation. His insightful understanding of community, and his skills and expertise in governance and risk management have not only served ACON well but also many of our partner organisations. He has been an incredible advocate for our community and we're extremely grateful for his contribution over many years.

The colour blue – which is the theme of this year's report – represents loyalty, sincerity, freedom, confidence, faith, sensitivity and intelligence. These are all values that power the work of Mark, and thousands more like him, to help ACON create a future where HIV transmission is ended and where LGBTI people and people with HIV are supported and included in all aspects of society. In this report, we acknowledge and celebrate how their achievements are helping us move forward on that glorious journey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicolas Parkhill'.

Nicolas Parkhill
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Justin Koonin'.

Justin Koonin
President



ABOUT US

We're a New South Wales based health promotion organisation specialising in HIV prevention, HIV support and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) health.

Established in 1985 as the AIDS Council of NSW, we're here to end HIV transmission among gay and same sex attracted men, and promote the lifelong health of LGBTI people and people with HIV.

Our head office is in Sydney, we have offices in key regional locations and we provide services throughout NSW.

We're primarily funded by the NSW Government through the NSW Ministry of Health and our work forms an integral part of the NSW Government's HIV Strategy.

WHO WE'RE HERE FOR

- People with HIV
- Gay and bisexual men
- Lesbians and same-sex attracted women
- Transgender people
- Intersex people

WE ALSO HAVE DEDICATED SERVICES FOR:

- Young gay men
- Asian gay men
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Sexually adventurous gay men and lesbians
- Older LGBTI people
- LGBTI people who use drugs

THROUGH OUR TRAINING AND CONSULTING DIVISION WE WORK WITH:

- Employers
- Service providers
- Community organisations

2015/2016 SNAPSHOT

91 staff

(full time equivalent throughout the year)

700 volunteers

(donating 30,000 hours or \$600,000 of volunteer services)

230,000 condom packs

(assembled and distributed throughout NSW)

8000 HIV tests

(performed at ACON supported services throughout NSW)

561,000 units of sterile injecting equipment

(distributed through our Sydney, Hunter and Northern Rivers offices)

650,000 unique website users

21,000 client interactions

(through our HIV and LGBTI support services)

9300 event participants

(at events produced or supported by us)

21,500 research participants

(in studies conducted or supported by us)

ACON staff and volunteers preparing our float for the 2016 Mardi Gras Parade. Photo: Greg Dickens.

HIV PREVENTION

Advances in HIV testing, treatment and new prevention technologies like PrEP mean we can make tremendous progress towards ending HIV transmission in NSW by 2020, but only if gay men – the population in NSW most at risk of HIV transmission – test often, treat early and stay safe. We're here to help them do this by:

- Developing and promoting HIV education campaigns
- Operating rapid HIV and STI testing facilities
- Running gay sexual health workshops
- Providing a range of support services
- Distributing hundreds of thousands of free condoms every year throughout NSW.

I'M ENDING HIV

Launched in early 2013, *ENDING HIV* continues to be an award-winning community education and mobilisation initiative produced by us to educate gay men about what they can do to help end HIV transmission in NSW. Using information gathered through a comprehensive evaluation of *ENDING HIV* conducted by GfK Australia for ACON, we launched the second phase of the initiative, with the small but important change of making the campaign personal, with the new tagline of 'I'm Ending HIV' and a focus on how action taken by individuals is the key to reducing HIV transmission. Another key amendment was changing the *ENDING HIV* logo and 'equation' design to reflect the objective of ending HIV transmissions by the year 2020.

GETTING PrEP-PED

This year the new HIV prevention tool PrEP became a powerful force in our efforts to end HIV transmission in NSW. This included the launch of the EPIC-NSW PrEP study, the release of our first ever campaign promoting the benefits of PrEP and a number of community forums, including one which featured international PrEP advocate Prof. Robert Grant. For more information on PrEP and our activities in relation to it, please see p8 of this report.

TEST OFTEN CAMPAIGN

The first campaign of our second phase of *ENDING HIV* was our *Test Often* campaign. Released in December the campaign highlighted the personal testing regimes of regular community members. Building on the success of our previous testing campaigns we encouraged gay and same sex attracted men to test more often by addressing the barriers that discourage some from getting tested, such as fear of knowing their status, not having any obvious symptoms, not believing they're at risk or having other priorities. The campaign was promoted on bus shelters, train station billboards and street posters as well as across Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and other social media platforms. For more information on HIV testing and our activities in relation to it, please see p10 of this report.

STAY SAFE MARDI GRAS ACTIVATION

During this year's Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras we pulled out all the stops to get our 'stay safe' message to gay men. Our 18m giant condom – the one that caused an international sensation in 2014 – was erected again on the Hyde Park Obelisk to act as a highly visible safe sex reminder, not just for locals but also for the thousands of international visitors who come to Sydney for Mardi Gras. The giant pink prophylaxis sheathed the obelisk for the week leading up to the Mardi Gras parade and once again generated significant interest, particularly on social media.

We also took our protection message to another Sydney landmark, Bondi Beach where the famous stretch of sand turned pink with 1000 large condom-like pink inflatable rings given away to beach-goers by Stay Safe campaign 'lifesavers'. By giving away the rings to the public, we aimed to highlight the need for protection when you're having fun. When you go to the beach you need protection, protection from the sun and protection in the water. Our message was that sex is no different and you can reduce the risk, stay safe and protect yourself and your partners from HIV by using condoms.

NSW HIV DATA 2015

Data released this year by the NSW Ministry of Health showed that 350 people were diagnosed with HIV in NSW, similar to the average for the last five years. Gay and homosexually active men accounted for 283 diagnoses, or 81% of the total number of cases. Testing rates continued to increase, with approximately 500,000 HIV serology tests performed in NSW, a 7% increase on 2014. Data indicated that 92% of people with HIV who attended these services were on antiretroviral therapy. Of people newly diagnosed with HIV infection in the first half of 2015, over 80% were on antiretroviral treatment within 6 months of diagnosis.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We delivered over 8000 HIV tests through our network of a[TEST] community testing facilities located in Darlinghurst, Kings Cross, Surry Hills and Newtown. Our a[TEST] services, operated in partnership with publicly funded sexual health clinics, are the largest providers of rapid HIV testing in NSW. More than 20 ACON peers currently work at the service offering rapid HIV testing and STI screening as well as sexual health advice and related referrals. a[TEST] peers and facilities were also important sites in recruiting participants to the EPIC-NSW study.
- We distributed over 230,000 safe sex packs (condoms and lube) to pubs, clubs, clinics and sex on premises venues across NSW.
- We delivered 30 peer run workshops across NSW on HIV, safe sex and risk reduction. These workshops included *Looking For Mr Right*, *Getting It Online*, *Mates & Dates* and *Adult Themes*.
- We continued our partnership with Australia's #1 gay web series *The Horizon* in which the producers place messages related to safe sex, HIV testing and treatment.
- We supported NSW HIV Testing Week and helped spread the testing message through social media using #endinghiv.
- We conducted over 300 HIV prevention and awareness outreach sessions across NSW. This included our Sexperts program in selected sex on premises venues in Sydney as well as major community events such as the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and Tropical Fruits in Lismore.
- We continued to generate strong community engagement through our *ENDING HIV* website and associated social media platforms. We had over 232,000 visits to the website and close to 390,000 page views. Our combined social media community exceeded 19,000 contacts across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and email and we recorded over 450,000 interactions.



Stay Safe campaign ambassador at our Bondi Beach activation during this year's Mardi Gras Festival. Photo: Steve Christo.

GETTING PrEP-PED

PrEP is widely acknowledged as a real game changer in terms of preventing HIV transmission and this year we welcomed the revolutionary approach it offers to ending HIV in NSW.

WHAT IS PrEP?

PrEP stands for pre-exposure prophylaxis with 'prophylaxis' meaning 'to prevent or control the spread of an infection or disease.' It's an antiretroviral treatment taken by HIV negative people at high risk of HIV transmission to prevent HIV infection. The treatment involves taking a daily pill which contains two antiretroviral medicines, the same drugs used to suppress the virus in people living with HIV. Overseas studies have shown that PrEP is extremely effective at preventing HIV transmission, and this year the drug was approved for use here in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

WHO SHOULD TAKE PrEP?

The effectiveness of using HIV antiretroviral drugs for prevention of HIV transmission has been established by clinical trials conducted with gay men, heterosexual adults and injecting drug users. PrEP can be considered for people in these populations who are at high risk of acquiring HIV, such as gay and other homosexually active men who are having multiple events of condomless sex. PrEP should always be taken within the context of regular HIV and STI screening with a doctor or clinician.

PrEP AND NSW'S HIV STRATEGY

The *NSW HIV Strategy 2016-2020* notes PrEP as "the next critical addition to HIV prevention in NSW". Recognising this, the strategy outlines the importance of "expanding PrEP access to people at a high risk for HIV infection, in the context of existing HIV prevention strategies and continuing high levels of HIV and STI testing and treatment". This year we've been working closely with the NSW Ministry of Health, as well as other key partners, to give gay men at high risk of acquiring HIV access to PrEP through the ground breaking EPIC-NSW PrEP study.

EPIC-NSW PrEP STUDY

EPIC-NSW stands for 'Expanded PrEP Implementation in Communities in NSW' and it's a study run by the Kirby Institute, in collaboration with us and other partners. The study aims to assess the impact of the rapid expansion in access to PrEP amongst those at high risk of acquiring HIV. Launched in March this year, the project aims to enrol 3,700 people within nine months and then follow participants for two years while they're on the treatment. Enrolments are currently ahead of schedule. We've supported EPIC by helping with the recruitment of people into the study through our a[TEST] facilities in Sydney and our network of regional offices and outreach services. We trained 60 volunteers and staff members to talk with clients about PrEP. EPIC is taking HIV prevention to the next level, as having 3,700 people most at risk of acquiring HIV on PrEP means these people will be protected from acquiring the virus. When this is combined with increasing rates of HIV testing among gay men and stronger uptake of treatment among people living with HIV, we now have the potential to deliver the biggest reduction in HIV transmission rates in NSW for decades, an incredibly exciting possibility for our communities.

IS PrEP FOR YOU? CAMPAIGN

In June this year we launched a new campaign to help inform our community about PrEP and how it can be accessed in NSW. Called *Is PrEP For You?*, the new campaign highlighted the feelings of increased confidence and control that are associated with PrEP use – key reasons gay men and others at risk of HIV take PrEP. The aim of the campaign was to help people learn about PrEP and consider whether it's right for them. The campaign was promoted across gay print and online media as well as through our range of social media platforms. We also worked with PozHet NSW to create a version of the campaign that was promoted to heterosexual women in sero-discordant relationships.

GET PrEP'PED COMMUNITY FORUMS

To further support our PrEP education efforts, we produced a series of community forums across NSW which were attended by hundreds of people who came along to access information and seek advice about PrEP. Our Get PrEP'ED community forums were held in central Sydney, Parramatta, Wollongong, Newcastle, Port Macquaire, Coffs Harbour, Orange, Dubbo, Gosford, Albury, Lismore and Byron Bay.



PrEP: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

In partnership with the Australian Society of HIV Medicine, we produced two special information sessions in Sydney in September featuring world renowned San Francisco based HIV expert Prof. Robert Grant. PrEP is helping revolutionise HIV prevention in San Francisco, with new infections falling to the lowest numbers there since the start of the epidemic. With one forum for HIV sector workers and another for the general public, Prof. Grant provided a valuable perspective on how PrEP is being used in San Francisco and the lessons we can learn from their experience.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We delivered PrEP training to staff members of the Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service.
- We clinically reviewed material for PrEP campaigns delivered by Pozhet NSW and the Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service.
- We responded to over 500 phone, email and social media enquiries about PrEP.
- We signed up over 1500 community members to our PrEP mailing list.

Detail from our *Is PrEP For You?* campaign. Photo: Christian Scott.

HIV TESTING

Getting more gay men to test for HIV more often is vital to efforts to end HIV transmission in NSW. In fact it's the key to ending HIV because if gay men don't know their HIV status they can't improve their health or take action to prevent potential transmissions. Making HIV testing easier as well as educating gay men about the importance of testing more regularly are both important areas of focus for our approach to HIV prevention.

BENEFITS OF TESTING

Many new HIV transmissions in NSW occur because some gay men think they're HIV negative when they're actually HIV positive. So it's important that sexually active gay men test regularly so they know their HIV status. This is important for their own health as well as the health of their sexual partners. If a person is diagnosed with HIV, they can then take steps to benefit their health, including talking to their doctor about treatment as early as possible.

GETTING TESTED

We recommend that sexually active gay men get tested at least twice a year, or up to four times a year if they have more than 10 different partners in six months or have sex without condoms. Now that rapid HIV testing is available in NSW, testing for HIV is easier than ever, with results available in under 30 minutes. Testing can be undertaken at any general medical practice or sexual health clinic in NSW. We also run our own network of community based testing centres.

a[TEST] - MAKING TESTING EASY

In 2013, we began operating our own HIV and STI testing facilities called a[TEST]. We took this approach because of the success of various overseas models which demonstrated that many gay men prefer the experience of testing in community based settings overseen by other gay men. We launched with a service in our Surry Hills office and soon followed with services in Newtown and Kings Cross. At the same time, we began operating a range of temporary or 'pop up' services at selected locations in regional NSW to coincide with major LGBTI community events. Then in 2015 we opened a permanent a[TEST] site on Oxford St operating six days a week. All these facilities have proved extremely popular with gay men throughout NSW and we continued to provide all these services this year in partnership with a range of publicly funded local sexual health clinics. In fact our a[TEST] services are so popular that we're now the largest provider of rapid HIV tests in NSW. This year we delivered over 8000 tests across NSW.

EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

Under the banner of our award-winning *ENDING HIV* initiative, we've produced and promoted a range of very successful education campaigns over the last three years encouraging gay men to get tested for HIV. This year we built on the success of these efforts with our new *Test Often* campaign. Released in December, this campaign encouraged gay men to undertake HIV testing more often — ideally, twice a year — by addressing the barriers that discourage some gay men from getting tested. Such obstacles include a fear of knowing your HIV status, not having any obvious symptoms, not believing you're at risk, or having other priorities. In line with our revised 'I'm Ending HIV' messaging, the campaign put community at the forefront of the campaign by introducing personal narratives. This was intended to create greater engagement with a diverse audience of gay and same sex attracted men. Featuring personal testimonies across various demographics, the campaign represented older gay men, young gay men, Asian gay men, transgender gay men, sexually adventurous gay men and gay men in sero-discordant relationships. We used a range of media including outdoor advertising on bus shelters, train station billboards and street posters to convey the campaign's key messaging. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and other social media platforms also played a major role in the campaign's reach across the community.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Our testing campaigns continue to have a significant impact on encouraging more gay men to test more often for HIV. Annual data released by the NSW Ministry of Health earlier this year showed that 75 per cent of gay men in Sydney had an HIV test in the last 12 months, the highest figure since this data started being collected in 1996. The data also show that following annual increases in testing rates over the last five years, the current record high levels of HIV testing among gay men in NSW have been sustained over the last two years. The Ministry's data also indicate that testing rates have increased both overall and among high risk populations, and that the proportion of gay men having multiple tests throughout the year is gradually increasing. This year, NSW Health reported close to 500,000 HIV tests were performed across NSW, a 7% increase on 2014, a 12% increase on 2013 and a 19% increase on 2012.

a[TEST] CLIENT SURVEY

This year we undertook a survey of clients at our flagship a[TEST] facility on Oxford St. The survey aimed to analyse clients thoughts of the service, how they knew of the service, the reasons they chose the service, and provided a way to collect any further feedback and comments. Over 200 clients participated in the survey. Nearly 50% had heard about the service from walking past the clinic, proving the location of the service is vital to its effectiveness. For 25% of clients the sole reason for choosing this service was that they got the results of their HIV test in the same visit, highlighting the necessity of rapid HIV testing. Almost all clients agreed that the location and the opening hours of the service were convenient and it was easy to get an appointment that worked for them. All clients said they would use the service again and recommend it to others, with over 60% citing as key reasons the friendly and professional staff and the relaxed and calming atmosphere.

Selected community members who featured in our Test Often campaign. Photo: Terence Chin.

HIV SUPPORT

Over 12,000 people in NSW live with HIV who may at various stages in their lives require support and assistance. We're here to help people with HIV take control of their health, as well as the health of their partners, by providing up-to-date information as well as a range of programs and services including:

- Workshops and support groups
- One-on-one peer support
- Counselling
- Care coordination
- Home-based care
- HIV health retreats
- Meal services
- Vitamin service

HELPING PEOPLE NEWLY DIAGNOSED WITH HIV

Despite the success of contemporary HIV treatments, dealing with the consequences of an HIV diagnosis can range from unsettling to traumatic. One of our key services for people newly diagnosed with HIV is *Genesis*, a weekend workshop for gay men who have been diagnosed with HIV within the last two years. Presented in partnership with Positive Life NSW, 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. This year we held 6 workshops which were attended by 43 people. 100% of attendees said they would recommend the workshop to other gay men newly diagnosed with HIV.

THE DISCLOSURE PROJECT

Disclosure of someone's HIV status is often a significant personal challenge. Before, during and after disclosure of an individual's HIV status they can feel apprehension, shame or other difficult emotions. This year we teamed up with the Living Positive Victoria to develop The Disclosure Project, a living multi-media web-based resource enabling individuals to share personal stories of HIV disclosure to help and support other individuals planning to disclose. Growing everyday as stories are added, The Disclosure Project is based on peer-to-peer learning, where someone contemplating disclosing can access a wide range of experiences that will help them find the best tools to help their disclosure be a successful one.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

There's no place like home, but people who are seriously affected by HIV can have difficulty with everyday domestic tasks, making living at home a problem. Through our Community Support Network (CSN), our team of trained volunteers provide practical assistance to help people with HIV live as independently as possible in their own homes. Services include basic cleaning, grocery shopping, doing the laundry, meal preparation, light gardening and transport to and from medical appointments. This year over 50 volunteers provided over 1300 occasions of care to over 40 clients, and delivered close to 530 transport services.

PARTNERSHIPS

We work with a range of organisations to help improve the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV. Chief among these is our partnership with Positive Life NSW, which works to promote a positive image of people living with or affected by HIV, with the aim of eliminating prejudice, isolation, stigma and discrimination. We also work with The Institute of Many, a peer run group which brings people with HIV together to share their experience of living with HIV in an informal and confidential environment.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Our counsellors provided over 480 occasions of service to people with HIV. Over 130 of these involved people who were diagnosed with HIV in the last two years. A further 130 of these people received support through our regional counselling service.
- Our Care Coordination team provided over 1300 occasions of service to HIV positive clients with complex needs including mental health issues, alcohol and/or drug use, housing stress, family/domestic violence, or financial/legal matters. These clients get teamed up with allied health professionals who can help them access relevant healthcare and support services and increase their ability to manage their care and treatment.
- We provided 48 meal based social services for people with HIV in the ACON Café in Surry Hills in Sydney.
- We delivered 7 social events for people with HIV, such as picnics and afternoon drinks. These were delivered in association with HIV support group The Institute of Many.
- We provided one-on-one peer support for over 80 people with HIV. Peer support is for those who want to speak to someone with experience of living with HIV. We also provided advice to a further 40 people seeking information about living with HIV.
- We produced a range of retreats for people with HIV: the Ngalawi Djardi Health Retreat for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the Northern Rivers Retreat for Gay Men with HIV for gay men living in regional and rural NSW, and Treatments By The Sea, a one day workshop on the Far North Coast about HIV medicines and treatments. These events provided key health promotion information and support for close to 60 participants.
- We continued our support and involvement with the Positive Leadership Development Institute of Australia. It is a national partnership in both Australia and New Zealand with a multitude of sector partners. We also hosted a workshop focusing on building resilience and leadership capacity.



SEXUAL HEALTH

We're here to help LGBTI people in NSW take control of their sexual health by providing information and a range of support services including:

- Screening for sexually transmissible infections (STIs) through our a[TEST]
- Sex, health and relationship workshops
- Free condoms and safe sex resources
- Dedicated services for young gay men, sexually adventurous men, lesbians and same sex attracted women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as Asian, Middle Eastern and Arabic gay men

PLAYZONE

This year we gave our Sex on Premises Venue (SOPV) Code of Practice a makeover and relaunched it under the new name of PlayZone. The code, which was first introduced in 1996, is designed to promote safety in gay saunas, sex clubs and backrooms, increase gay men's awareness around sexual health and to help reduce the transmission of HIV and sexually transmissible infections among gay men. The PlayZone relaunch includes the installation of new signage and resources in participating SOPVs as well as a promotional campaign highlighting the partnership. Participating venues receive a manual to guide them through the accreditation process and receive free training for staff about HIV, sexual health, PEP, PrEP, drug and alcohol awareness and first aid.

WOMEN

Our CLAUDE initiative continued its successful approach to engaging lesbian, bisexual and queer women around issues related to their sexual health. This year we attended over 30 community events and formed partnerships with a wide range of organisations such as Dykes on Bikes, Sydney Femme Guild, Twisted Sisters, and Max Black to promote our sex-positive, safe sex messages.

Our website continued to showcase extraordinary sex-positive art from women in our community, with features on Zahra Stardust, Lady Sings it Better and Anna Westbrook. Our CLAUDE Sexpert video produced with BuzzFeed Australia reached over 1 million views on YouTube and Facebook. We distributed 2400 safe sex packs and 500 play packs. Play packs contain condoms, lube, gloves, sterile injecting equipment and sexual health information.

YOUNG GAY MEN

This year our work with young gay men underwent some innovative development with a range of new initiatives put into place. We created a new workshop and social media platform for young gay men from Arabic and Middle Eastern backgrounds. We partnered with headspace in Parramatta to start delivering our popular youth workshops in Western Sydney. We used a \$20,000 grant from ViiV Healthcare to create an interactive online workshop for young gay guys in rural and regional NSW. And we launched a new visual identity for our work with young gay men following research which showed our legacy *Fun and Esteem* branding had limited contemporary appeal for the target market. Our work with gay youth is now promoted under the banner SPARK and a new social media strategy has been developed to engage young gay men through online platforms. Since launching the new identity, over 800 new contacts have signed up to the SPARK Facebook page, the SPARK mailing list has doubled and there's been a significant increase in attendance at SPARK social events.

ASIAN GAY MEN

This year we launched *ConversAsians*, a new monthly education program targeting Asian gay men which combines HIV and STI education and information with social activities. Over 50 participants attended the monthly meetings. In February we presented a special community forum for Asian gay men focussing on sex, relationships and PrEP. Writer and columnist Benjamin Law MC'ed the event with a panel of Asian community members including Horas Wong, Justin Xiao, Sox Heng, Binh Doan and Azizul Haque Mahee. We also developed a key partnership with Trikone Australasia, a Sydney support group for LGBTIQ people from a South Asian cultural background.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

In June, we presented a one day Aboriginal HIV and sexual health leadership forum in partnership with the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council. Over 40 Aboriginal sexual health workers and members of the community participated in the forum. We also engaged with LGBTI Aboriginal and Torres Strait people by producing the First Australians float in the 2014 Mardi Gras parade. Over 70 participants attended the event as well as pre-parade planning and creative workshops. We also helped produce the Gadigal Information Service's Mardi Gras season Klub Koori and the Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative's Mardi Gras season show.

SEXUALLY ADVENTUROUS MEN

Sexually adventurous men (SAM) are at higher risk of contracting STIs such as syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhoea as well as HIV. We target this population through our *HowHard* initiative which includes culturally appropriate digital communications and social events. The *HowHard* website and Facebook page continued to produce significant engagement with our Facebook page growing to over 2000 contacts. New initiatives around digital outreach on social apps where SAM connect led to health promotion conversations with over 100 men, with a hot topic being PrEP access and referrals. We also distributed over 1650 play packs to sexually adventurous men. Play packs contain condoms, lube, gloves, and sexual health information.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Our ACON Sexperts, a team of specially trained volunteers, provided over 800 hours of sexual health education to patrons at sex on premise venues. This year the Sexperts also moved online, providing outreach across mobile apps and hook up sites like Grindr and BBRT.
- We delivered 10 peer run workshops for gay men in Sydney on sexual health, dating and relationships. These workshops included *Getting Together*, *Better Sex* and *Looking for Mr Right*.
- We delivered 12 peer run workshops for young gay men on sexual health, dating and relationships. Attracting over 140 participants, these workshops included *Start Making Sense*, *Adult Themes*, *Getting It Online* and *Cruising 101*. All workshops scored consistently high participant satisfaction ratings.
- We continued to work with the Sexually Transmissible Infections in Gay Men Action Group (STIGMA) to reduce and prevent STIs among gay men in NSW.

Participants in a promotional campaign for our Asian Gay Men's program. Photo: Jack Freestone.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

We're here to help lesbians, bisexual, queer and same sex attracted women take control of their health. We provide information on relevant health issues, and we offer a range of specific and general services delivered by caring people who genuinely understand the health issues affecting lesbians and same sex attracted women.

LBQ WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

This year we partnered with VAC to organise the second annual LBQ Women's Health Conference in Melbourne. The conference explored best practice and available research in working with LBQ women around mental health, sexual health, alcohol and other drug use, and broader women's health issues. The event included a range of workshops and presentations from industry experts, health and human service providers, and community members. Over 300 delegates attended from a diverse range of backgrounds - activists, community members, academics and health workers - to listen to a broad range of speakers from around the country and keynote addresses from UK Professor Julie Fish, Victorian Gender and Sexuality Commissioner Rowena Allen and Indigilez co-founder Bec Johnson.

WOMEN & SMOKING

In April we launched a ground breaking tobacco reduction campaign to address the alarmingly high smoking rates for lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women. Called #SmokeFreeStillFierce, the campaign aimed to reduce smoking rates for LBQ women who are more than twice as likely to smoke as women in the general population. The campaign featured empowering messages from influential community figures addressing the relationship that LBQ women have with smoking, such as a means to handle stress, navigate social spaces, and form identity and image. The campaign also featured a video titled *What Else Can You Do With Your Fingers?* which was viewed over 110,000 times across our social media channels.

#TALKTOUCHTEST

This year we produced #TalkTouchTest, a ground breaking online and community engagement campaign designed to increase LBQ women's awareness of breast cancer and how to prevent it. Research shows that LBQ women are an under screened and high risk population for breast cancer due to several factors including higher smoking and alcohol consumption rates as well as having no children or having children later in life. The goals of #TalkTouchTest are to raise awareness of breast health, increase the number of LBQ women over 40 (especially those aged between 50 and 74) accessing screening services, and to encourage all LBQ women, regardless of age, to make breast health checks a lifelong habit. With initial funding from the Aurora Group and support from Dykes on Bikes and Sydney Local Health District's BreastScreen service, we piloted the campaign during this year's Mardi Gras festival in February then officially launched the campaign in April with the support of the City of Sydney.

MENTAL HEALTH

While many LGBTI people live happy, healthy and productive lives, there are a range of mental health issues - such as anxiety, depression and suicidality - which affect a disproportionate number of people in the LGBTI community compared to the general population. We're here to help LGBTI people and people with HIV take control of their mental health by providing information, a range of counselling services and a care coordination program for people with complex needs.

COUNSELLING SERVICES

This year our team of counsellors responded to a range of issues affecting over 650 people who sought help from us in relation to their mental health. Our principal focus is on people affected by HIV and we provide free counselling for people living with, at risk of, affected by or testing for HIV. We also have a special service for people newly diagnosed with HIV. This year over 480 people accessed our HIV-related counselling services. For LGBTI people experiencing non-HIV related mental health issues, we provide a low cost fee based service. This year our LGBTI counselling service supported close to 70 people. Through our Substance Support Service, we provide counselling services for LGBTI people and people with HIV who need help in relation to their use of alcohol and/or drugs. This year we supported 65 people through this service.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH COMMUNITY GRANTS

In October, we partnered with Way Ahead (the Mental Health Association of NSW) to provide small grants for LGBTI communities to support events that raise awareness of mental health during Mental Health Month. We supported 5 groups to organise and promote their events, building on our communities resilience, knowledge and skills to identify and support mental health and wellbeing.

HELPING PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

Sometimes people in our community experience health, personal or social issues which can impact on their capacity to look after themselves and others. These needs may include mental health issues, alcohol and/or drug use, housing stress, family/domestic violence, or financial/legal matters. Through our Care Coordination Service, clients with multiple and/or complex needs get teamed up with allied health professionals who can help them access relevant healthcare and support services and increase their ability to manage their care and treatment. Our care coordinators work with clients over 3 months to develop a care plan and provide support to help clients achieve their goals and meet their needs. This year we provided over 1300 occasions of care coordination for clients.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Our counselling and care coordination services scored very well in our annual client satisfaction survey. The average rating of clients who used these services was 9.58/10 for satisfaction, 9.5/10 for value and 9.7 for recommending to others.
- Our counsellors provided services for many people in our community who were experiencing mental health distress in relation to the debate around marriage equality as well as the horrific massacre of LGBTI people in Orlando, Florida.

Selected community members who featured in our #TalkTouchTest breast cancer campaign. Photo: Dr Viv McGregor.

AGEING

We're here to offer support, companionship and advice for older members of the LGBTI community by providing health information and a range of programs and services.

COMMUNITY VISITOR SCHEME

While loneliness and isolation can affect anyone's mental health, the impact can be more severe for older people. Our Community Visitor Scheme is all about reducing social isolation of older LGBTI people by providing company and friendship of Volunteer Visitors. Throughout the year our trained volunteers made regular one on one home visits where they chat over a cuppa, listened to music, watched a movie or participated in a hobby, game or other activities. The service operates in Sydney as well as the Hunter, Nepean, Illawarra and Central Coast regions. This is what one of the clients had to say about the service: "It's made such a difference. My volunteer has been amazing, compassionate, understanding and caring. I recommend this service to anyone. It's great to have someone to share things with and I look forward to my visits. I have experienced a service that truly understands." This year over 50 volunteers delivered in home support to 30 clients.

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Now in its eighth year, Afternoon Delight is a special NSW Seniors Festival event that comprises a series of free movie matinees and afternoon tea parties for LGBTI seniors and their friends, providing a welcoming environment for LGBTI seniors to come together for an afternoon of entertainment, refreshments and social contact. Taking place in March, the event's focus is on reducing social isolation, increasing community networking, and giving participants access to LGBTI specific healthy ageing information and inclusive local health services. For the first time this year, the event was held across NSW in six locations including Sydney, Newcastle, Shellharbour, Wagga Wagga, Sawtell and Lismore. Over 550 people attended the events. Afternoon Delight is presented in association with Queer Screen and NSW Seniors Festival.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We produced *Nutritious, Delicious and Super Simple*, a free social event showcasing healthy dietary options for seniors. The food was prepared by chef Ian Rogan and with nutritional advice from dietician Ali Grattan-Smith (Clinic 16). 35 people attended.
- We distributed and promoted our popular range of Healthy Ageing factsheets for LGBTI seniors.
- In April we launched a new website for our Living Older Visibly Engaged (LOVE) Project.

ALCOHOL & DRUGS

We're here to help reduce the harms associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs by providing a range of resources and support services. We work with our clients in a supportive and non-judgemental way, whether their interest is to be more informed about drug use, be able to use in a safer manner or to get support to reduce or stop use. We also work with service providers to help them better support the needs of LGBTI people and people living with HIV.

WOMEN & SMOKING

In April we launched a ground breaking tobacco reduction campaign to address the alarmingly high smoking rates for lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women. Called #SmokeFreeStillFierce, the campaign aimed to reduce smoking rates for LBQ women who are more than twice as likely to smoke as women in the general population. The campaign featured empowering messages from influential community figures addressing the relationship that LBQ women have with smoking, such as a means to handle stress, navigate social spaces, and form identity and image. The campaign also featured a video titled *What Else Can You Do With Your Fingers?* which was viewed over 110,000 times across our social media channels.

CHEM SEX

During the Mardi Gras Film Festival in March, we hosted a screening of *Chem Sex*, a revealing British documentary which provides an insight into the lives of men who engage in weekend-long, drug-fuelled orgies also known as 'chem sex'. From hookup apps and websites to stark discussions around intimacy and addiction, health risks and HIV, the film caused a media sensation when it was released in the UK.

After the screening here in Sydney, a local perspective on the issue was explored by a panel of expert guests including Associate Professor Kane Race, Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney and Associate Professor Nadine Ezard, Clinical Director, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney's Alcohol and Drug Service. The lively discussion focussed on how the phenomenon of 'party and play' manifests in our community, the impact on the wellbeing of individuals and our community more broadly, and the benefits of a harm minimisation approach to substance use.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Through our Needle and Syringe Program we supplied 561,000 units of sterile injecting equipment to injecting drug users in Sydney as well as the Hunter and Northern Rivers regions. This helps reduce the transmission of blood borne viruses such as HIV and Hep C and other injecting related risk. We also provide clients with access to advice, support, relevant health information and referrals to internal and external health services.
- We provided 17 community events with the services of the ACON Rovers, teams of specially trained volunteers who attend events to help people experiencing problems due to alcohol and drug use. Our volunteers provided over 500 hours of service, interacting with more than 2800 partygoers and assisting more than 70 people.
- Through our Substance Support Service we provided counselling support to over 60 LGBTI people and people with HIV seeking support in relation to their use of alcohol and other drugs.
- In partnership with Positive Life and the NSW Users and AIDS Association, we delivered a community roundtable in September to discuss topics related to methamphetamine use in our communities. This led to the development of a community position statement on issues such as service delivery, health promotion campaigns, policy and advocacy, and stigma and discrimination.
- We continued to deliver our Snakes and Ladders workforce development workshops to improve service provider knowledge and skills around LGBTI mental health and drug use.

Community members participating in our Love Project photo booth at Mardi Gras Fair Day. Photo: Richard Hedger.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

We're here to help LGBTI people who have experienced homophobic/transphobic violence and to improve the safety and security of our community by providing information and a range of programs and services.

THIS IS OZ REBOOT

In response to the divisive Safe Schools and marriage equality debates, in May we relaunched our hugely successful *This Is Oz* initiative to give LGBTI community members and supporters a platform to speak up for an inclusive Australia. Originally running from 2009-13, the online art project/social justice campaign got significant traction in the LGBTI and broader community reaching millions of people across Australia. The new and improved version has a fresh visual identity and is now on Instagram, making it much easier for participants to submit pictures or videos of themselves with messages that challenge homophobia/transphobia or celebrate diversity and social inclusion. To get involved, all participants now need to do is upload their photo or video on Instagram and tag it with #thisisoz.

FAIR PLAY

The Fair Play program was the winner of this year's Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Workforce Achievement Award. Designed to help partygoers understand their legal rights and to monitor police operations, Fair Play has been operating during the Mardi Gras festival for the last three years and is coordinated in partnership with Mardi Gras and the Inner City Legal Centre. As a community-based initiative, Fair Play performs a vital role in raising awareness and providing information to the LGBTIQ community on a wide range of issues relating to health, safety, rights and appropriate policing practices at parties during the Mardi Gras period. The initiative has been a great success, resulting in lower rates of distress experienced by partygoers and a substantially reduced number of complaints against the police.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We continued to operate our Safe Place program, which involves close to 500 participating venues demonstrating support for the LGBTI community through colourful Safe Place signage.
- We funded 10 community initiatives and supported a range of other activities across NSW that promoted the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.
- We continued to advocate for justice for Sydney's gay hate homicides during the 1980s and 1990s. In May Waverley Council endorsed the building of a memorial in Bondi to the victims and we're working with the council on developing a community consultation framework prior to the commissioning and construction of the artwork. We also continued to conduct our own review into relevant cases.

DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

We're here to help LGBTI people who have experienced domestic and family violence (DFV) by providing a range of resources and support services. DFV is any type of behaviour used to gain and maintain control over a partner, ex-partner, family member (including chosen family), carer or member of the same household.

LGBTI DFV WEBINAR

In February more than 1100 service providers and community members tuned in to our first ever DFV webinar. The webinar aimed to increase mainstream service providers' understanding of issues relevant to LGBTI domestic and family violence and how to respond. Although abuse within LGBTI relationships has similarities to abuse within non LGBTI relationships, there are some unique differences and therefore some different ways in which workers need to respond to best support their LGBTI clients. Participants included counsellors and teachers as well as representatives from domestic violence services, police and hospitals.

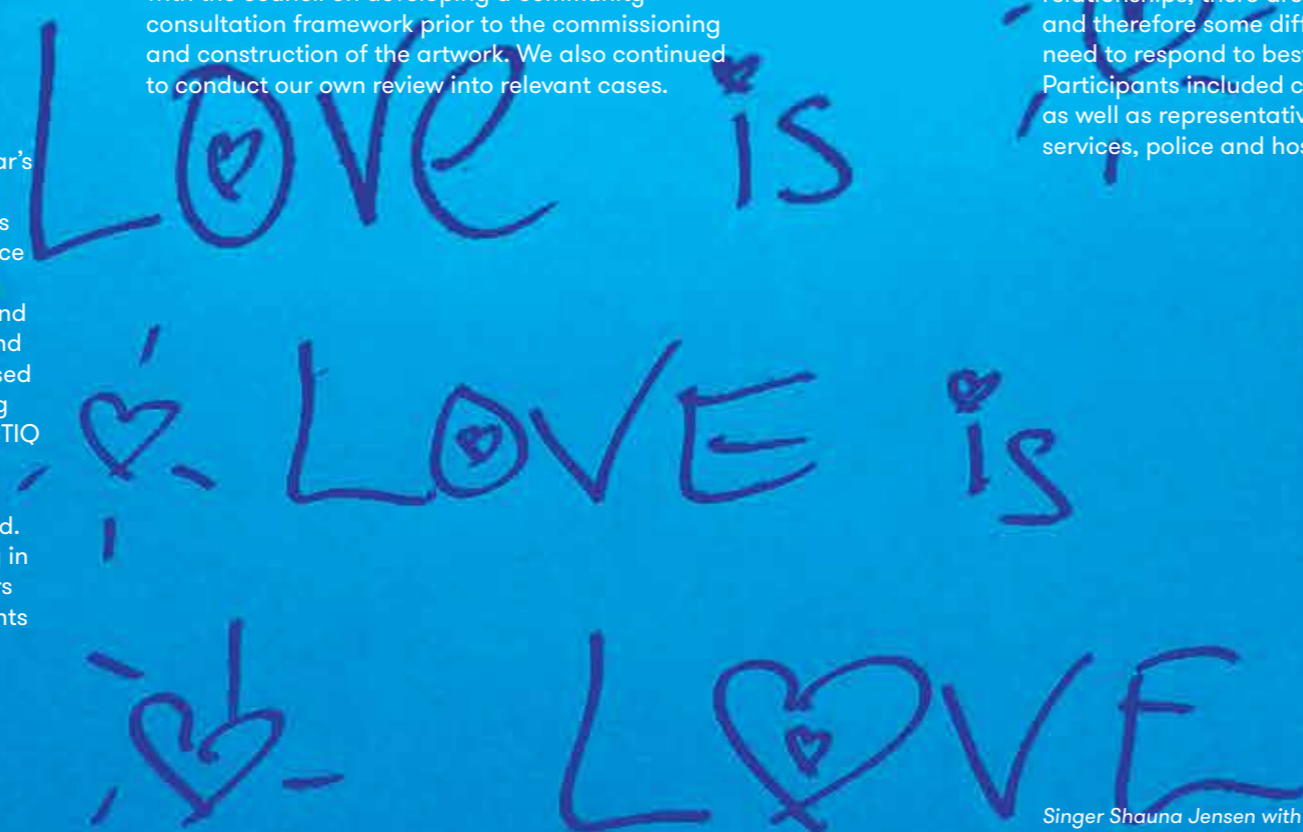
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DFV COMMUNITY FORUM

In February during this year's Mardi Gras Festival, we partnered with Mardi Gras and Griffin Theatre to present a special community forum about DFV in LGBTI communities. The forum took place at the Stables Theatre in Darlinghurst during the premiere season of *Ladies Day*, a new Australian play by Alana Valentine which focuses on domestic violence in gay relationships. With 1 in 3 LGBTI people experiencing DV, the discussion considered if DFV is an epidemic in our communities, what specific needs LGBTIQ people have, and the barriers to getting help. The panel comprised Ms Valentine, a domestic violence survivor, a lawyer, a representative from the police and the CEO of Domestic Violence NSW. Over 150 people attended the sold out event.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- In November we launched *Calling it What it Really Is*, a new research paper about LGBTI DV. The research was carried out in partnership with the NSW LGBTIQ DFV Interagency and the University NSW.
- In March we updated and reissued our *Another Closet* resource which contains information and referral details for people who may be experiencing abuse within LGBTIQ relationships.
- We also released other resources; one pocket sized information booklet, a wallet sized resource for victims of domestic violence and a resource for service providers in the domestic violence sector.
- In April we conducted an online survey asking LBO women and non-binary people who sleep with women to talk about their relationships, asking questions about what they believe a healthy relationship is, about their relationship dynamics and how their relationships have changed over time. We received over 1130 responses.



Singer Shauna Jensen with her This Is Oz message. Photo: Kelly Watson.

REGIONAL NSW

We're here to help LGBTI people and people with HIV in regional NSW take control of their health by providing a range of local services and supporting a variety of local community groups. We have offices in the Hunter, Northern Rivers and Central Coast regions with outreach services operating in New England as well as Western and Southern NSW.

BROKEN HEEL FESTIVAL

The inaugural Broken Heel Festival took place in September at the iconic Palace Hotel in Broken Hill to mark the 21st anniversary of *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*. We partnered with Far West and Western NSW Local Health Districts, Sydney Sexual Health and the NSW State Reference Lab for HIV to deliver a series of initiatives including a pop-up a[TEST] rapid HIV testing service staffed by peer educators who also supplied safe sex packs, health promotion resources and social marketing at every festival event. Testing in community settings with trained peer testers helps to normalise the process and gives gay men an opportunity to ask questions of guys who know them best – other gay men. We tested about 10% of festival attendees and distributed over 1000 safe sex packs and health promotion resources throughout the course of the festival. We also ran a post-test survey and 100% of participants said they were satisfied with the service, would use a pop up again and would recommend the service to friends.



DUBBO PRIDE MARCH

Dubbo's inaugural Pride march was held in October. The event was organised by one of our Dubbo volunteers Nicolas Steepe who secured funding from the Mental Health Association. One hundred and fifty people bravely marched in the rain and the day was well supported by the community in Dubbo including the local fire department, local police, headspace and other local youth services and groups. The local Channel Seven news service covered the event giving it significant profile in the region. Staff from our Hunter office marched in the parade and staffed a health promotion stall at the after march event where a range of resources were distributed. Many local LGBTI people attended the post march event and there was a great connection with the local LGBTI community and its allies.

TROPICAL FRUITS FESTIVAL

Staff from our Northern Rivers office provided a full program of health promotion activities over the five days of Lismore's LGBTI Tropical Fruits New Years' Festival. Our staff distributed over 7000 safe sex packs, 100 men's play packs and over 2000 HIV prevention, testing and treatment educational resources at a range of festival events. A pop-up a[TEST] rapid HIV testing service was also provided in collaboration with North Coast Public Health staff. Clients were also offered optional screening for syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia. Tropical Fruits was the first major community engagement for the new *I'M ENDING HIV Test Often* campaign. The campaign was highly visible across festival events including 12 vertical street banners in Lismore CBD as well as being the lead campaign on safe sex packs, fans, posters and festival site banners. A social media activation in partnership with Social Media Playground also allowed party goers to get their picture taken to create a digital postcard which they could then download and share on social media with an 'I'm Ending HIV' campaign message overlaid on the image.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We provided regular outreach services and supplied resources to LGBTI communities in Albury, Batemans Bay, Bega, Bowral, Broken Hill, Cooma, Dareton, Goulburn, Griffith, Jindabyne, Narooma, Nowra, Moruya, Mittagong, Queanbeyan, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.
- We provided health promotion services to sex workers in the Hunter region including safe sex resources and information about testing for HIV and other STIs.
- We produced NSW's annual retreat for regional and rural gay men with HIV. 20 participants attended the event which this year focused on exercise physiology. We also produced the annual Treatments by the Sea workshop as part of our World AIDS Day events in the Northern Rivers region. This was attended by 26 local people with HIV.
- We delivered a range of inclusive workshops for LGBTI people in Albury, Broken Hill, Nowra, Wollongong and Wagga Wagga. The workshops focussed on issues such as sexuality and gender identity, coming out, friendships, relationships, HIV and sexual health.
- We developed an online workshop for young gay men living in regional NSW. The project includes a website, educational videos and an app.
- We provided health promotion services at Tropical Fruits Fairday in Lismore. This included distributing resources related to our *Drop Your Load HIV* treatment campaign. In partnership with Lismore Sexual Health Service, we also provided rapid HIV tests to gay and bisexual men attending the event.
- We partnered with headspace Tweed Heads and the Tweed Family Centre to support a new LGBTI youth group in the region.
- We produced information stalls and health promotion events during Newcastle University's Sexual Health Week. These took place at their campuses in Newcastle and Ourimbah.
- We provided health promotion and general support to a new transgender social and support group in Lismore.
- We hosted a sold out charity screening of HIV-related Australian film *Holding The Man* in Byron Bay. This was made possible by the generous support of local business partners Byron Plantation and the Art House Newybar and raised \$5000 for local programs supporting people with HIV.

A promotional image for the 2016 Broken Heel Festival. Photo: Esther LaRovere.

INCLUSION

We're here to help make the places where our community members live, work, study and play more inclusive of LGBTI and HIV positive people. Through our support services, training programs and strategic partnerships, we work with a range of organisations and agencies to help ensure that LGBTI people and people with HIV feel included and supported.

WORKPLACE INCLUSION

Established in 2009, our Pride in Diversity initiative is Australia's first and only workplace program designed specifically to assist Australian employers with the inclusion of LGBTI employees. As a member-based program, Pride in Diversity works closely with HR, diversity professionals and LGBTI workplace networks in all aspects of LGBTI inclusion within all sectors of the Australian workforce. The Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI), an initiative of Pride in Diversity, allows employers to annually benchmark their practice against their sector and in many cases industry as well as receive valuable feedback on the areas in which they excel and could improve. Every year, an awards ceremony is held to recognise and celebrate the work that is done in this space. This year's winners include Westpac (Employer of the Year), University of Western Australian (Highest Ranking University), Uniting (Highest Ranking Not-for-Profit/Charity), Australian Federal Police (Highest Ranking Public Sector), Key Assets, the Children's Services Provider (Highest Ranking Small Employer), Commonwealth Bank Unity (LGBTI Network of the Year), Clayton Utz (Achievement Award for Most Improved), Accenture (Innovation Award), NSW Police (Transgender Inclusion Award) and Domestic Violence Service Management NSW (Small Employer Award). In addition, a number of individuals were recognised for their outstanding contribution to LGBTI Inclusion. The sold out luncheon saw a 30% increase in participation with over 600 people attending. The event was filmed for the first time by SBS World News and received national television coverage.

PRIDE IN SPORT

In March, we kicked off our new Pride in Sport initiative to tackle homophobia in sport and increase LGBTI inclusivity across all sporting contexts. This coincided with the launch of a world first index designed to benchmark national and state sporting organisation on their LGBTI inclusion work. Pride in Diversity was commissioned to develop the index by the Australian Human Rights Commission, Australian Sports Commission and Bingham Cup following the success of the AWEI. The Pride In Sport Index is an independently administered national benchmarking framework that provides the opportunity for all national and state sporting organisations to have their LGBTI related initiatives, programs and policies reviewed, measured and monitored. The Australian Rugby Union, National Rugby League, Australian Football League, Football Federation of Australia, Cricket Australia and Water Polo Australia have all signed up to participate in the Index. The second component is the provision of services to members of our Pride in Sport program so they can better support their LGBTI players, staff, spectators and supporters. In April, we also teamed up global sportswear company SKINS and some of Australia's leading sporting clubs for Australia's first ever #RainbowLaces initiative. Athletes and supporters of participating teams were invited to show their support for booting-out homophobia from sport by wearing rainbow laces at their games.

TRAINING & CONSULTING

Our Training and Consulting program aims to help organisations create and deliver more inclusive workplaces and services. Through this program we have the ability to work on an ongoing or ad hoc basis with organisations of any size spanning government, healthcare and service providers, large employers, small businesses, and sporting, cultural and community groups. This year we were approved as the NSW provider for Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria's Rainbow Tick HOW 2 Program.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We achieved a 65% increase in Pride in Diversity membership.
- We achieved a 46% increase in AWEI participation and a 125% rise in AWEI survey participation with close to 13,400 people taking part. The AWEI also underwent a review and was completely rewritten for 2017 showcasing a new streamlined approach, a new awards structure and a full benchmarking instrument for small employers.
- We continued to deliver training for people working in the aged care sector as part of the Federal Government funded LGBTI Aged Care Training Silver Rainbow Project.
- We produced the annual 3-day Pride in Practice conference, Australia's only national conference dedicated to LGBTI workplace inclusion.
- We produced and distributed the Australian National LGBTI Recruitment Guide to members and universities across Australia.

Some of the Australian athletes participating in a media call on Bondi Beach to promote our Rainbow Laces initiative. Photo: SX Magazine.

ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

We're here to work with legislators, policymakers, researchers and service providers to help them understand and address the needs of LGBTI people and people with HIV.

PrEP

Throughout the year we continued to advocate for improved access for gay men in NSW to HIV prevention treatment PrEP. While the EPIC-NSW study is an extremely important project, it has a two year timespan. To secure long term access and to ensure that the full preventative impact of PrEP is achieved, there are significant policy hurdles to overcome at the Federal level. The engagement by us and other HIV-related community organisations with regulators, bureaucrats, politicians and the manufacturer resulted in PrEP being approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in May. Attention now shifts to ensuring that PrEP is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme so that all people who could benefit from PrEP are able to access it in an affordable and safe manner.

POLICY SUBMISSIONS AND POSITION STATEMENTS

We made a major submission to the review of the NSW Public Health Act, calling for a change to mutual responsibility for reducing HIV transmission and to ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of people with HIV continues to be respected within the health system. We also made submissions to inquiries and consultations in the areas of guardianship status, alcohol and other drug strategy development, PrEP, STI policy, brothel regulation and vilification laws, among others. A number of position papers were developed or updated, including on HIV risk reduction, PrEP and HIV self-testing.

2016 FEDERAL ELECTION

We supported advocacy efforts focused on HIV and LGBTI health during the 2016 federal election. In particular, we supported the advocacy efforts led by the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations which resulted in commitments to develop a new National HIV Strategy, to fund PrEP should there be a positive recommendation for listing on the PBS and to continue to fund needle and syringe programs. We also supported a survey of all the major parties and helped produce and promote the #RainbowVotes election questionnaire. 45 questions across 11 topics were asked of the major parties and a number of key independents and micro parties.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The ongoing debate around marriage equality highlighted the need to develop an advocacy tool that promotes the public health evidence that supports same sex marriage. Over the year we developed a report which brings together key pieces of research with the aim of informing legislators, policymakers, media and the broader community about the positive health impacts of marriage equality for LGBTI people as well as the negative health effects of marriage denial and any potential plebiscite. To complement the report we also developed a new resource for health care providers to help them better support members of the LGBTI community experiencing distress in relation to the marriage equality debate. Both the report and the resource were released in September 2016 during the height of the plebiscite discussions.

RESEARCH

Through our engagement with research and academic partners, we have been central to efforts in Australia to better understand how to end HIV transmission, care for those with HIV and support LGBTI health. We represent our communities on research teams and advisory committees and our research ethics review committee ensures that the research we engage in and support is of value and does not harm our communities.

SWASH SURVEY

A major piece of work for us this year was the Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) survey, a comprehensive ongoing survey of health issues relevant to lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBO) women including sexual health and wellbeing, violence, mental health, tobacco use, illicit drug use, alcohol consumption, and cancer screening behaviours. The survey is run every two years by us and researchers at the University of Sydney. Established in 1996, SWASH is the longest running and only regular survey of LBO women's health and wellbeing in Australia (and probably the world). We're currently analysing the data and expect to release the results in 2017.

FORTH STUDY

Another vital HIV prevention research project we're involved with is the Frequency of Oral Rapid Testing at Home (FORTH) study, a randomised control trial of home HIV testing to increase HIV testing frequency, led by researchers at the University of NSW's Kirby Institute. The data being gathered through the FORTH study is providing clear support for the introduction of HIV self-testing in Australia. ACON supports HIV self-testing as part of a range of HIV testing options. If we're going to reach our goal of ending HIV transmission in Australia, more gay and bisexual men need to test more often. When it's finally available in Australia, HIV self-testing will be easily accessible, private and convenient, and because of this it will play a key role in helping us increase testing rates.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We made a submission on the draft *National Drug Strategy 2016-2025* and the *NSW Health Alcohol and Drug Strategic Plan*.
- We appeared before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement's Inquiry into Methamphetamine as part of a roundtable with other partners from the HIV sector.
- We participated in a stakeholder workshop looking at the recommendations stemming from the Expert Panel Review of Medicines and Medical Device Regulation in Australia.
- We made a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration in support of the listing of PrEP for use in Australia as well as a submission to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee in support of the listing of PrEP for subsidy.
- We coordinated the 2015 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey which gathers information about the sexual practice, drug use and healthcare of gay men.
- We provided research support – through promotion, recruitment and ethical review – to over 20 HIV related research studies, and participated on over 25 HIV related research committees. We also supported a range of LGBTI health related research studies, and were represented on many LGBTI health related research committees.

ACON staff members promoting our PrEP forums for an article in SX Magazine. Photo: Reg Domingo.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We're here to bring our community together by providing opportunities for people to get involved, connect, contribute and celebrate.

VOLUNTEERS

We have over 600 volunteers across NSW who play a crucial role in helping us run programs and services that improve the health and wellbeing of our community. Our volunteers work in many roles across the organisation including the delivery of safe sex education programs, packing safe sex equipment, providing care and support services, providing governance and guidance at a board level, helping us run community events and raising much needed funds. ACON has been built on the commitment and actions of volunteers and we cannot overstate the important role they play in helping us achieve our goals. Every year we thank them with a special event in Sydney during National Volunteers Week in May. This year's event was attended by over 200 volunteers and supporters.

HONOUR AWARDS

The Honour Awards is an annual September event we produce which recognises outstanding achievements within or contributions to NSW's LGBTI community. In addition to celebrating community service, the awards are a gala fundraising event for us and LGBTI charity Aurora. This year women featured prominently among the winners with six of the 10 awards going to women or organisations for or run by women. Community leader Steph Sands received the Community Hero award while HIV advocate Levinia Crooks received the ACON President's Award for lifetime service. Other winners included country music star Beccy Cole, community organisation Dykes On Bikes and Sydney artist Deborah Kelly. The winners were selected from a record field of 250 nominations and 30 finalists, and were presented with their awards at a ceremony at the Ivy Ballroom in Sydney attended by over 350 people. Over \$30,000 was raised for community initiatives supported by us and Aurora.

OUT TO WIN

One of our highest profile events of the year featured Olympic champion Ian Thorpe and a panel of other high profile LGBTI athletes discussing the impact their sexuality has had on their sporting careers and personal lives. The panel followed a Mardi Gras Film Festival screening of *Out To Win*, a documentary examining the lives of aspiring and professional gay and lesbian athletes including Billie Jean King, Jason Collins, John Amaechi, Martina Navratilova and Michael Sam. The panel was the first time Ian Thorpe had been involved with an LGBTI community event and it generated a significant amount of interest among local and international media.

ORLANDO MASSACRE FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Following the tragic mass shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Florida in June, we teamed up with producers Trevor Ashley, Catherine Alcorn and George Youakim as well as the City of Sydney to present a benefit concert to raise money for the victims and their loved ones, and to send a message of love, strength and solidarity with the LGBTI community in Orlando. The event featured a star-studded line-up of Australia's leading cabaret, musical theatre, television and comedy entertainers including Magda Szubanski, Joel Creasey, Bob Downe, Paul Capsis, iOTA, Emma Matthews and Simon Burke. Over \$70,000 was raised.

WORLD AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day (Dec 1) provides us with a valuable opportunity to honour people who have died from an AIDS related illness, educate people about how we can end HIV transmission in NSW by 2020 and raise money for programs and services that are vital to ending HIV. This year our World AIDS Day-related activities included our statewide *ENDING HIV* Red Ribbon Appeal, theatre and venue collections, and a series of special benefit events and memorial ceremonies throughout NSW. This year we presented a regional tour of *Transmission*, a documentary about 30 years of HIV which includes a section on how NSW's response to HIV has evolved over that time. The film screened in Newcastle, Byron Bay, Bega and Albury. Across our own events, as well as others we supported, we raised more than \$120,000.

MARDI GRAS

The annual Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival provides us with a unique opportunity to promote key health messages and engage with community members through a range of activities. At this year's Fair Day we focussed on promoting our new *Test Often* campaign and connected with thousands of people through our information stalls. Our entry in the parade allowed us to promote ACON and our work to hundreds of thousands of people who watch the event on the street and on TV. This year our float promoted PrEP and condom use as key methods of HIV prevention. 30 dancers and over 200 marchers participated by carrying large pink inflatable condom-like pool tubes and giant PrEP pills emblazoned with key health messages.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We presented a range of events to coincide with the premiere of *Holding The Man*, the locally produced biopic about former ACON health worker Timothy Conigrave. This included gala screenings in Sydney and Byron Bay and a special community forum about the past, present and future of NSW's response to HIV. Over \$30,000 was raised.
- We produced a memorial event in partnership with Positive Life NSW to mark the International Candlelight Memorial Day in May. Over 130 people attended the event at the Eternity Playhouse in Darlinghurst in Sydney.
- We continued to present our monthly bingo fundraiser Bingay and introduced a range of pop music-inspired themes which proved extremely popular. Over 1200 people attended throughout the year and more than \$25,000 was raised.
- We provided office accommodation, meeting spaces and small grants for a range of health, sporting and cultural organisations which work in our community.
- We produced a range of events in Western Sydney with a health promotion and community development focus, including the annual Parramatta Pride Picnic, the Parramatta Queer Short Film Festival and activities for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. These events attracted over 1000 attendees.
- We partnered with Randwick's Ritz Cinema and LGBTI social club Gay4Play to present Eurovision parties in May. Both events were fundraisers for ending HIV. Over 500 people attended, and more than \$7000 was raised.
- We continued to operate our fundraising programs around general donations, tax appeals, regular giving and bequests. This year these programs raised over \$50,000.
- We produced a fundraising appeal for Bali Peduli, an HIV prevention and support agency in Bali. The appeal was produced in partnership with the Australian Society for HIV Medicine and raised \$8000.

ACON President Justin Koonin with Olympians Matthew Mitcham, Ian Thorpe and Sally Shippard at our Out To Win event at the 2016 Mardi Gras Film Festival. Photo: Queer Screen.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We're here to build ACON's operational capacity, effectiveness and profile. We do this through marketing and communications, planning, evaluation and knowledge management, fundraising, and our finance, human resources and information technology services.

CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Our annual client satisfaction survey has been conducted since 2005 and asks clients to rate their satisfaction with the services they have accessed, of how much value they perceived them to be, and whether they would recommend the service to others. All our client services – HIV and LGBTI counselling, care coordination and substance support – rated very highly, in most cases scoring over 9/10 on all measures, and clients were full of praise for ACON and its staff. When asked for comments or suggestions for service improvement, most clients simply asked for the high standard to continue and for service delivery to be maintained. Similarly, our range of workshops for gay men and young gay men consistently received high scores averaging above 8/10 on all measures, and our Genesis workshop for gay men newly diagnosed with HIV averaged above 9/10. Our needle and syringe programs recorded consistently high scores averaging 9.8/10 for satisfaction and 9.9/10 for recommending to others. The LGBTI inclusion services delivered by our Training & Consulting team also received high scores averaging 9.4/10 for satisfaction, 9/10 for value and 9.5/10 for recommending to others.

BIG DAYS IN

Every year we produce a two day learning and development seminar for all staff members called the Big Days In. The event is held during October at our headquarters in Surry Hills and staff from across the state come to Sydney to hear about the latest developments in HIV prevention, HIV support and LGBTI health from some of the leading practitioners in these fields. Staff also learn about best practice in service delivery and community engagement for organisations in the community/not-for-profit sector. This year the event focused on a range of themes including PrEP, HIV testing, women's health, transgender issues, working with sexually adventurous people, and the impact of crystal meth on our community. Given 2015 was our 30 year anniversary as an organisation, there were also sessions which focussed on the past, present and future of ACON's work as a health promotion agency. The Big Days In also include the presentation of our annual staff awards. This year's ACON Icon was Regional Outreach Team Leader Teddy Cook who was recognised for his outstanding commitment to ACON's mission and values.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

This year we invested resources into improving how we use digital technologies to undertake a range of both internal and external activities. We consolidated the technical management of all our digital education and marketing assets within the Marketing and Communications team which now provides advice and support to ACON staff on all matters related to online platforms. Following a successful trial of online community organising platform Nation Builder, we committed to rolling out the system across the organisation to improve the way we manage our events as well as our communications with volunteers, supporters, donors and stakeholders.

Over the last 12 months the Nation Builder platform has helped increase our online supporter base by over 30%. We also completed the configuration of our new online client management system Penelope. The new system will allow us to engage much more efficiently and effectively with our clients through improved data management and communication functionality. The development of an online database of all our campaigns over the last 30 years also neared completion. The database is a digital information and education resource dedicated to promoting 30 years of health promotion work targeting gay men and broader LGBTI communities in NSW and Australia. In addition to its important historical value, the new database will help inform and inspire contemporary practitioners in the HIV and LGBTI health sectors.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- We continued to offer our organisational wide learning program, providing staff with a wide range of professional development opportunities.
- We introduced a new scholarship program to allow employees to gain assistance toward a higher degree or conference participation.
- We recorded our best employee satisfaction results ever with 81% of staff reporting positive engagement with the organisation while 88% reported positive job satisfaction. Staff responses were above average across all scores when benchmarked against the sector and industry averages.
- We continued implementing a new on-line performance management system based on near real-time feedback and both general and job-specific competencies to enhance staff experience of the performance feedback and appraisal cycle.
- Planning, monitoring and evaluation practices remained essential areas of work. Embedding these practices gives ACON the ability to focus on program results, ensure accountability to our community and stakeholders, and provides the basis for continuous quality improvement in all of our work. ACON's performance framework includes the evaluation of projects and programs at output, quality and impact levels to allow constant improvement of service delivery and maximum effectiveness of resource allocation.
- We continued to review the way technology can support and enhance business operations with greater internet bandwidth capacity across our offices in Sydney, Newcastle and Lismore.
- We introduced enterprise Wi-Fi to our Surry Hills offices to improve our training capacity and our service provision to clients. We plan to introduce Wi-Fi to our regional offices over the coming year.
- We continued our relationship with Microsoft through its charity licensing program. This has resulted in more than \$350,000 in savings over the four years we have been involved with the program.
- We continued our ongoing program of upgrading our IT infrastructure, including our computer operating systems, to ensure that staff can deliver our programs and services both efficiently and effectively.
- Our marketing and public relations activities generated over \$5 million of Advertising Value Equivalency, which is calculated using the advertising and readership value of editorial generated throughout the year. More than 600 stories were published in community media and over 100 stories were published in mainstream media.
- We managed ACON's suite of digital communication platforms including 10 websites (650,000 visitors), 13 Facebook pages (53,000 likes), 7 Twitter feeds (over 10,000 followers) and 5 photo/video channels (390,000 views).
- We reconfigured the ACON website to improve the user experience, creating a new section that lists the people and populations for whom we provide services.
- We introduced a new monthly internal newsletter called Inside ACON to keep staff up to date with the work being done across the organisation.

ACON's Lead IT Analyst, Digital & Online Community Engagement Officer, Adam Tan presenting to staff at our Big Days In staff seminar. Photo: David Alexander.

FINANCIALS

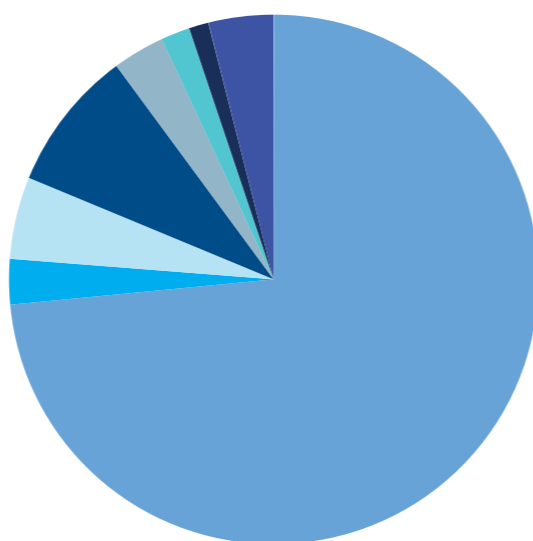
OVERVIEW

Despite the complexity of managing a number of federal, state and local grants, fee for service contributions and fundraising activities, our overall operating revenue of \$14.2 million was managed prudently with percentage variance between the budget and the actual being kept at under 3%. The end of year operating result includes the adjustment made to account for the Australian Accounting Standards requirement for not-for-profits to recognise grant revenue in the financial year it is received, even though in some instances the corresponding service delivery and associated expenses won't occur until the subsequent year. While in some years this has resulted in a surplus this year it has resulted in a small reportable deficit of \$79,000. However we still achieved an underlying surplus of \$269,000 to support future program activity. The following graphs represent ACON's income and expenditure for the 2014/15 financial year. Full details are in the the financial statements in latter part of this report.

INCOME

The majority of our income was derived from a core grant from NSW Health of approximately \$10.4 million. Other grants accounted for a further \$1.1 million. This year we also continued to expand our income portfolio with professional services fees and merchandise sales as well as maintaining our traditional income generating areas such as events and fundraising, tenancy rentals, facilities hire, investments, workplace inclusion initiatives and securing new grants.

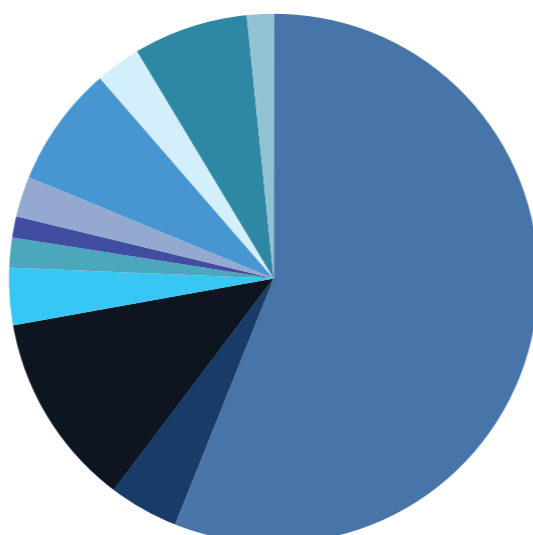
Category	Amount	Percentage
NSW Health Grant	\$10,444,301	73.48%
LHD Grants	\$391,870	2.76%
Other Grants	\$714,189	5.02%
Fundraising	\$1,228,415	8.64%
Fee for Service	\$451,689	3.18%
Rent Received	\$249,237	1.75%
Interest Received	\$170,434	1.20%
Other Income	\$564,294	3.97%
Total	\$14,214,429	100%



EXPENDITURE

Our core grant from NSW Health was spent on programs and services which directly reduce HIV transmission and which provide care and support for people with HIV. Other grants were spent on LGBTI related programs and services. As a community-based organisation, ACON is mindful that we need to be accountable for every dollar we spend. This year, we spent close to \$12 million, or about 80% of our operating budget, on directly providing programs and services for our clients and communities. This proportion is consistent with similar-sized organisations within the NGO sector.

Category	Amount	Percentage
Salaries & associated costs	\$ 8,012,766	56.06%
Program materials and services	\$ 608,179	4.25%
Rent and rates	\$ 1,695,758	11.86%
Depreciation	\$ 497,280	3.48%
Building maintenance	\$ 261,112	1.83%
Communications	\$ 183,544	1.28%
Travel and representation	\$ 355,382	2.49%
Advertising costs	\$ 1,054,940	7.38%
Events and activities	\$ 392,355	2.74%
Administrative costs	\$ 1,001,794	7.01%
Other Costs	\$ 230,595	1.61%
Total	\$14,293,705	100%



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

These financial statements are the consolidated financial statements for consolidated entity consisting of ACON Health Limited and its subsidiary, AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated. The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency. ACON Health Limited is a public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is:
414 Elizabeth Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010, Australia
ABN 38 136 883 916

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 14 September 2016.
The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

ACON HEALTH LIMITED DIRECTORS REPORT

Directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2016

The directors present their report on the consolidated entity (referred to hereafter as the group) consisting of ACON Health Limited and its controlled entity, the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated, for the year ended 30 June 2016.

DIRECTORS

The following persons were directors of ACON Health Limited during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report: **Andrew Purchas, Benjamin Bavinton, Julie Mooney-Somers, Richard Lee, Robert Stirling, Steven Berveling**

The following persons were appointed as directors on the dates stated and continue in office at the date of this report:
Justin Koonin appointed on 9 September 2015
Louisa Degenhardt appointed on 9 September 2015

We thank and express deep gratitude for the following persons who were directors from the beginning of the financial year until the date of their resignation: **Craig Gear** resigned on 8 July 2015, **Darryl O'Donnell** resigned on 11 August 2015, **Senthoran Raj** resigned on 19 August 2015, **Nicolas Parkhill** resigned on 15 September 2015, **Mark Orr** resigned on 5 November 2015, **John de Wit** resigned 1 May 2016, **Joshua Hatten** resigned on 14 May 2016. We also thank the following who were board associates from the beginning of the financial year until the date of their resignation: **Tim West** resigned on 8 July 2015, **Gina Wilson** resigned on 14 June 2016.

ACON BOARD as at 30 June 2016

Justin Koonin, President BSc(Hons), Ph.D., GAICD Justin is a former convenor of the NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, having worked within LGBTI community organisations for the past decade. He is trained as a mathematician, and currently works as an investment analyst. He has also worked as a research associate (at the University of Sydney), and as a consultant in the areas of predictive analytics and data science.

Andrew Purchas, Vice President BEc, LLB Andrew has over 15 years of experience as a senior executive in the legal, financial services as a senior associate with Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Chief Security Officer for Westpac Banking Corporation. He has significant commercial experience in business process redesign, change management, risk management and business development. He is currently Project Director with National Information Communication Technology Australia. Andrew has had a long involvement with sports administration and is founder of the Sydney Convicts Rugby Club and was President of the Bingham Cup Sydney 2014.

Steven Berveling, SJD, BSc, LLB Steven is a barrister specialising in town planning and environmental law. He has been HIV+ since May 1996, and lives life to the full. He is an avid competitive cyclist, and is training to become the 7th Australian and 1st HIV+ person to complete solo the Race Across America, to confirm that stigma and discrimination against HIV+ people is totally unwarranted. Steven speaks regularly to a range of groups about living with HIV.

Julie Mooney-Somers, BSc, GradCertEdStud, Ph.D. Julie is a Senior Lecturer in the centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine at the University of Sydney, and Director of the Qualitative Health Research postgraduate coursework program. Her research focuses on sexual health, usually in marginalised communities. Julie has been the joint coordinator of the Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) survey since 2009.

Richard Lee, BCom, Major Marketing Richard is the director of Brandview, a brand strategy and marketing consultancy that has shaped the positioning and stories of well-known brands in Australia and around the world. Core skills are research & analytics, brand positioning strategy, brand story frameworks, marketing and communication strategy, cultural change strategy and creative idea generation.

Louisa Degenhardt, BA (Hons), MPsychology (Clinical), Ph.D. Louisa joined the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), Faculty of Medicine, UNSW in 1998 and has worked across a wide range of projects examining the epidemiology of illicit drug use, comorbid mental health problems, and illicit drug surveillance. From 2001 to 2008 she established and expanded national drug surveillance and strategic early warning systems across Australia. Louisa has been conducting increasingly diverse epidemiological studies and continues to work with WHO and UNAIDS examining epidemiology of illicit drug use and associated health risks across the globe.

Robert Stirling, MPH Robert is Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA), the peak body for the non-government alcohol and other drugs sector in NSW. He is responsible for areas such as sector reform and development, policy and planning, capacity building, and research. Robert has worked across the government, non-government and private sectors, and has qualifications in public health and community management. In addition, he is a registered Justice of the Peace in NSW.

Ben Bavinton, BA (Hons), MPH Ben currently works at the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales on the Opposites Attract Study, a cohort study of HIV treatment and its effect on HIV transmission in gay male serodiscordant relationships. Both in Australia and internationally, he has worked in HIV prevention for over ten years in the areas of community education, policy, capacity development, and research.. He worked at ACON in gay men's peer education from 2004 to 2010.

Meetings of Directors

The number of meetings of the Company's board of directors From 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016, and their attendance:

Board member	Meetings Eligible To Attend	Meetings Attended
Andrew Purchas	11	9
Benjamin Bavinton	11	11
Craig Gear	1	1
Darryl O'Donnell	1	1
John de Wit	9	5
Joshua Hatten	10	7
Julie Mooney-Somers (*)	11	6
Justin Koonin	9	9
Louisa Degenhardt	9	7
Mark Orr	4	4
Nicolas Parkhill	3	3
Richard Lee	11	10
Robert Stirling	11	10
Senthorun Raj	2	2
Steven Berveling	11	8

(*) Julie Mooney-Somers was granted Leave of Absence for February, March, April and May 2016.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

Ending HIV transmission among gay men and other homosexually active men by:

- Increasing the knowledge of gay men and other men who have sex with men about when to seek a HIV and STI test.
- Using innovative, targeted engagement strategies to motivate gay men and other men who have sex with men to test more regularly.
- Increasing the number of HIV positive gay men who understand the benefits of accessing treatment earlier.
- Sustaining the safe sex knowledge of gay men and men who have sex with men utilising both condom and non-condom based risk reduction strategies.
- Advocating for better access to home-based or self-administered HIV testing and access to Pre Exposure Prophylaxis for those who would most benefit.
- Reducing psychosocial barriers to testing and treatment uptake for people who are newly diagnosed through education, counselling and peer support.
- Ensure the range of HIV Health Promotion programs continues to be relevant and useful for people with HIV.
- Developing a HIV Health Promotion Strategy focussing on post diagnosis support, living well with HIV and planning for healthy ageing.

Promoting the health throughout life of LGBTI people and people with HIV by:

- Providing HIV Care and Support services including:
 - Counselling
 - Enhanced Primary Care
 - Community Support Network
 - Newly Diagnosed Service
- Reviewing our current care and support programs to ensure they continue to meet the needs of people with HIV.
- Intensifying our focus on immediate post diagnosis care and support to prevent infection rates and improve the health outcomes for newly diagnosed
- Enhancing our intake and case management processes to ensure person centred, tailored responses.
- Enhancing our treatments advice and adherence support capacity to educate people with HIV about the benefits of earlier and increased treatment uptake.
- Developing programs to address the health areas that have the most negative health impact on people living with HIV, e.g. Enhanced Primary Care.
- Addressing substance support use co-morbidities through counselling from the substance use service, Needle Syringe Programs, harm minimisation support and referrals to drug and alcohol treatment services.
- Addressing the health disparities experienced by the LGBTI community and to reduce the impacts of negative health determinants including:
 - Alcohol and Other Drugs
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing
 - Smoking
 - Homophobic and Transphobic Violence
 - Healthy Ageing and Aged Care
 - Domestic and Family Violence
- Continuing to strengthen organisational capacity and sustainability by:
- Ensuring our infrastructure and systems enable staff to effectively deliver programs and services to rural and remote NSW.
- Investigating and implementing new partnerships, fee for service models and social enterprise approaches to diversify our funding base.
- Exploring opportunities to grow discretionary revenue through fundraising, new grants and fee for service.
- Continuing to invest in building our data collection, analysis evaluation and knowledge management capacity.
- Building the research capacity of our staff through seeding grants and partnerships with academic institutions.
- Continuing to build our presence, capacity and effectiveness in the digital space to increase reach and impact.

Advocating and Promoting Social Inclusion by:

- Providing LGBTI employees within Australian workplaces targeted initiatives via education and benchmarking and through the Pride in Diversity Program.
- Establishing Partnerships with government, other NGO's, health care providers, researchers and affected communities
- Ensuring all direct LGBTI services are sensitive to the needs of and available to all of our communities,
- Ensuring all of our training packages for service providers are inclusive of our populations,
- Ensuring our advocacy work in the areas of discrimination and human rights are inclusive of the needs and views of all our communities and is conducted in consultation with relevant stakeholders,
- Developing strategies, in collaboration with key partners to maximise inclusiveness and reach of health promotion strategies.
- Developing 'population specific' communication strategies to ensure our programs are visible to all of the communities they are intended to reach

Performance measures (key performance indicators)

- A decrease in HIV infections among gay men and other MSM in NSW
- An increase in reported levels of health and wellbeing by people with HIV
- A reduction in the number of people in our communities who experience negative health and other outcomes as a result of drug and alcohol use
- An increase in reported levels of health and wellbeing by women in our communities
- An increase in reported levels of health and wellbeing by older people in our communities

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Operations for the year ended 30 June 2016 resulted in a net deficit of \$79,276 (30 June 2015: surplus of \$457,284). Set out below is an analysis of the result for the year adjusted for the effects of the Accounting Standard which recognises government grants on receipt rather than on a performance basis. The Directors believe this methodology is a fairer reflection of the result for the year and track this amount for their own reporting purposes.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Operating result	(79,276)	457,284
Adjustment of grant receipts on a performance basis	348,495	(215,268)
Adjusted result	269,219	242,016

Application of funds

The net surplus obtained from fundraising activities was applied to the purposes of ACON Health Limited.

Winding Up

Each Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of ACON Health, if it is wound up while they are a Member, or within one year afterwards, an amount of money not exceeding the limit of liability of \$2, if at the time of winding up the debts and liabilities of ACON Health exceed its assets.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2016 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- the Group's operations in future financial years, or
- the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- the Group's state of affairs in future financial years.

Likely developments and expected results of operations

Information on likely developments in the operations of the Group and the expected results of operations have not been included in this Directors' Report because the Directors believe it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Group.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board.

Dated at Sydney this 14th September 2016

Justin Koonin
President

Andrew Purchas
Vice President

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

INCOME	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
Grants:			
NSW Department of Health		10, 444,301	9,895,800
NSW Department of Community Services		-	26,579
Local Health Districts		391,870	313,205
Other grants		714,189	1,334,856
Fundraising	15(a)	1,228,415	797,602
Interest received/receivable		170,434	234,381
Membership		2,969	5,084
Fee for service		451,689	429,602
Rent received		249,237	281,395
Sale of vitamins		14,014	14,799
Sale of materials		38,801	38,043
Other Income		508,510	426,426
Total revenue from operations		14,214,429	13,797,772
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries & associated costs		8,012,766	7,296,832
Program materials and services		608,179	704,443
Rent and rates		1,695,758	1,542,105
Depreciation – plant & equipment		497,280	437,194
Amortisation – lease incentive		150,500	150,500
Building maintenance		261,112	270,164
Communications		183,544	241,530
Travel and representation		355,382	323,963
Donations given		51,009	57,257
Advertising costs		1,054,940	998,009
Events and activities		392,355	300,541
Administrative costs		1,001,794	937,249
Cost of goods sold		29,086	22,701
Fair value loss on financial assets		-	58,000
Total expenditure		14,293,705	13,340,488
Net Surplus/Deficit for the year (before tax)		(79,276)	457,284
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Operating surplus of ACON Health Limited		(79,276)	457,284

The above Consolidated Statement of profit and loss should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	5,261,260	4,427,368
Receivables	5	589,978	256,615
Inventories	6	3,696	6,790
Prepayments		94,305	56,616
Total Current Assets		5,949,239	4,747,389
Non-Current Assets			
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	7	-	942,000
Other Financial Assets		22,000	22,000
Plant & equipment and lease incentive	8	1,714,075	2,106,191
Total Non-Current Assets		1,736,075	3,070,191
Total Assets		7,685,314	7,817,580
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	953,651	822,268
Employee entitlements	10	1,228,966	1,262,810
Total Current Liabilities		2,182,617	2,085,078
Non-current Liabilities			
Deferred lease liability	11	689,763	840,292
Total Non-current Liabilities		689,763	840,292
Total Liabilities		2,872,380	2,925,370
Net Assets		4,812,934	4,892,210
Accumulated Funds			
Retained surplus at the end of the year	17	4,029,879	4,378,374
Funds Reserve		751,235	482,016
Revaluation reserve		31,820	31,820
Total Accumulated Funds		4,812,934	4,892,210

The above Consolidated Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STAKEHOLDERS' FUNDS

<i>Year ended 30 June 2016</i>	<i>Retained surplus</i>	<i>Revaluation reserve</i>	<i>Funds Reserve</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total stakeholder funds at the beginning of the financial year	4,378,374	31,820	482,016	4,892,210
Transfer to funds reserve	(269,219)	-	269,219	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(79,276)	-	-	(79,276)
Total stakeholder funds at the end of the financial year	4,029,879	31,820	751,235	4,812,934
Year ended 30 June 2015				
Total stakeholder funds at the beginning of the financial year	4,271,404	31,820	240,000	4,543,225
Transfer to funds reserve	(242,016)	-	242,016	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	457,284	-	-	457,284
Total transfer to Sex Workers Outreach Inc	(108,299)	-	-	(108,299)
Total stakeholder funds at the end of the financial year	4,378,373	31,820	482,016	4,892,210

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers, granting bodies & fundraising (inclusive of goods & services tax)		13,085,994	13,563,391
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of goods & services tax)		(13,148,272)	(13,094,940)
Interest received		170,434	234,381
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		108,156	702,832
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant & equipment		(224,264)	(351,427)
Payments for UBS Investment		950,000	
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		725,736	(351,427)
NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH HELD		833,892	351,405
CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		4,427,368	4,075,963
CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR	4	5,261,260	4,427,368

The above Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated. The financial statements are for the consolidated entity consisting of ACON Health Limited and its subsidiary, AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated (ACON Inc).

A. BASIS OF PREPARATION

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012. ACON Health Limited is a not-forprofit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

i) Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements

The consolidated financial statements of the ACON Health Limited group comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

ii) New and amended standards adopted by the group

None of the new standards and amendments to standards that are mandatory for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2016 affected any of the amounts recognised in the current period or any prior period and are not likely to affect future periods.

iii) Early adoption of standards

The group has not elected to apply any pronouncements before their operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2016.

iv) Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of art works.

v) Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the group's accounting policies.

B. PRINCIPLES OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary of ACON Health Limited ("company" or "parent entity") as at 30 June 2016 and the results of the subsidiary for the year then ended. ACON Health Limited and its subsidiary together are referred to in this financial report as the group or the consolidated entity.

Subsidiaries are all entities (including special purpose entities) over which the group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies, generally accompanying a shareholding of more than one half of the voting rights. The existence and effect of potential voting rights that are currently exercisable or convertible are considered when assessing whether the group controls another entity.

Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the group. They are de-consolidated from the date that control ceases.

Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of the impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

C. REVENUE

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of any rebates and amounts collected on behalf of third parties. The group recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met.

D. GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Revenue from non-reciprocal grants is recognised when the company obtains control of the funds.

E. LEASES

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are not transferred to the group as lessee are classified as operating leases (note 17). Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the lessor) are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Incentives received on entering into operating leases are recognised as liabilities (note 12).

F. IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

Assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting period.

G. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

H. TRADE RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Trade receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days. They are presented as current assets unless collection is not expected for more than 12 months after the reporting date.

Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off by reducing the carrying amount directly. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is used when there is objective evidence that the group will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss within other expenses. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account.

I. INVENTORIES

Inventories are represented by vitamin stock and are stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value on the basis of first in first out.

J. INVESTMENTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

Classification

The group classifies its financial assets in the following categories: loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired.

Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition.

(i) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting period which are classified as non-current assets.

(ii) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are financial assets held for trading. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term. Derivatives are classified as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Assets in this category are classified as current assets if they are expected to be settled within 12 months; otherwise they are classified as non-current.

Measurement

At initial recognition, the Group measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in profit or loss.

Loans and receivables are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Impairment

The Group assesses at the end of each reporting period whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred only if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

(i) Assets carried at amortised cost

For loans and receivables, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced and the amount of the loss is recognised in the profit or loss. If a loan has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract. As a practical expedient, the Group may measure impairment on the basis of an instrument's fair value using an observable market price. If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised (such as an improvement in the debtor's credit rating), the reversal of the previously recognised impairment loss is recognised in the profit or loss.

K. PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of any component accounted for as a separate asset is derecognised when replaced. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to profit or loss during the reporting period in which they are incurred. The Group is gifted works of art from time to time. Works gifted are valued at the time of the gift and are capitalised at that amount. Works of Art are valued at regular intervals at the Directors' discretion. Revaluations reflect independent assessments of the fair market value of works of art.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate cost, net of residual values, over the estimated useful lives of assets as follows:

Furniture & Fittings: 2-5 years	Office & IT Equipment: 2-5 years	Leasehold improvements 10 years
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The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount (note 1(f)).

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in profit or loss. When revalued assets are sold, it is group policy to transfer any amounts included in other reserves in respect of those assets to retained earnings.

Leasehold Improvements

The cost of fit out of ACON's head office leased at 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, has been capitalised to leasehold improvement and is being amortised over the lease term of 10 years.

The cost of extensions to the Hunter branch on premises leased at 129 Maitland Road, Islington has been capitalised to Leasehold Improvements and is being amortised over the lease term of 10 years.

L. TRADE AND OTHER CREDITORS

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the group prior to the end of the financial year which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Included is the annual membership paid by participating organisations of the Pride in Diversity program. The revenue is recognised over the membership period and hence the deferred/uneared revenue represents that which is yet to meet the performance criteria.

M. EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Long Service Leave

The liability for long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and is measured in accordance with the policy above. The liability for long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

Superannuation

Contributions are made by the group to several employee superannuation funds of choice and are recognised as expenses as they become payable.

N. GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

O. PARENT ENTITY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial information for the parent entity, ACON Health Limited, disclosed in note 18 has been prepared on the same basis as the consolidated financial statements.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

The fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is referenced to quoted market prices and assessed for changes in value at the end of each reporting period. Refer to note 7 for further information over the financial assets.

3. INCOME TAX

ACON Health Limited is a Health Promotion Charity and the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated is a Public Benevolent Institution. As such, both are exempt from paying income tax.

4. CURRENT ASSETS – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	4,620	5,020
Cash at bank: Cheque account – operations	5,091,587	4,261,102
Deposits	165,053	161,246
	5,261,260	4,427,368
5. CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES		
Trade receivables	331,176	251,960
Accrued income	258,802	4,655
	589,978	256,615

As at 30 June 2016, no receivables were considered impaired (30 June 2016: \$nil). The amount of the provision for doubtful debts was \$nil (30 June 2016: \$nil).

6. CURRENT ASSETS - INVENTORIES

Finished goods (vitamins) at cost	3,696	6,790
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7. NON-CURRENT ASSETS - FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS

UBS Investment	-	942,000
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8. NON-CURRENT ASSETS- PLANT & EQUIPMENT AND LEASE INCENTIVE

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of plant and equipment and lease incentives at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Furniture & fittings	Office & IT equipment	Library Works of Art	Leasehold improvements	Lease Incentive	Totals
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
At 30 June 2015						
Cost or fair value	874,806	1,170,225	146,650	1,237,861	1,505,000	4,934,542
Accumulated depreciation	(714,988)	(956,222)	-	(464,686)	(664,709)	(2,800,605)
Net book value	159,818	214,003	146,650	773,175	840,291	2,133,937
Year ended 30 June 2016						
Opening net book value	159,818	214,003	146,650	773,175	840,291	2,133,937
Additions	2,431	122,112	-	99,722	-	224,264
Depreciation/amortisation charge	(159,123)	(124,397)	-	(213,759)	(150,500)	(647,780)
Closing net book value	3,125	211,718	146,650	659,138	689,791	1,710,422
At 30 June 2016						
Cost or fair value	877,237	1,288,713	146,650	1,337,555	1,505,000	5,162,459
Accumulated depreciation	(874,112)	(1,076,939)	-	(678,473)	(815,209)	(3,444,733)
Net book value	3,125	211,718	146,650	659,138	689,791	1,710,422

9. CURRENT LIABILITIES – TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Goods & Services Tax net payable	187,164	177,198
Trade creditors	117,810	469,777
Accrued expenses	222,619	175,293
Deferred/(Unearned) Revenue	426,058	-
Total	953,651	822,268

10. CURRENT LIABILITIES – EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

Employee entitlements - annual leave and long service leave	1,228,966	1,262,810
Number of employees at reporting date (full time equivalent)	108 98	108 98

11. NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES – DEFERRED LEASE LIABILITY

414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills	689,793	840,291
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12. REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Members of the Board serve on the Board of the group in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration for this service to the group.

13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The following transactions occurred with related parties:

Income from Sex Workers Outreach Project Inc (SWOP) for overhead fees	182,500	182,496
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During the year ACON Health Limited provided administration and back office support to the Sex Workers Outreach Project Inc. The payments were made on normal commercial terms and conditions.

14. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The major source of funding for the group is an annual grant from the NSW Ministry of Health. The NSW Ministry of Health has agreed to maintain current funding levels in the 2016/2017 financial year.

15. CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT 1991

ACON Health Limited was issued with an authority to fundraise by the Office of Charities to fundraise for the period 4 May 2012 to 3 May 2017.

Information and declarations to be furnished under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991.

The information disclosed below is in relation to fundraising activities undertaken by ACON Health Limited.

(a) Details of aggregate gross income and total expenses of fundraising activities:

	2016	2015
Gross proceeds from fundraising:	\$	\$
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	101,680	118,967
Other including Donations, Events & Sponsorship	733,747	678,635
Total gross income from fundraising	835,427	797,602
less total costs of fundraising:		
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	40,745	66,978
Other	270,079	223,860
Total cost of fundraising	310,824	290,838
Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals	524,602	506,764

(b) Forms of fundraising activities conducted during the year covered by these financial statements were: Concerts, Appeals, Bingo, Dinners and Special Nights at Venues.

(c) Comparative Ratios

Ratio of costs to gross proceeds	37%	36%
Ratio of net surplus to gross proceeds	63%	64%
Ratio of total cost of fundraising services to total Organisation expenditure	2%	2%

This ratio includes all fundraising activities – appeals and events.

In the view of the Board, all expenses incurred by the ACON Health Limited contribute to the delivery of its programs and services.

16. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Lease Commitments

The group leases the head office building under a non-cancellable operating lease expiring within 7 years. Excess building space is sub-let to third parties under operating leases.

Non-cancellable Operating Leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Within one year	1,788,232	1,765,918
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	5,712,464	6,450,904
Later than 5 years	-	919,879
	7,500,696	9,136,701

17. RETAINED SURPLUS

Retained surplus at the beginning of the year	4,378,374	4,271,405
Transfer to funds reserve	(269,219)	(242,016)
Transfer to SWOP	-	(108,299)
Current year surplus	(79,276)	457,284
Retained surplus at the end of the year	4,029,879	4,378,374

The retained surplus represents accumulated funds of \$4,029,879 and includes provision for Employee entitlements, grant income received in advance, and provision for depreciation.

18. PARENT ENTITY FINANCIAL INFORMATION (ACON HEALTH LTD EXCLUDING ACON INC)

(A) SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The individual financial statements for the parent entity show the following aggregate amounts:

	2016	2015
Balance sheet	\$	\$
Current assets	5,939,973	4,738,699
Total assets	7,676,048	7,808,890
Current liabilities	2,184,007	2,086,469
Total liabilities	2,873,799	2,926,760
Stakeholders' Funds		
Retained surplus	4,802,249	4,882,130
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	(79,852)	455,491

(B) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES OF THE PARENT ENTITY

The parent entity did not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2016 (30 June 2015: \$nil).

DIRECTORS DECLARATION: INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

In the directors' opinion:

1) The consolidated financial statements and notes set out on pages 10 to 24 are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- comply with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013; and c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

2)

- the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW);
- the provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the regulations under this Act and the conditions attached to the authority to fundraise have been complied with; and c) the internal controls exercised by the group are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the board, and is signed for and on behalf of the board by:



Justin Koonin
President



Andrew Purchas
Vice President

Dated at Sydney this 14th Day of September 2016.

Auditor's Independence Declaration To the Directors of ACON Health Limited

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as lead auditor for the audit of ACON Health Limited for the year ended 30 June 2016, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD
Chartered Accountants

A G Rigele
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 14 September 2016

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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 Company's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 Company's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, 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.

Electronic presentation of audited financial report

This auditor's report relates to the financial report of ACON Health Limited and controlled entities for the year ended 30 June 2016 included on ACON Health Limited's website. The Company's Directors are responsible for the integrity of ACON Health Limited's website. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of ACON Health Limited's website. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these statements. If the users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this website.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion:

- a the financial report of ACON Health Limited is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - i giving a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of ACON Health Limited

We have audited the accompanying financial report of ACON Health Limited (the "Company"), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the directors' declaration of .

Directors' responsibility for the financial report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and 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 us to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance 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

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- c The funds received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted for the year ended 30 June 2016 have been properly accounted for in accordance with the above mentioned sections of the Act and the Regulations.



GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD
Chartered Accountants



A G Rigele
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 14 September 2016

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