



acon

community, health and action

ANNUAL REPORT 2004 - 2005



**“Wear your heart on your sleeve”
World AIDS Day December 1
Marcia Hines in the ACON 2004 Red Ribbon Appeal**

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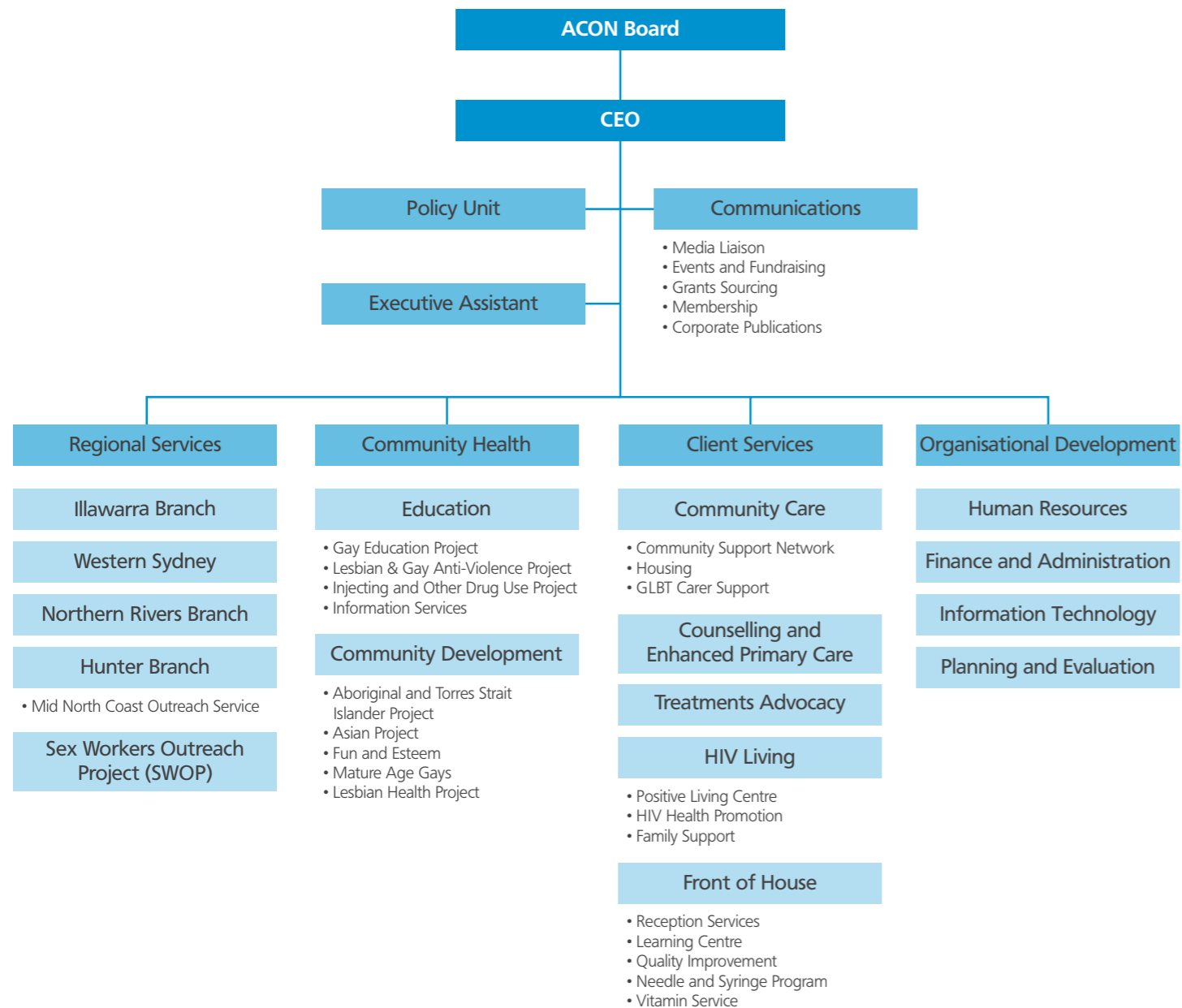
Acknowledgements

The Board and management of ACON (AIDS Council of NSW) would like to acknowledge and thank the many dedicated staff and volunteers of our organisation for their amazing commitment to our clients and to our communities.

The images in this Annual Report are a tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who support ACON year after year.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 02

03 VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT



This year ACON received accreditation from the Quality Improvement Council of Australia in recognition of our commitment to quality. The Quality Improvement Council also commended ACON for leadership and community engagement.

ACON (AIDS Council of NSW) is a health promotion organisation based in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities with a central focus on HIV/AIDS.

We provide HIV prevention, health promotion, advocacy, care and support services to members of those communities, including Indigenous people and injecting drug users, to sex workers and to all people living with HIV/AIDS.

What We Seek – Our Vision

A strong, healthy and resilient gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

The health needs of our communities to be effectively addressed through all life stages.

An end to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

A society that respects the basic link between health and social justice.

What We Do – Our Mission

Drawing our strength from a dynamic relationship with our communities, ACON plays a leading role in promoting health.

We do this through education, advocacy, and service provision and in partnership with researchers, health care providers, governments, our community members and others.

HIV/AIDS is a key priority for our organisation.

What We Believe In – Our Values

We believe the following are intrinsic to ACON and everything we do:

- social justice
- partnership
- equity and access
- the centrality to any health response of those affected
- professionalism, accountability and quality
- creativity and innovation
- inclusiveness, respect and self-determination
- community-based
- sustainability

Our Clients and Communities

- The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities and all people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Consistent with our values statement, we commit to ensuring that our services and programs are culturally appropriate for people from a diverse range of backgrounds, including people from a non-English speaking background and Indigenous Australians.
- We also work with other people who interact with our communities but who don't necessarily identify as part of those communities, for example non-gay identifying homosexually active men and many bisexual people.
- SWOP in particular works to support sex workers and those engaged in the sex industry.



ACON 2005 *Mates* campaign

05 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

After 20 years as a community based organisation, ACON continues to rely on volunteers from Board members and red ribbon sellers to carers, performers and peer supporters. Their commitment, and the dedication of our staff, are the heart of this organisation.

ACON works in a dynamic and constantly challenging environment as we try to stay ahead of changes in the face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and build new programs to tackle the other health issues of our communities. The task of HIV prevention only becomes more complex in a world of increasing infections but of decreasing importance attached to HIV by many. In 2002 we saw increases in rates of HIV transmission in Sydney for the first time in almost a decade. By 2004, following a concerted effort by ACON and our partners, this had been turned around, only to be followed by what looks to be another increase in 2005. At the same time we are seeing spiralling rates of other sexually transmissible infections amongst gay men. In the face of this, ACON continues to produce innovative campaigns to encourage healthy and safe behaviour that are replicated by others throughout the world. This year we will focus on how to make the behaviour changes we saw in 2004 more sustainable in the long term.

As one of the largest providers of care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS, we must keep abreast of changing needs. This year we have substantially expanded our work in the areas of mental health, drug and alcohol use and homelessness in recognition of these changes.

Despite the lack of Australian research showing a causal link between crystal use and unsafe sex, negative impacts of problematic use on individuals and our community are obvious.

This year, in response to loud calls from our community for action, ACON developed a comprehensive program including forums, support groups, educational material, social marketing and our own research in partnership with the National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre.

We have made some headway this year in developing new programs in GLBT health, however it remains a key challenge to get governments and funders to understand that people in the GLBT community may have different health needs, or may have particular health issues impact on them differentially.

Advocacy has always been a great strength of ACON and this year has again seen us successfully influence government policy at the local, state and federal level and join with our community to protest against changes that were beyond our control. Taking a position on an issue means that there will always be some who disagree with you and we have taken some flack this year but it has not deterred ACON from speaking up on issues of importance to our community.

ACON remains a unique organisation mixing health and welfare, education, health promotion, care, support and advocacy. Our focus is on meeting the needs of individuals in an holistic way and empowering our community to take control of its own health needs. The following pages give just a taste of the breadth and depth of our work.

Adrian Lovney
President

Stevie Clayton
CEO

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 06

ACON provided more than 60,000 occasions of service across NSW during 2004-2005.

Our Sydney clients are:

- 75% gay
- 16% heterosexual
- 6% lesbian
- 2% bisexual
- 1% transgender

ACON branches outside of Sydney provided more than 15,000 occasions of service.

Our branch clients are:

- 63% male
- 35% female
- 2% transgender

ACON faced many challenges this year from changing care and support needs of people living with HIV/AIDS to getting gay men to re-engage with HIV prevention.

Community Health

The Community Health Division conducted health promotion, community development, education and social marketing work around key health issues, empowering ACON's communities to take responsibility for their own health needs. The major focus during the year was responding to increasing rates of HIV and STIs amongst gay men. ACON worked in collaboration with a number of other organisations throughout the year to improve health and promote HIV prevention. These partnerships addressed issues around safe sex, safe drug use, violence, care and support services, and same sex attracted youth. The safe sex message in our Summer '05 *Mates* campaign was expanded to promote safety around other issues including lesbian sexual health, sero-discordant relationships, anti-violence and drug use.

Client Services

The Client Services Division brings together a range of individual and therapeutic group services, health promotion and peer support. The primary client group remained people living with, affected by or at risk of HIV/AIDS. We're very proud to have reached around 2,500 people over the year with 2,000 of those being people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

A new GLBT Carer Support Project began this year to raise awareness about and support the health and wellbeing of carers in our communities beyond HIV. GLBT carers are often invisible, caring for chosen family and partners, with little recognition and few support services. With the NSW Mental Health Association, we host a network to improve access for GLBT people to mental health or alcohol and drug services. We remain focused on improving our core services to people living with HIV/AIDS whilst developing new programs to meet their changing needs and bringing new energy to ACON's other communities.

Executive

The expansion of ACON's work into new areas also created a need for more focus on new areas of policy development. The Executive Division added a policy position dedicated to sex worker issues and we plan to expand the unit further in the coming year. The Communications Unit ran a high profile World AIDS Day campaign with Marcia Hines and Jennifer Hawkins and used a range of other activities to help raise awareness and funds. Finding new funding sources for a range of ACON projects has been a major hurdle in recent years and has hindered the development of new projects. In the new year we will be developing a fundraising strategy and making structural changes to support our new emphasis on fundraising.

07 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Regional Services

The Regional Services Division is responsible for service delivery in all of NSW outside of inner-city Sydney and includes branches in Wollongong, Newcastle, Port Macquarie and Lismore. The division also includes the Sex Workers Outreach Project and Western Sydney staff who are based in the Surry Hills office.

Branch staff are now included in the design of community education and social marketing campaigns to achieve broader coverage with our safe sex and sexual health messages across the state. This year we made difficult decisions about how and where we provide services. Relocating our Western Sydney office staff to Commonwealth Street has proven to be a sound decision with no loss of services to our clients and savings to ACON that have been ploughed back into program delivery. There has been an increase in utilisation of social and support mechanisms in branches, showing we are reaching more people in regional NSW.

Organisational Development

This year the work of the Organisational Development Division focussed on the generation of key performance indicators (KPIs) and regular reporting to inform management decisions in the areas of Human Resources, Finance and Information Technology.

ACON now has a full-time Planning & Evaluation Coordinator working to ensure evaluation processes are built in to all projects, and our new activity database was rolled out in June to provide more accurate data on performance.

Key performance indicators in respect of staff turnover, leave liability, staff support and performance management continue to be met. The majority of staff now have work plans, professional development plans and regular feedback. The Executive Team participated in a 360 degree assessment process in December 2004. Staff turnover is approximately 17%, and the 2005 Staff Satisfaction Survey showed 83% of staff reported they 'like' or 'love' their job and are 'usually' or 'very' satisfied.

ACON's IT network is robust, secure and contains redundancy for future growth and we have continued our hardware replacement program. We audited our software licences and a new Standard Operating Environment was introduced. ACON's new electronic 'helpdesk' system enabled IT to respond to 90% of jobs within two days, with the average turn around being 10 business hours and new software now allows remote resolution of IT issues.

The Positive Living Centre (PLC) had close to 500 registered clients this year.

More than 150 people living with HIV/AIDS received home-based care through the Community Support Network (CSN).

The Enhanced Care Project saw more than 230 patients of general practitioners this year.



ACON 2005 *Mates* campaign

09 ADVOCACY

During this year we advocated for our communities on a wider range of issues that impact on their health and wellbeing than ever before. Our policy and advocacy work covered the field from HIV, through to sex workers and planning regulation, to homophobia in schools.

ACON plays a leading role in NSW advocating for public policy and a legislative and social environment which protects the rights of our communities.

HIV/AIDS

This year we advocated on behalf of a number of individuals who had encountered difficulty in obtaining generic HIV anti-retrovirals through personal importation programs; opposed the introduction of tougher penalties for the transmission of HIV; and argued against the disclosure of someone's HIV status by police and the media. In NSW we had input to and have worked on the implementation of the NSW HIV/AIDS Strategy, the Evaluation of the NSW HIV/AIDS Health Promotion Plan and the Treatment and Care Review. Federally, we had input to the development of the 5th National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the 1st National STI Strategy. Two new areas were the possible introduction of pre-exposure prophylaxis and the proposal for the trial of a new candidate vaccine.

Submissions

We prepared submissions on a range of issues and to various inquiries including: the issue of GLBT ageing, the Senate Inquiry into same-sex marriage, re-negotiation of the Public Health Outcome Funding Agreements and two submissions to the City of Sydney on development of their Youth Strategy and Syringe Disposal Policy.

Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers

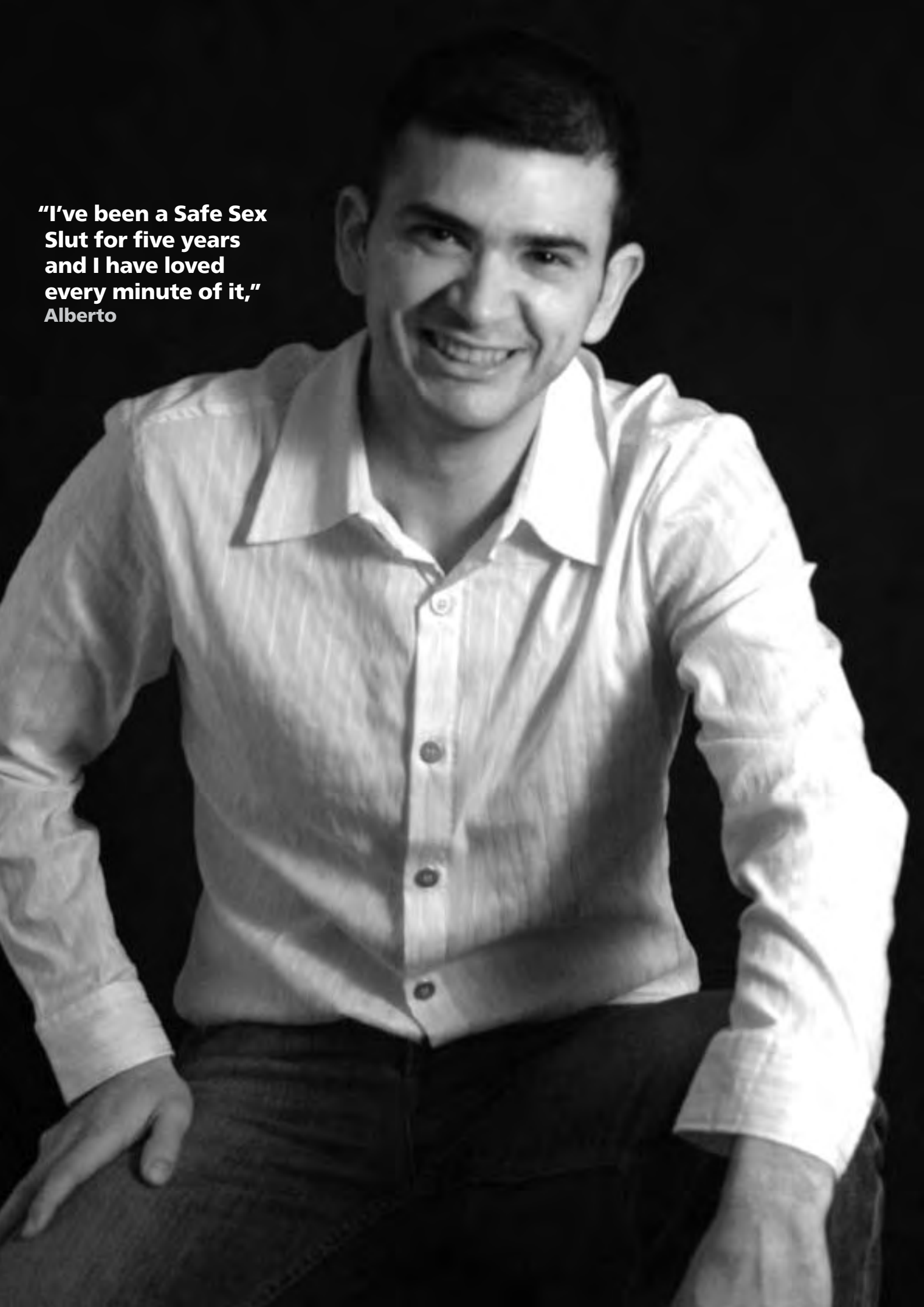
ACON lobbied for the City of Sydney Council to reinstate the position of a Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) to ensure Council remains sensitive to the needs of our community members and works with community based organisations to address issues of concern. We were ultimately successful in this bid.

Unfortunately we have been much less successful in our advocacy efforts with NSW Police. The GLLO program has been allowed to run into disrepair in recent years and not even a recommendation from the NSW Deputy Coroner for the reintroduction of the GLLO training program has led to this or the filling of the vital Surry Hills GLLO position.

Collaborations

ACON and PLWHA (NSW) prepared a number of joint submissions including one to the inquiry into NSW public dental services conducted by the Social Issues Committee of the NSW Legislative Council.

We also worked together hosting a series of consultation forums on the NSW Health HIV/AIDS Strategy. ACON and the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby worked closely on a number of issues including a survey of the major parties in the lead up to the 2004 Federal Election.



"I've been a Safe Sex Slut for five years and I have loved every minute of it,"
Alberto

HIV prevention remains a central focus of ACON's work with many of our services and groups promoting safe sex. The safe sex message underpins much of our work in community development and health promotion.

11 HIV PREVENTION

NSW Health released 2004 data showing the rates of HIV diagnosis down 14% among gay men between 2003 and 2004 with an overall drop of 4% throughout the state.

Other research showed a very clear link between the HIV prevention work of ACON and the HIV Interagency and an increase in safe sex which flowed through to a decrease in diagnosis in 2004. Unfortunately, early data for 2005 suggests this behaviour change was not sustained and the challenge now is to distill the key lessons from last year.

HIV Interagency

The HIV increases of recent years led to a range of collaborative strategies by ACON and our Interagency partners to reinforce the safe sex message. We worked closely with the NSW Health Department and Area Health Services along with People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) (PLWHA) and the Australasian Society of HIV Medicine (ASHM) on an HIV/AIDS Sector Action Plan.

Mates Campaign

For the first time, ACON incorporated safe sex, drug use, anti-violence and lesbian health into one campaign resulting in a campaign that addressed the broader health issues of our communities including HIV prevention. ACON's summer safe sex campaign – *Mates* – promoted a culture of care to reduce the incidence of HIV and STIs.

Periodic Survey

A study into the sexual practices of Sydney gay men showed they were more consistently using condoms. The 2004 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Study indicated the first downward trend in risk practices among gay men since 1996 particularly in sex on premises venues (SOPVs) where most of the HIV prevention campaigns were targeted.

Crystal and Safe Sex

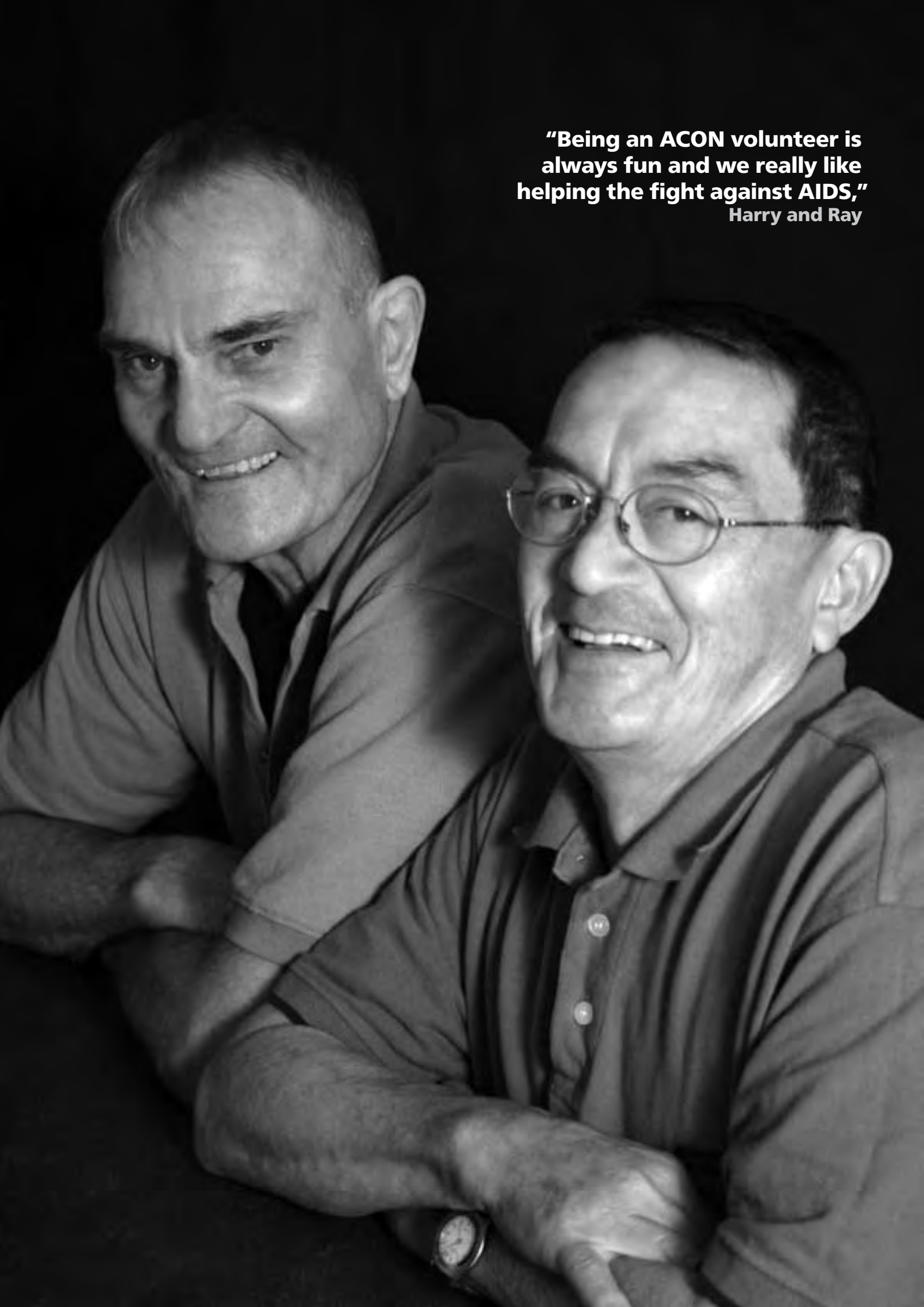
Over the past year, there was increasing concern that gay men who were using crystal were putting themselves at risk of contracting or passing on HIV. In response, ACON released a campaign that promoted safe sex and responsible use.

Positive/Negative Relationships

Due to the popularity of the *Opposites Attract* information booklet for couples where one is HIV+ and the other is HIV- we revised and updated the resource and released a second edition to ensure that men in HIV sero discordant relationships had up-to-date and accurate information.

Safe Sex Sluts

Our strong presence at community events has relied on the support of many volunteers including our Safe Sex Sluts who have proudly represented ACON at GLBT events and venues to distribute condoms and safe sex messages.



"Being an ACON volunteer is always fun and we really like helping the fight against AIDS,"
Harry and Ray

ACON distributes thousands of safe sex packs every year with condoms, lube and HIV/STI prevention messages. A team of volunteers regularly package safe sex packs and other resources to ensure our community is kept safe and up-to-date.

13 GAY MEN'S HEALTH

Our activities in gay men's health were central to our HIV prevention work this year with a range of HIV and STI prevention strategies.

During the year we restructured our Gay Men's Education Unit with specialist staff in campaign development, group work and venue liaison. The number and variety of educational and support groups for gay men has increased significantly since the creation of a specialist group work position.

The new team was involved in a number of health promotion activities including the release of the *Mates* campaign during the Mardi Gras season and in the development of a NSW Health campaign to address increases in STIs and HIV.

Safe Sex: No Regrets

ACON worked closely with NSW Health in the development and release of the NSW Health campaign *Safe Sex: No Regrets*. ACON led the development of the gay men's messages in the campaign and was responsible for the distribution of the gay component of the campaign. ACON was also closely involved in the development of the 30 second television advertisement aired on regional and Sydney stations to ensure that gay men were appropriately represented.

Sexually Transmissible Infections

A similar collaboration with the STIGMA (Sexually Transmissible Infections in Gay Men Action Group) saw the development of the website www.whytest.org and a campaign on Hepatitis A and B vaccinations. We offered free testing and vaccination vouchers to young gay men and patrons of sex on premises venues as part of the new campaign in conjunction with the Sexual Health Clinics in South Eastern, Central and Northern Sydney Area Health Services. Young gay men and sex venue users were the key target groups of this campaign as they are highly susceptible to Hep A and Hep B.

SOPVs

ACON continued to work with Sydney's sex on premises venues (SOPVs) to ensure they meet a range of standards set out in the *SOPV Code of Practice*. These standards include access to condoms and lube in all areas where sex occurs, adequate levels of lighting, staff training and displaying ACON's HIV/AIDS prevention and other educational material. ACON's *SOPV Code of Practice* has also been reviewed and updated this year to include an explicit requirement that SOPVs foster a culture of safe sex within their venue.



"I feel strongly about helping to provide support services for young queer women,"
Siri

15 LESBIAN HEALTH

More than 300 women attended workshops and groups with the Sydney Lesbian Health Project this year. Similar peer support activities were held in our branches where Lesbian Health workers also hosted a range of local events.

A new project worker commenced in the Lesbian Health Project during the year and we were able to expand our range of activities in health promotion for the lesbian community. The Lesbian Health Project made important contributions to ACON's summer campaign, *Mates*, with messages specifically targeting or including women around sexual health, safe drug use, homophobia and street safety.

Cancer Survivors

ACON commenced working with the Cancer Council NSW on a new program providing telephone support to lesbians who are newly diagnosed with cancer. We began recruiting volunteers who will be trained and supported to help other lesbians on their journey through cancer. This is an important joint project to help address some of the gaps in mainstream support services.

Late Bloomers

A new group was established for mature aged women coming to terms with their lesbian identity. Late Bloomers was created for older women who think they may be lesbian or bisexual and it has been successfully running as a drop-in peer support group. Monthly discussion afternoons at the Newtown Women's Library have been popular.

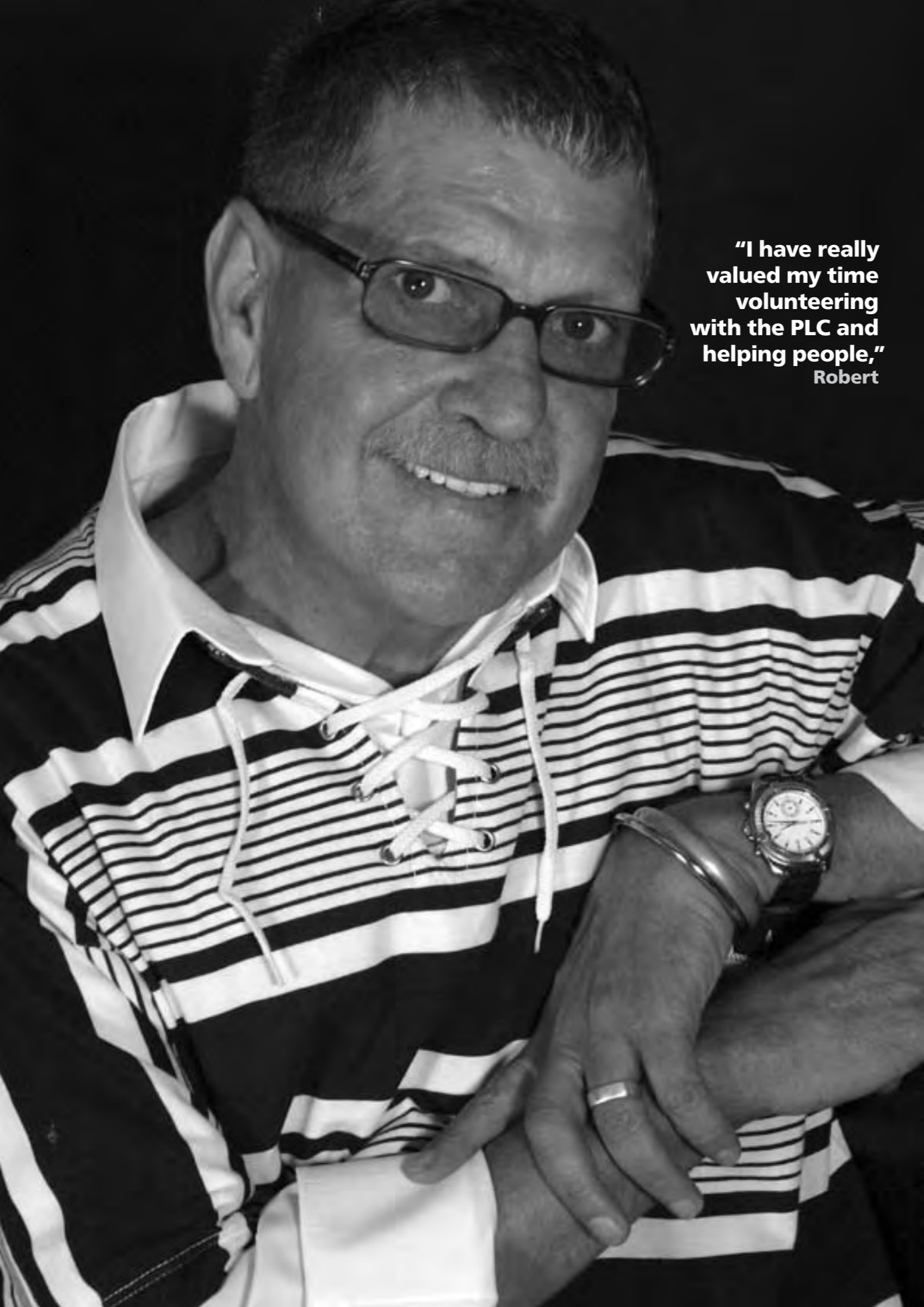
SWASH

ACON and the National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) conducted the Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) research project during the year. We conducted this valuable research project to help shed light on a range of health issues affecting women who identify as lesbian, bisexual or queer in Sydney.

Results of the 2004 survey showed lesbian, bisexual and queer women's knowledge of STIs is higher than the general community. Unfortunately their rates of tobacco use are also much higher than the rest of the community. ACON will use the results of this survey in future health promotion work.

Ins and Out

A new workshop program for young same sex attracted women was established during the year. Ins and Outs is based on the peer education and volunteer facilitation model of Fun & Esteem. The pilot six-week workshop was attended by twelve young women and it proved so popular that a waiting list was developed for future workshops. Over the course of six weeks the participants discussed coming out, relationships, homophobia, sexual health and a range of other issues relevant to same sex attracted women under 26.



"I have really valued my time volunteering with the PLC and helping people,"
Robert

Our health promotion teams for HIV positive men and women moved to the Positive Living Centre (PLC) this year to create a new HIV Living Unit. Bringing together these services has seen an increase in the number of clients accessing our health promotion activities and PLC services.

17 HIV LIVING

Positive Living Centre

The Sydney Positive Living Centre (PLC) in Bourke St, Surry Hills is a centre for all people with HIV and offers a range of services, recreational facilities, courses, workshops, meals and social events. Open Tuesday to Saturday, the PLC registered an additional 117 clients this year and provided more than 8,300 occasions of service. The PLC is a program of ACON in partnership with the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF), The Luncheon Club, PLWHA (NSW), Positive Heterosexuals and St Vincent's Community Health.

The PLC hosted a series of forums and workshops on sex, health and mental health with topics covering:

- Ageing with HIV
- Alcohol and other drugs
- Strategies for dealing with aggressive behaviour
- Managing lipodystrophy
- Managing depression
- Returning to work

Planet Positive is a popular evening social event hosted by the PLC and PLWHA (NSW). Alternating between the PLC and a licensed venue, Planet Positive is a chance for HIV positive people and their friends to socialise and establish peer connections. Almost 500 people attended a Planet Positive night and the popularity of the event continues to grow each year.

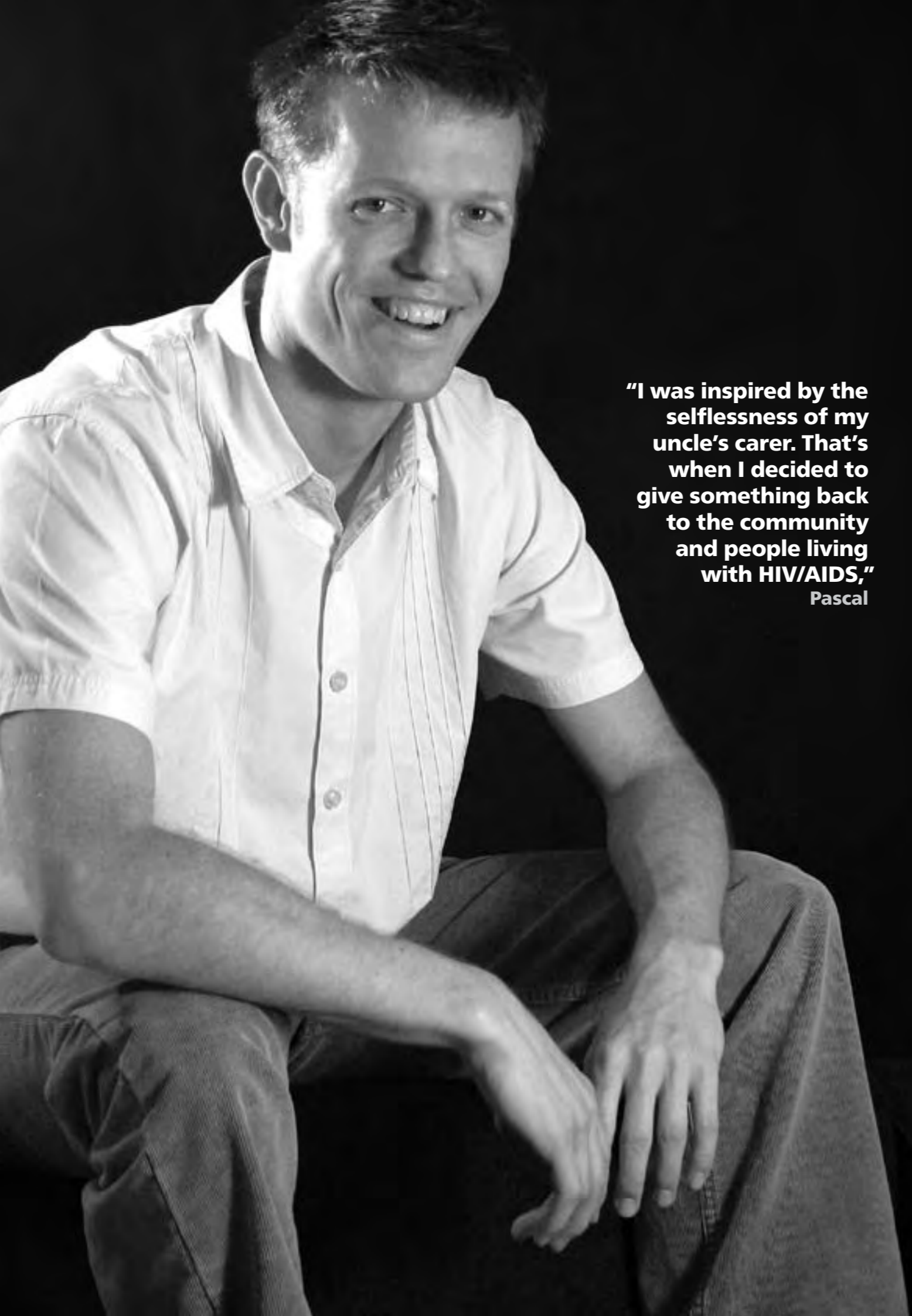
Men's Peer Support

The HIV Living Men's Peer Support Project provided a range of group and individual services to gay men living with HIV/AIDS. We provide advice on travel and immigration, financial support, and opportunities to volunteer. The project provided individual services to 168 people this year and hosted a range of group programs including Genesis, After Hours and Healthy Life+. The project also assisted in the delivery of sero-discordant groups for gay men.

A total of 58 men attended one of our weekend Genesis workshops for newly diagnosed gay men in Sydney. The workshops deliver education on HIV, STI prevention and complex health promotion messages in a supportive environment.

Many of the men attending Genesis also joined the After Hours group which attracted around 200 people to the monthly information night. Newly diagnosed gay men discussed a range of issues around HIV treatments, legal matters, testing and prevention.

Healthy Life+ is a popular health and fitness program for people living with HIV/AIDS. More than 30 people attended a Healthy Life+ program during the year with gym training, seminars and social activities. The 12-week program covered fitness, nutrition and relaxation for HIV positive gay men.



"I was inspired by the selflessness of my uncle's carer. That's when I decided to give something back to the community and people living with HIV/AIDS,"
Pascal

CSN marked 20 years of caring for people living with HIV/AIDS with a high profile campaign to recruit new volunteers. Thousands of people have volunteered with CSN over the past two decades to help people with HIV/AIDS live independently and with dignity.

19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK (CSN)

The number of volunteer carers with Community Support Network (CSN) almost doubled this year and we now have 211 active volunteers engaged in the service. Many of the new carers came to CSN from a major awareness and recruitment campaign in Western Sydney targeting Parramatta, Blacktown, Penrith and Liverpool. Given this increase in volunteers we ran six orientation training programs to provide new carers with relevant training and support.

More carers allowed us to provide practical support services to 153 clients compared to 131 the previous year, with personal and respite care, cooking, gardening, cleaning and shopping. The increased number of clients was linked to changes made in our eligibility criteria so that those with cyclical HIV illness could receive service quickly and easily and pregnant women in their third trimester could easily access services. We also began to provide assessment and home support while patients were hospitalised through the Walking the Ward program.

A newly presenting client undergoes a comprehensive assessment which determines their level of need and any other services which might be suitable to deliver additional support. An HIV positive client's health can fluctuate quickly and the CSN staff re-assess all active clients twice a year to ensure the appropriate level of service is provided at the right time.

Walking the Ward

In the past two years CSN introduced the Walking the Ward program to a number of hospitals in Sydney to ensure HIV positive clients discharged from hospital services receive timely access to our home support service.

CSN has now extended the program to include St Vincent's, Royal Prince Alfred, St George and Prince of Wales Hospitals. Working in partnership with hospital staff we are able to assess patients at the bedside and provide services while they are still in hospital.

Our volunteers can assist with cleaning homes and stocking the fridge before discharge, for example, and assist with transport home from hospital.

Transport

CSN has now extended its transport brokerage program to include Community Transport Organisations (CTOs) in South Sydney, Randwick, Waverley, Leichhardt, the Inner West, Blacktown, Bankstown, Liverpool, Penrith, the Blue Mountains and Hornsby. CTOs in these areas have signed a Memoranda of Understanding with ACON and are delivering brokered transport services to people with HIV/AIDS throughout Sydney to assist clients getting to and from medical and allied health appointments.



“It has been a real pleasure to volunteer with the Housing Project and a privilege to work with people so dedicated to others,”
Catherine

The staff and volunteers in our front of house services are often the first point of contact for many new clients. Reception can refer them to a range of support services and clients can access the Learning Centre with information resources, research facilities and internet services.

HOUSING, FAMILY SUPPORT, 21 TREATMENTS AND VITAMINS

Housing

ACON's Housing Project supports people living with HIV/AIDS who are at risk of homelessness to secure long-term, sustainable housing. We assisted 392 individuals during the year. We helped them to identify their housing needs and navigate the application process for Department of Housing, Community Housing, SAS/S or the private rental market. This year six people volunteered with our new Housing Buddy program to help clients with applications and moral support. ACON Housing staff also advocate on behalf of individuals who experience discrimination on the basis of their HIV sero status.

Treatments

The Treatments Information and Advocacy Project aims to meet the treatment-related needs of HIV positive people and those affected by HIV by providing information, education, support, decision making opportunities, referral assistance and other resources.

The project works closely with high HIV caseload general practitioners and also conducts information sessions for community members and other service providers.

International travel remained the most significant presenting issue for the 244 clients during the year, followed by side effect enquiries and beginning anti-retroviral treatment for the first time.

Family Support

ACON's Family Support Project works to relieve the long term pressure on families where one or more individuals are living with HIV/AIDS. We assist families to understand their rights and the services that are available to support them.

This year we delivered 197 occasions of service to 32 individual clients registered for the service. Some of the issues they sought assistance with included urgent housing, respite care, immigration advice, socio-legal information, support for new HIV diagnosis, late diagnosis during pregnancy, access to and financial support for child care services, advocacy and other financial assistance.

We also held three social events and group activities for families affected by HIV/AIDS to socialise and engage in peer support in an informal atmosphere.

Vitamin Service

The ACON Vitamin Service is an independent cooperative to provide cost-price vitamin and food supplements to people living with HIV/AIDS. The service registered 142 individuals through prescriptions provided by General Practitioners and sold 5,425 products last year.



“Volunteering is a great way to use my skills to contribute to my community and to learn more about my community,”
Etheon

Demand for ACON’s counselling services continues to grow and to help meet the need we are planning to introduce a new Community Counselling Project. Professionals in counselling, social work or psychotherapy will be involved on a volunteer basis for the project next year.

COUNSELLING AND 23 ENHANCED PRIMARY CARE

Counselling

Counselling services at ACON include short-term solution-focused interventions with information and referral. We generally see clients for six to nine sessions and our Intake and Assessment Service, between 11-1 and 3-5 each day, allows people to be seen promptly, assessed and referred to the best service for their needs.

As the only community-based professional counselling service in the sector, the service continues to receive far more client enquiries and presentations than can be accommodated. The vast majority of clients self-refer and the service acts as a primary care entry point for psychosocial services. Each client presenting through Intake and Assessment may require up to four hours of follow up service.

In the past year we provided more than 2,500 occasions of service. The majority of counselling clients were men from the Inner City, Inner West or Eastern Suburbs, with HIV positive people representing just over half the client load. Relationships remain the highest primary presenting issue as well as a need for HIV/STI related counselling support.

Enhanced Care Project

The Enhanced Care Project, in collaboration with high HIV caseload general practitioners, supports the care of patients with multiple needs. Project staff provided support to five major GP services including Ben Hanson Surgery, Taylor Square Private Clinic, Ground Zero, Holdsworth House Medical Centre and 407 Doctors. The project also began extending its services to low-caseload GPs through a pilot with Oxford Square Medical Centre and this will be expanded in the new financial year.

We supported GPs and more than 230 patients with multiple needs in the development and review of patient care plans, care coordination, assisting in the referral of patients to other health care services and providing brief short term interventions to support the patient in managing often complex health needs. Mental health remains the most significant presenting issue followed closely by HIV/STI counselling, housing, financial and legal support. Alcohol and other drug support also remains a significant specialist service and we have moved to increase partnerships with mental health and alcohol and other drug services in Sydney.



“People often stop the Drug Rovers to thank them and I’m really proud of the work we do,”
Colin

A series of Save a Mate training courses were conducted in partnership with the Australian Red Cross for community members. Many of the people who learnt about dealing with overdoses volunteered to be part of ACON’s Drug Rovers, a key initiative in caring for our community.

25 ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Injecting and Other Drug Use Project (IODU)

The IODU Project dealt with more than 500 requests for information and support from individuals and service providers this year. Members of the community sought information on a range of drug issues including strategies for controlling use, helping a friend or family member, referrals to other services and basic drug information. We also provided information to service providers on alcohol and other drug issues relevant to the GLBT community. ACON works with a wide range of agencies to reduce the impacts of alcohol and other drug use in the community and chairs the Surry Hills Community Drug Action Team (CDAT).

NSP

ACON’s Sydney Needle and Syringe Program provided more than 3,300 occasions of service during the year. We also supported injecting drug users with clean equipment and health information at our branches and this year saw an increased focus on intervention opportunities.

GHB

In response to increased community concern about the impacts of GHB use, ACON developed a harm reduction education campaign for a wide range of parties, pubs, clubs, social groups and SOPVs. The posters, press advertisements and information fliers were widely distributed throughout the state.

Crystal Meth

The 2004 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey identified an increase in crystal use amongst gay men in Sydney and we developed a series of forums and resources to help tackle this. Our forums for crystal users, concerned family and friends, and service providers attracted a number of people wanting information and support. To address concerns about anecdotal links between crystal use and unsafe sex practices we developed a crystal and safe sex campaign for wide promotion. We also worked with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) to undertake a rapid assessment around crystal and GHB which was funded by NSW Health.

Drug Rovers

ACON Drug Rovers work as a support team and set of eyes for medical and first aid staff at large dance parties, looking out for people in trouble as a result of alcohol or other drugs. Rovers are able to call for immediate medical assistance or help people to the medical teams. Drug Rovers are a key component of our harm reduction party outreach service which relies on the support of volunteers to help look after the health and safety of our community. This year we hosted the first Drug Rover Training day for 42 volunteers in partnership with NDARC, Mardi Gras Medical and the Red Cross.



“Volunteering with the AVP means that concerns from my community are represented,”
Nicole

The AVP has commenced a community consultation project to investigate the effects of homophobia in Arabic speaking communities and has established a steering committee to oversee the consultation in the coming year.

27 LESBIAN & GAY ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT (AVP)

The Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Project (AVP) provided information support, advocacy and referral to more than 90 victims of homophobic violence, harassment and abuse during the year.

The AVP is a key partner in the NSW Anti-Homophobia Interagency and helped conduct two regional professional development roundtables with 85 teachers and other service providers in Western Sydney and Lismore.

In response to calls for information from victims of ongoing harassment the AVP has developed a series of fact sheets providing information on strategies to deal with harassment in a number of settings – in the workplace, in an educational setting and with neighbours.

We also advocated for victims of homophobic violence at a number of forums including:

- Attorney General's GLBT Community Advisory Committee
- Anti-Discrimination Board Gay and Lesbian Consultation and
- Attorney General's Victims of Crime Interagency.

Drink spiking was again an issue for members of the GLBT community and the AVP developed a poster for display in licensed venues to raise awareness amongst the community of the risk of drink spiking.

Safe Place Program

The AVP expanded the Safe Place program to identify locations where members of the GLBT community can seek refuge from homophobic violence or abuse. Participating businesses place a Safe Place pink triangle on their door or window to identify them as a safe haven for people who feel that their safety is threatened. We have developed new partnerships with area health services, councils and a range of businesses and services to work together to improve community safety. The Safe Place program was expanded to a number of areas including Manly, Mosman and North Sydney with the focus now moving to Western Sydney as well as several regional centres.

Same Sex Domestic Violence (SSDV)

The AVP continued its work with the SSDV Interagency to keep same sex domestic violence on the agenda for our communities. The AVP and SSDV Interagency hosted three successful forums and provided professional development training on responses to SSDV for a range of services including NSW Police and the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service. Same sex domestic violence was also the topic of papers presented by the AVP at the Home Truths and Institute of Family Studies conferences during the year.



“Fun & Esteem helped me find new friends when I first moved to Sydney and I want to be able to help others in the same way,”
Brian

29 YOUTH PROGRAMS

ACON hosted a statewide youth forum as part of a new collaboration with other queer youth projects. With the support of same sex attracted youth we secured significant funding from the Foundation for Young Australians.

Fun & Esteem

This year the Fun & Esteem youth project introduced a revised model of its flagship workshop and commenced work on a new promotional campaign. Fun & Esteem hosted a series of forums with young people as part of a funding application for work with young GLBT in regional areas. Fun & Esteem has also taken on the coordination of the Queer Facilitators Interagency, an interagency for GLBT youth workers, and has commenced more coordinated outreach to GLBT groups on university campuses in Sydney.

Start Making Sense

The Start Making Sense workshops provide sexual health information, personal skills development and peer support to young gay and bisexual men. Information in the workshops covered communication, HIV and STI prevention, relationships and drug-related information. The workshops are facilitated by peer volunteers and groups run for six weeks.

During the year, we revised the workshop model to solidify the focus on HIV prevention and communication skills. An important addition to the model is the inclusion of a young HIV positive gay male speaker in the workshop program. A total of 11 workshops were held throughout the year with the involvement of 115 young men.

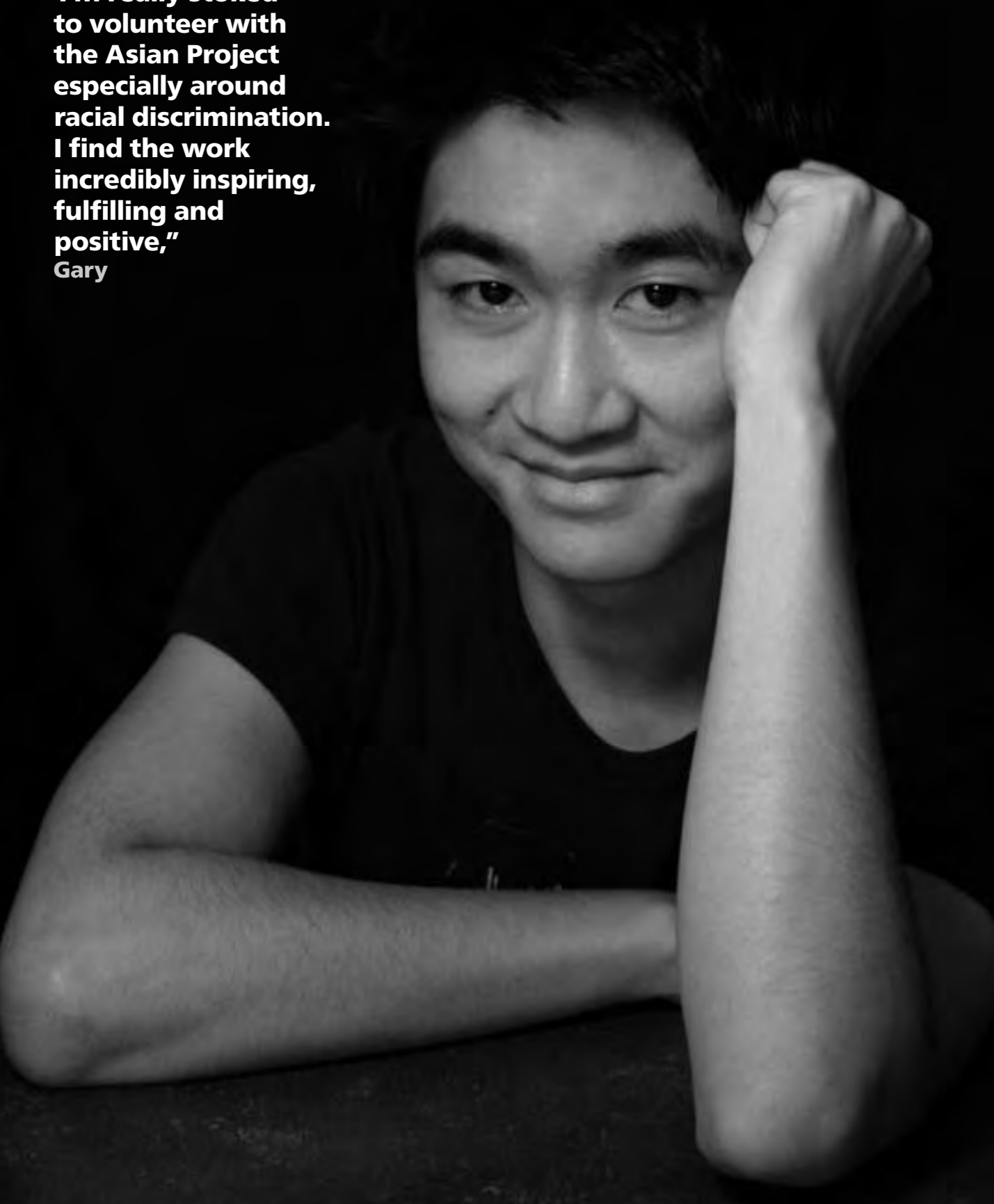
New Groups

The Wednesday group drop-in nights have been replaced with guest speaker forums. Up to 110 young men have attended each event. We held three forums this year on diverse subjects including male sex work, gay male parenting and a special Mardi Gras night about the art of drag. The Thursday Afternoon drop-in groups were also given a makeover and replaced by School's Out, a structured workshop for young gay and bisexual men in high school. This workshop was successfully piloted with information on HIV/STI prevention, coming out, homophobia and anti-gay bullying.

Queer Peer Project

A focus on same sex attracted youth during the year saw the establishment of a Queer Peer Project. A new partnership with our Fun & Esteem Project, Twenty 10 and Lesbian Youth Support brought together 30 young people from rural and regional areas for a statewide forum on queer youth issues. We have now been funded by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) for a two-year project to provide peer support leadership and facilitation training. The Partnership Grant from FYA will support the appointment of a project worker to coordinate training in seven areas across NSW.

"I'm really stoked to volunteer with the Asian Project especially around racial discrimination. I find the work incredibly inspiring, fulfilling and positive,"
Gary



A key focus of the Asian Project this year has been tackling racism in the GLBT community with the Queer Asian Racial Harmony Collective.

31 ASIAN PROJECT

The Asian Project provides a range of services including groups, newsletters and information resources, as well as individual client support and referral. More than 600 occasions of service were provided during the year.

The project's regular newsletter is distributed via e-mail and reaches over 500 Asian gay men as well as the service providers who work with them. The newsletter provides information on all aspects of the Asian Project and other ACON programs and events.

Support Groups

Silk Road is a peer support group attracting around 30 to 40 participants each month. The meetings provide support and information addressing sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention, anti-discrimination, anti-violence and general discussion groups. Asia Plus is a monthly support group for HIV positive Asian gay men providing peer based social support and information. The majority of meetings are held off site with a 'social yum cha' theme.

Collaborations

The Asian Project works with the Multicultural HIV/AIDS Service and provides support to a number of social groups including the 'Long Yang Club' social group for Asians and their friends, Gaysha, Kantana club and the Asian Marching Boys.

Tackling Racism

The Asian Project has provided community leadership in relation to incidents of racial discrimination in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community this year. Asian members of the community are often victims of both homophobia and racism.

During the year the Asian Project auspiced the Queer Asian Racial Harmony Collective and the implementation of a Harmony Day initiative involving the distribution of 'Kindness Cards' to promote cultural diversity with gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people.

The project also played a key role in the establishment of the ACON Racial Harmony Working Group, a group which aims to bring together culturally and linguistically diverse members of the GLBT community to work collaboratively on issues of racism and racial harmony. A series of public forums are planned for the coming financial year to share experiences and create ideas for change.

ACON is also seeking funding to conduct a number of initiatives promoting racial harmony in our community. A social marketing campaign and public events are being considered for the coming year.



"I volunteer with the Koori unit and I enjoy helping others empower themselves to live a life of positive wellbeing,"
Terrilee

ACON's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project connects many individuals with service providers throughout the state. It is a key community development initiative to improve the sexual health and general wellbeing of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT 33 ISLANDER PROJECT

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project delivers health promotion for gay, lesbian, sistergirl and HIV+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through individual assessment, referral and support groups. We provided more than 300 occasions of service this year particularly to gay men, lesbians, and sistergirls. The project provides an important source of individual support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our communities and helps create pathways for improved and appropriate service provision in a wide range of sectors including health, medical, legal, welfare, accommodation and drug and alcohol services.

[Support Groups and Social Events](#)

Regular social activities have seen up to 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gay men, lesbians and sistergirls coming together for barbecue gatherings, softball games and other activities. Five social events were held during the year, reducing social isolation and building community cohesion.

ACON also established a new Lesbian Support Network this year with around 15 women attending regular events. We secured funding from Lesbians Incorporated (LINC) for a range of facilitated discussion events and other community activities which have continued to be developed. A schedule of activities for a Gay Men's Support Network has been planned.

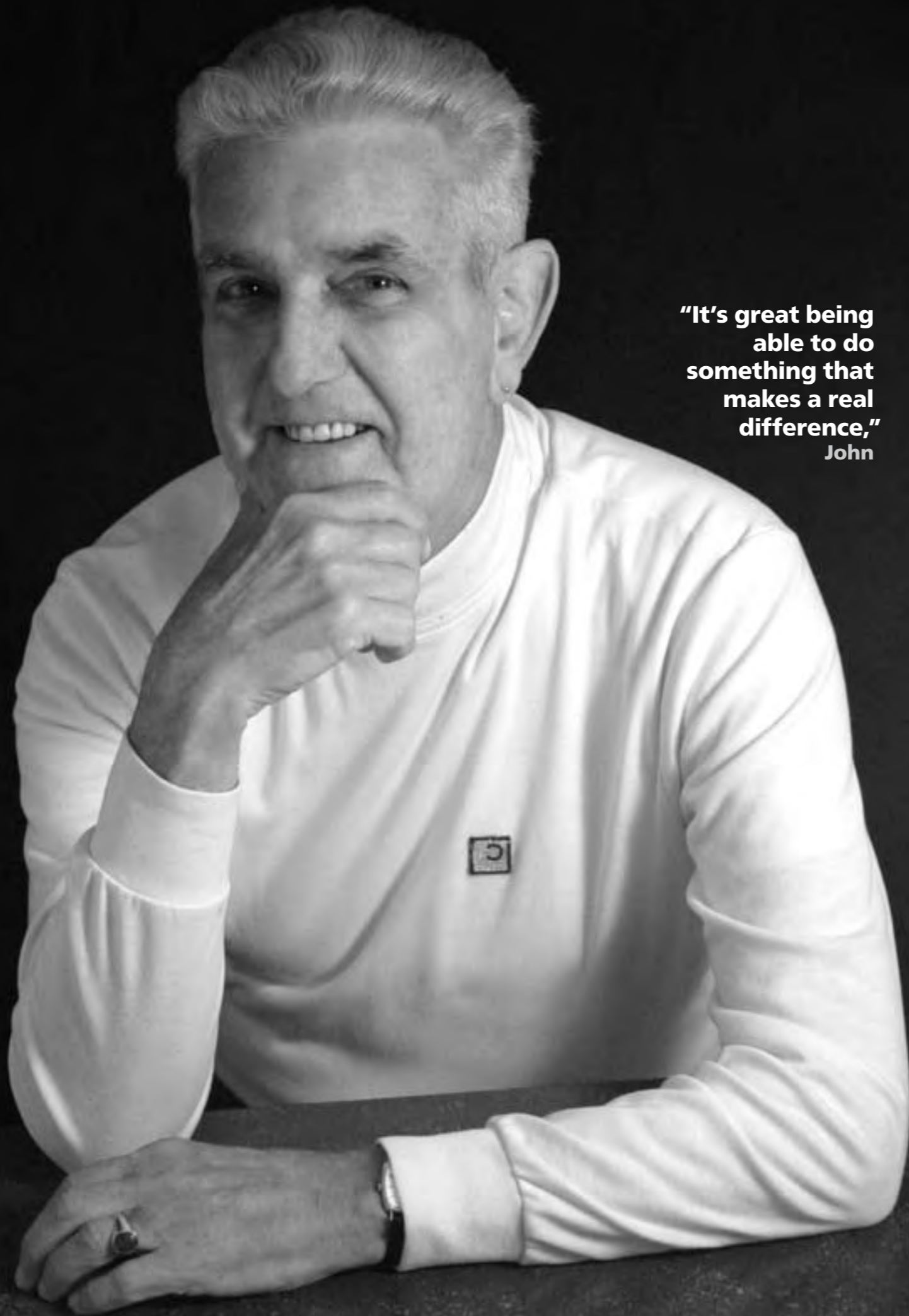
[Presentations and Education](#)

An important aspect of the project's work involves collaborating with other service providers and sectors to raise awareness and increase sensitivity to issues of concern to gay, lesbian, sistergirl and HIV positive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The project presented at a range of conferences, launches and forums on homophobia, sexuality, gender identity and sexual health including the national launch of AFAO's Sistergirl Sexual Health Campaign in Brisbane, the Takataapui Hui (National Maori Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Conference) in Auckland, New Zealand and Health In Difference: the Fifth National Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Health Conference in Melbourne.

[External Groups and Networks](#)

The project continues to participate in a range of interagencies, advisory groups and professional networks including the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, the Metropolitan Aboriginal Sexual Health Workers Network, the Statewide Aboriginal Sexual Health Workers Network and the National Indigenous Project Officers Network.



"It's great being able to do something that makes a real difference,"
John

More than 50 volunteers from MAG support a range of ACON services including our packing team who put together thousands of safe sex packs, safe injecting packs and resources for distribution

35 MATURE AGE GAYS (MAG)

Mature Age Gays (MAG) is recognised as the largest peer-based support group in the GLBT community. MAG is both a separate organisation and a project of ACON. Celebrating its 13th birthday this year it is also one of the longest running gay organisations in the country. MAG provides regular fortnightly meetings attended by between 120 and 200 men.

Although promoted as a social support group, MAG meetings are also an opportunity to provide information on a range of issues through regular guest speakers.

Topics for discussion varied widely through the year and included:

- Australian film making
- Anti-violence strategies
- Community development
- Diseases of the prostate
- Suicide prevention in seniors
- Legal advice
- Life coaching and counselling

MAGic

MAG in the Community (MAGic) is a service run by volunteers to provide support and assistance to MAG members who are experiencing ill health either in hospital or at home. Volunteer members of MAG also collect soft toys throughout the year to donate to the Sydney Children's Hospital HIV/AIDS unit.

Support

In addition to one-on-one support the project worker provides telephone support and referral to between 30 and 40 men each week. Calls are received from mature aged men locally and in areas geographically distanced from central Sydney. The project worker also provides outreach to smaller MAG groups in Watsons Bay and the Blue Mountains.

A bi-monthly newsletter is produced to provide information to MAG members on upcoming events, articles written by MAG members, news and resource information. The newsletter has 850 people registered on its mailing list.

MAGnet

MAGnet is a weekly social night for MAG members and friends introduced in 2002 to encourage new membership targeting a slightly younger age group of men between 40 and 50 years of age. The members meet at a local inner city venue, providing an alternative to meeting in the ACON building. MAGnet attracts between 20 and 40 men each week.



"I always knew I wanted to give something back and I have been rewarded tenfold by being there for someone else,"
Christine

37 WESTERN SYDNEY

Following a long consultation with clients, service providers and community members, ACON West relocated to our Sydney office. No changes have been made to services and staff provide outreach services to clients and communities in Greater Western Sydney.

Before our Wentworthville lease expired in early 2005 we spent some time looking at alternative locations for ACON West and during this process it became more apparent that the location of staff providing outreach did not affect service delivery.

The move to our Surry Hills office had no impact on the level or quality of service to our communities in the western suburbs but it will mean considerable savings on rent and other administrative costs. These savings will enhance our education, care and support services for the future.

CSN West

The smooth transition for ACON West staff moving into the city included the CSN worker joining the main team of Community Support Network offering clients of CSN West assistance with their home care and transport needs. A major recruitment campaign was developed to find more volunteers to cater for client needs in the western suburbs and a number of training sessions were held with new carers.

Transport arrangements for people living with HIV/AIDS were established with community transport organisations in Parramatta, Bankstown, Blacktown, Penrith, Fairfield, Liverpool and the Blue Mountains. Formal support arrangements were also made with the Aboriginal Transport Organisation based in Campbelltown.

Education and Community Development

ACON West provides education and community development services to support local community members and organisations. We also have a Lesbian Health project worker to offer support and referral for local women with lesbian health forums and parenting forums.

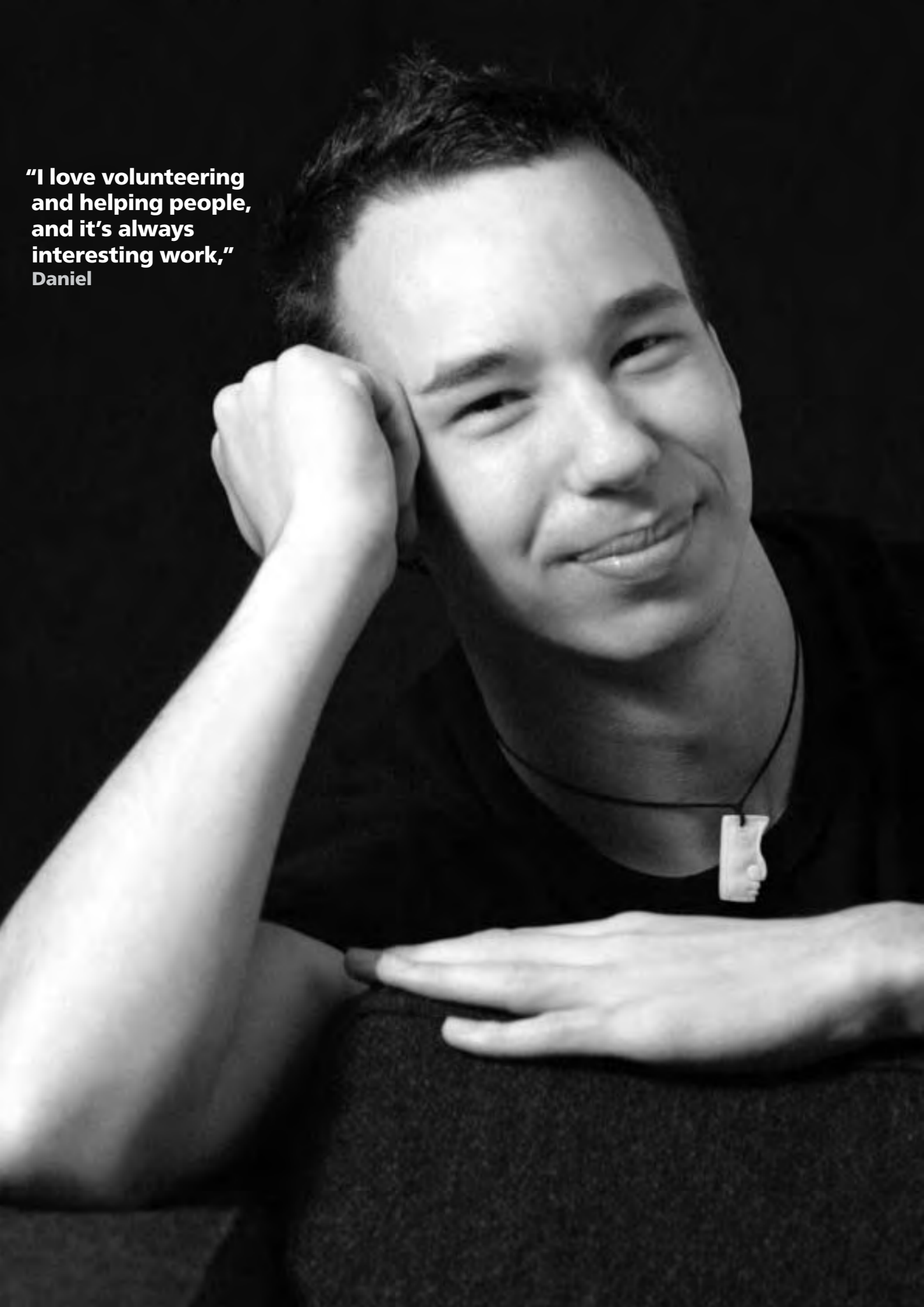
We work closely with sex on premises venues providing safe sex equipment and HIV/STI information. Several key campaigns were launched at premises in partnership with the SOPVs and we provided staff training.

ACON West also works in partnership with local Area Health Services on the Western Sydney Gay Men's Education Team (GMET).

Schools

ACON West continued to support and work with the Anti-Homophobia Interagency with presentations at schools to address the issue of homophobic violence and abuse. A number of counsellors and service providers approached ACON West for this service during the year.

We also continued to present workshops with secondary schools on affirming sexual diversity and offered a referral service for same sex attracted youth to support networks.



**"I love volunteering
and helping people,
and it's always
interesting work,"**
Daniel

39 ILLAWARRA

People living with HIV/AIDS in the Illawarra region have access to regular support group meetings hosted by ACON, and members of the GLBT community regularly attend events in ACON's Community Space.

The ACON Illawarra branch provides a drop-in facility for clients and visitors within the main office and a large community space with meeting facilities for community groups. The meeting space is an opportunity for us to promote HIV prevention, and groups that meet in this area include the Wollongong Lesbian Drop In, Gay and Bi Men's Drop In, Young and Proud and Unity.

Youth Services

Groups for GLBT young people or youth questioning their sexuality or gender are conducted in Wollongong and Nowra on a fortnightly basis. The groups provide social support in a safe GLBT friendly meeting space along with information and education around health and wellbeing issues for same sex attracted youth.

ACON Illawarra also offered Crossroads anti-homophobia workshops to Year 11 students in high schools in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. Workshops addressed issues around homophobia and sexuality and provided information on sexual identity and tolerance.

PFLAG

ACON Illawarra helped establish the first local Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) in the Illawarra and South Coast region. The local PFLAG group met for the first time to discuss shared issues around dealing with GLBT adolescents and to plan for future events.

MAPout

The MAPout project was an enormous success this year. More than 100 people attended the launch of the new project to document the lives and experiences of gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people in the Shoalhaven.

MAPout celebrated the 'extraordinarily ordinary' lives of the Shoalhaven GLBT community. Workshops were held on basic photography, composition and presentation, with a display of the final images proving to be a highly popular exhibition.

Transgender Forums

A Transgender Forum for service providers and people who identify as transgender was held in early 2005 in conjunction with the Gender Centre and Port Kembla Sexual Health. The forum looked at issues facing people who identify with a gender other than their birth gender and particular issues around isolation in a rural setting. An Illawarra Trans Afternoon Tea was also held to provide an opportunity for transgender people to discuss the types of support service they would like to establish in the Illawarra.



**“What I have gained through volunteering with ACON far outweighs the contribution I have made,”
Bronwyn**

ACON Northern Rivers commenced an outreach service into Tweed Heads in partnership with Clinic 145 Sexual Health Service to increase access for people living with HIV/AIDS, their partners, carers and family to HIV services in the local area.

41 NORTHERN RIVERS

ACON this year developed a draft HIV Health Promotion Plan for people living with HIV/AIDS in the Northern Rivers for 2006-2008. A number of new initiatives will be rolled out in the coming year to share health promotion messages with HIV positive people.

We also began consulting with members of the local gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities for our second community survey. The first survey, in 2001, helped shape a number of services and we hope the new research will give us a greater insight into the local GLBT community identity, behaviour and needs. Contributions from the survey participants will help us ensure our services better meet their needs.

ACON Northern Rivers held a highly successful Open Day for community members to learn more about the many programs and services provided locally and to see the newly refurbished Lismore office. The new office is also home to an art collection *New York, New York, and then some* donated by Jackson Gooch.

HIV Interagency

ACON Northern Rivers was successful in lobbying the local area health service for the establishment of an HIV/STI Interagency to coordinate HIV/STI program delivery across the area. A number of local community groups are represented on the Interagency to help coordinate HIV/STI information, programs and campaigns across the Northern Rivers region.

HIV Treatments

We provided one-on-one telephone and e-mail support and information about treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS. During the year we offered an outreach treatments program in Tweed Heads and a workshop in Port Macquarie. Our annual Treatments by the Sea program attracted 30 participants who were keen to find out more about HIV treatments, side effects and other related information.

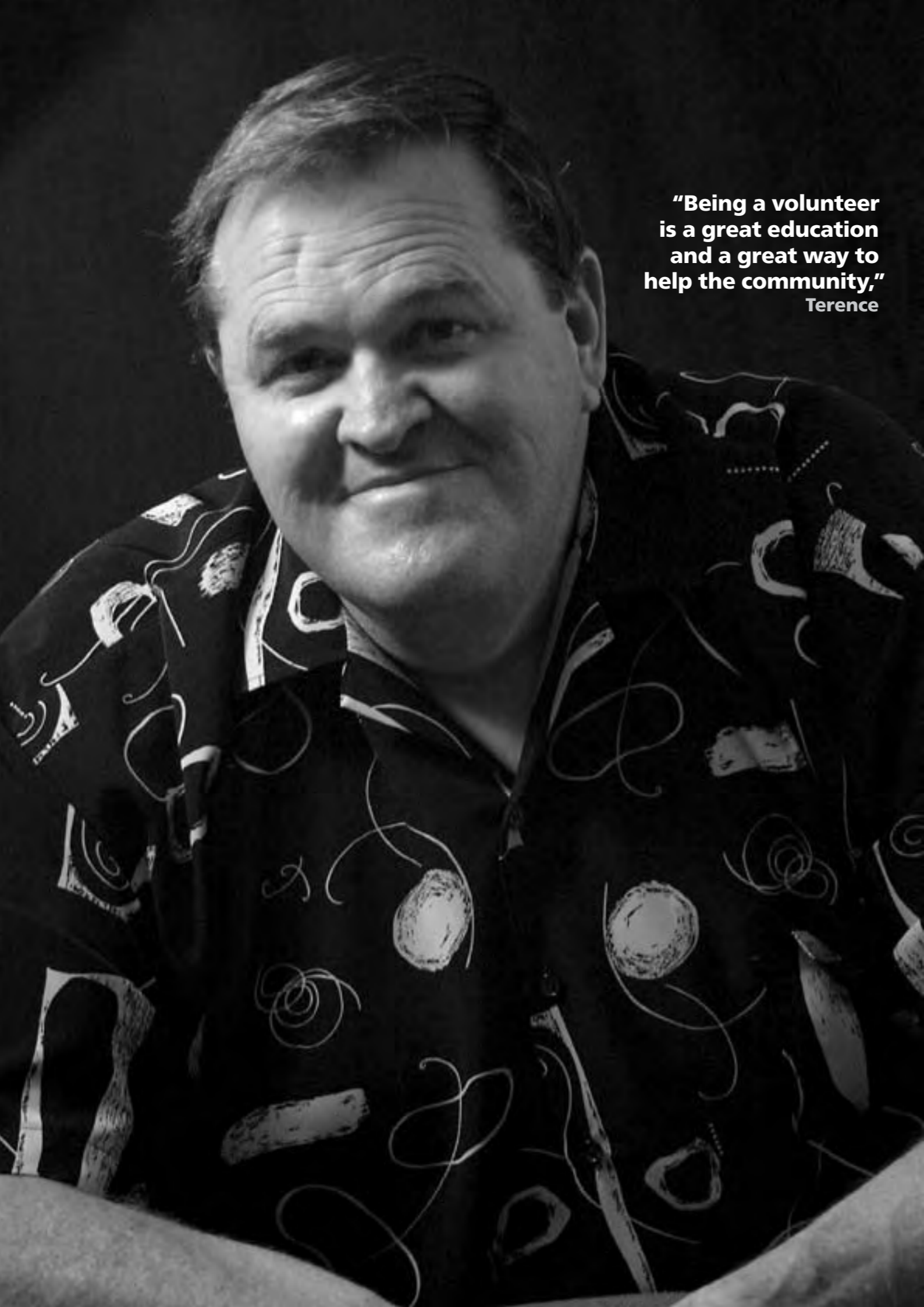
Community Development and Education

Our Community Development and Education team coordinated the annual HIV+ Gay Men's Health Retreat with more than 40 men joining in the weekend retreat. The retreat is a chance for gay men living with HIV/AIDS to come together in a supportive environment and discuss a range of issues impacting on their lives.

Aboriginal Lifestyle Program

ACON Northern Rivers offered a range of activities for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people this year including:

- Weekly education sessions at Namatjira Haven
- Fortnightly education sessions for the Tabulam Men's Group
- Sexual health education sessions in a variety of community settings at Casino, Coraki, Evans Heads, Lennox Heads and Tweed Heads.



**“Being a volunteer
is a great education
and a great way to
help the community,”**
Terence

43 HUNTER AND MID NORTH COAST

ACON Hunter and the Mid North Coast outreach service offer a wide range of workshops and support groups for our community to help improve self-esteem, create social networks and build a safe place to discuss GLBT and health issues.

ACON worked closely with a number of mainstream services and training organisations to improve access for our community members in the Hunter and Mid North Coast areas. We provided sensitivity training to new youth, welfare and aged care workers about issues affecting people living with HIV/AIDS, gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people. The Mid North Coast outreach service worked with the local Hastings Council to consult with GLBT community on a new social plan for the area.

The GLBT community celebrated the second annual Rainbow Festival in the Hunter and ACON was proud to support the festival.

ACON supports a number of local workshops and support groups including Q<18, Q<25, FUNQ, MYP, HUGS, NEON, Hunter Spice and FLAG.

Newcastle Campaign

In collaboration with Hunter Population Health, ACON Hunter developed a locally focussed social marketing campaign for Hunter gay men and other men who have sex with men. The campaign to promote regular sexual health check-ups will be rolled out at the beginning of the coming financial year. Posters, coasters and other resources for *Relieve Yourself* will encourage men to increase their sexual health awareness and prompt regular check-ups. The campaign will also include eight metre long posters on buses in the Newcastle area.

Positive Forums

ACON Hunter and Mid North Coast outreach supported a number of health forums and discussion groups for people living with HIV/AIDS including dental health, quit smoking, alcohol and other drugs, Christmas psychosocial tips, ageing, nutrition, sero-discordant relationships, sexual health and disclosure.

We held HIV Specialist Clinics in Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour as well as a PLWHA Lifestyle Forum on treatments and finances.

Counselling

ACON offers access to affordable, professional, sexuality-sensitive counselling for clients and community members in the Hunter region. Our Intake and Assessment system has been streamlined to quickly assess new clients for ACON or other services and to offer appropriate referrals.

Violence

A number of ACON initiatives this year addressed violence in different forms. We worked with tertiary students on homophobia issues and our Lesbian Health Project networked with the Hunter Domestic Violence Committee to formulate strategies to address same sex domestic violence. ACON Hunter also participated in the Regional Violence Prevention Interagency to raise awareness of GLBT and sex worker safety.



**"It's the
dedication and
enthusiasm of all
volunteers that
inspires me,"
Graeme (aka Mitzi)**

45 EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

ACON sourced more than \$260,000 in grant funding this year to support a range of new projects and services and a similar amount was raised through events. In the coming year we will implement a new Fundraising Strategy to further diversify ACON's funding base.

Many of the activities of ACON projects outlined in this report rely on self-generated funding through our events and other fundraising activities. We have a high profile at community events with the involvement of many volunteers who support our fundraising initiatives.

Red Ribbon

Marcia Hines and the 2004 Miss Universe Jennifer Hawkins both supported our major annual Red Ribbon fundraiser. Marcia and Jennifer were the face of our campaign to recruit volunteers and encourage people to buy a red ribbon for World AIDS Day. A television and radio community service announcement aired with Marcia asking people to wear their heart on their sleeve with a red ribbon. More than \$100,000 was raised in the Red Ribbon Appeal thanks to the many volunteers who rattled buckets and sold red ribbons. World AIDS Day on December 1 was marked with the annual Candlelight Memorial at Hyde Park.

Mardi Gras

ACON celebrated its 20th year in the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade with hundreds of people in the ACON float promoting safe sex and general health messages for our community. More than 300 people joined the ACON float entry representing the broad range of programs, care and support services we provide through all of our offices. We proudly won the Judges Choice Award for our entry.

Mardi Gras 2005 was the first time many of our projects had marched together and it was a great way to show how ACON has grown over the past two decades.

ACON hosted five Mardi Gras Festival events and had a strong presence at the Mardi Gras Launch and Fair Day as well as the Mardi Gras Party with our party outreach service. ACON events in the 2005 Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival included:

- OZ Showbiz Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Hats Off
- The Great Debate
- Big Bingay
- Velvet Lesbian Party and
- Visions Positive Art Exhibition II

Bingay

This weekly fundraising night at the Imperial Hotel has grown to include four Big Bingays each year at the Paddington RSL Club raising \$10,000 at each Big night. Bingay hosts Mitzi MacIntosh and Naomi Palmer were awarded the 2004 SSO Pride Awards for Most Outstanding Community Group and Naomi was also awarded the DIVA 2004 ACON Queen of Hearts for her commitment to our community's health.

SEX WORKERS OUTREACH PROJECT (SWOP) 46

More than 13,000 occasions of service including peer education and referral were provided to individual sex workers, brothel owners and others through the Sex Workers Outreach Project this year.

SWOP offered support networks and provided health education and services on a range of issues this year including:

- Safe sex
- Working safely
- Sexually Transmissible Infections
- HIV/AIDS
- Hepatitis A, B and C
- Negotiation skills
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Violence
- Sexual health
- Contraception
- Safe injecting.

SWOP was also active in advocacy around council compliance activities and their impact on public health and regularly contributed to the Sexual Health Outreach Workers Network (SHOWNet).

An important coup for SWOP this year was being invited to present two skills workshops as part of the Bachelor of Policing Course held at the University of Western Sydney. The Workshops covered "Communication Skills for Police Officers" and focused on the considerable communication skills needed to respond to diverse people including sex workers in diverse settings. The workshops were extremely well received and SWOP has been invited to present next year.

Male Sex Worker Project

The project delivered more than 50 outreach sessions to brothel, escort, private and street-based male sex workers. HIV positive sex workers accessed SWOP for referrals to housing, counsellors and peer support services. SWOP also advocated on behalf of male and transgender sex workers on local government issues related to home-based sex work.

Transgender Sex Worker Project

The project, with around 40 outreach sessions, provided one-on-one peer based information, support and referral to more than 285 individuals. Sexual health issues such as PEP, Hepatitis A and B vaccination and HIV/STI testing were discussed in outreach sessions. SWOP also represented worker views to local council on street closures in transgender working areas.

Women's Team

More than 800 female sex workers were seen by SWOP outreach staff and 300 parlours and strip clubs were accessed. The Women's Team provided health information on STIs, HIV, safe sex equipment, support and referrals. Needs assessments were undertaken for street sex workers and the results are to be used to tailor education and training for this hard to reach group particularly around issues of injecting drug use.

SEX WORKERS OUTREACH PROJECT (SWOP) 47

The Sex Workers Outreach Project organises a number of social activities throughout the year including the popular annual Hookers and Strippers Ball.

NESB Project

SWOP visited close to 700 multicultural sex industry workplaces with the aid of the multi-lingual video resource "No Regrets". English classes for multicultural sex workers were regularly provided throughout the year and PEP information was printed in Thai, Chinese and Korean. A partnered outreach with Sydney Sexual Health Service was also carried out. Issues addressed included sexual health, HIV/AIDS, Hep A, B and C, safe sex and negotiation skills.

Resource Production Project

This project continues to produce four issues per year of the popular publication *The Professional*. This magazine gives a voice to sex workers responding to issues of public policy as well as providing a creative outlet for those sex workers skilled in poetry and short story writing. Articles included HIV/AIDS, STI's and Hepatitis C, treatments and testing advice. These pages were also printed in Thai, Chinese, and Korean so that non-English speaking background sex workers had access to this important information. Stigma and discrimination, council planning policies and their impact on health and safety, the lack of understanding of sex workers' health practices by other key agencies and reports on forums were also issues discussed in articles this year.

Rural Project

More than 30 sessions of outreach were conducted across the Illawarra, Hunter and Gosford areas with more than 120 venues visited. The Illawarra Project accessed over 56 street sex workers and provided sexual health screening, peer education and referral to other agencies. Significant issues included PEP, HIV/AIDS, STIs and Hep A, B and C. Outreach was also undertaken to the Mid and Far North Coast, Tweed Heads, Bathurst, Orange, Armidale and Albury. These visits accessed parlours and street workers as well as private workers and played an important part in linking these often isolated sex workers with SWOP's peer education services.

Great Western Highway Project

SWOP received COAG funding for a further year to enable it to continue outreach to the marginalised sex workers on the Great Western Highway at Mt Druitt. SWOP has been undertaking weekly outreach to this area with Western Sydney stakeholders and has accessed more than 200 street workers in the last 12 months. Issues addressed include sexual health background and education, safe sex, safe injecting and drug use patterns, the incidence and treatment of Hep C and HIV and social issues such as homelessness and high levels of violence and abuse sustained whilst sex working on the Greater Western Highway.

BOARD MEMBERS 48



Adrian Lovney
President

Kate Connors
Vice President

David Buchanan
Secretary

Rod Bruem
Treasurer

Adrian has 15 years experience at governance level in HIV/AIDS organisations, and in public sector program and policy analysis/advice. He is currently a general manager in the financial services industry.

Kate has more than eight years experience in public sector policy advice and analysis. She is currently employed as a lawyer with the Australian Law Reform Commission.

David is a barrister and has been a member of ACON for close to two decades. He has served on the ACON Board for 18 years.

Rod is a communication specialist with 20 years experience in journalism, politics and media management. He is currently employed as a corporate relations manager for Telstra.



Stevie Clayton OAM
Ex Officio

Stevie was in the role of ACON Deputy Executive Officer for three years before being appointed Chief Executive Officer four years ago. She is also a member of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal, and has many years experience in community-based organisations and management.



Deb Broughton
Staff Representative

Deb was a volunteer with CSN before she started working with ACON in 1997. She is currently the CSN Coordinator, a First Aid Officer and member of the Organisational Health Committee.

49 BOARD MEMBERS



Dean Price

Linette Collins

Simon Moore

Garrett Prestage

Dean has more than five years experience in student and GLBT organisations. He is currently working with a peak disability rights and advocacy group People with Disabilities Australia.

Linette has a background in public health, public policy, health services management, research and law enforcement.

Simon is director of creative services with a boutique design and advertising agency. He has more than 10 years experience in business management.

Garrett is a lecturer at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research. He has more than two decades of experience researching gay and lesbian community and health issues.



Hugh McLeod

Hugh is a general practitioner with experience working in medical practices with a high caseload of people living with HIV/AIDS.



Geoff Honnor

Geoff has an extensive background in health administration and management together with policy development and leadership in the HIV sector. He is currently Executive Director of PLWHA (NSW).

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 50

AIssi Aaron
Cath Adams
Nicola Addison
Brett Aitkenhead
Warwick Allan
Maria Anderson
Gary Aschmoneit
Michael Aschmoneit

Peter Baldwin
Milo Bamford
Nicole Barakat
Jorge Baron
Niki Barr
Sheryl Barry
Jason Barry-Cotter
Jill Barwick
Ben Bavinton
Ruth Bearpark
David Beddie
Kerri Bell
John Bennett
Lisa-Anne Bennetto
Jeanne Bernhardt
Scott Berry
Patrick Bishop
Zoe Bishop
Nigel Blackwood
Gregory Bork
Brian Bowman
Rosemary Bristow
Melinda Brock
Barrie Brockwell
Alan Brotherton
Deb Broughton
Cadence Brown
Kooncha Brown
Malcolm Brown
Marvin Brown
Rod Bruem
David Buchanan
Chris Bull
Shane Burgess
Keith Buss
Leith Butler
John Byrne

Erin Cahill
Bianca Calandra
Carmela Calandra-Zamecnik
Elizabeth Cameron
Donna Campbell
Warwick Capper
Theresa Caruana
Lara Casser
Jules Cassidy
Somali Cerise
Julie Chalmers
Baden Chalmers
Peggy Chan
John Charles
Jason Chatwin
Jum Chimkit
Samuel Choy
Joshua Chralowics
Stevie Clayton
Chris Clementson
Teresa Clonan
Chris Collins
Crellyn Collison
Sam Collova
Mark Connolly
Kate Connors
Annaliese Constable
Feona Cowlin
Kim Craig
Catherine Crawford
Duncan Cresswell

DJohn Daly
Wasuntaree Daradikul
Alex Davidson
Ron Davis
Marguerite Dean
Martin Delaney
Jari De Medeiros
Kate De Maere
Alan Denmead
Colin Dent
Sarah Dickson
Gerrand Ding
John Dixon
John Doherty

Ian Down
Simon Drew
Craig Duke
Jamie Dunbar
Alberto Duran
Roslyn Durnford
Evelyn Dwyer

Peter Eames
Marc Eisman
Veronica Eulate
Gerard Farmer
Lance Feeney
Kate Fisher
Marie Fisher
Bernard Flannery
Michael Flinn
Alan Florence
Cherie Flowers
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Debbie French
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Lara Goulding
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Andrew Green
Katherine Green
Brett Greenwood
Warren Griffiths

HDenise Hanlon
Barrie Harrison
Linda Hayes
Tony Head

Kim Heap
Will Heckmann
Craig Herron
Richard Heystraten
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Joanna Holden
Geoff Honnor
Murray Hood
Peter Horodecki
Patricia Holton
Mitchell Hughes
Andrew Hunter
Charles Hunter
Edvin Husoy

Peter Irons
Detlev Jackson
Paul Jansa
Daniel Johnson
Dean Johnston
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Roni Joukhador

Fred Kakish
Laurie Keane
Robert Kellett
Stephen Kernohan
Catherine Klaffer
Ulo Klemmer
Joanne Knight
Ron Knight
Shawn Kopel

Paul Lambert
Deirdre Lane
Chris Lawrence
David Lee
Glenn Lewis
Kay Lewis
Casey Li
Jayne Liddy
Gary Lo
Olivia Lolohea
Kristina Love
Adrian Lovney
Jane Lowe

MXiuyun Ma
Mitzi Macintosh
Daniel Madeddu
Kristin Magill
Mahamati Mahamati
Annette Maie
Colin Malzard
Emily Marsden
Chantell Martin
Curt Mason
Terence Mateer
Lindy May
Siri May
norrie mAy-welby
Tony Maynard
Rima Mazloum
Julia McCall
Lisa McCann
Pol McCann
Roni McGarrigle
David McGuigan
Craig McKiernan
David McLeod
Hugh McLeod
Maria McMahan
Dennis Meijer
Carlos Miller
Phillip Moore
Simon Moore
Jefferson Moreira
Maggie Moylan
Ziedni Muhamad
Alison Murray
Ian Murphy

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Clinton Neeson
Michael Newcombe
Sandro Nocentini
Graham Norton

Adrian Oakley
Fred Oberg
Brendan O'Connor
John O'Dea
Alona Tania Olsen
Lissa O'Neill

Kevin Orrell
Sean O'Rourke
Steve Ostrow

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Naomi Palmer
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Etheon Parkes
Wendy Parsons
George Pavlides
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Tony Petrevski
Shaun Petterson
Graham Phillips
Joanne Piggott
Libby Pike
Carl Piraino
Michael Po
Emma Pocock
Katelund Povey
Ty Power
Ray Prasad
Gavin Prendergast
Garrett Prestage
Dean Price
Remy Pudlowski
Cameron Purvis

Ronald Quilter
Heath Ramsay
Suriya Raphajittikul
Greg Reading
Michael Reece
Graeme Roberts
Mark Roberts
Tom Robertson
Kenn Robinson
Maureen Rogers
Lisa Ronneberg
Paul Rooms
Matthew Rosen
Christine Rowan
Jamie Rowling
Katy Roy
Nick Roy
Jen Rudland
Felicity Ryan

Dermot Ryan
Kirsten Sadler
Silvana Sannuto
Ray Sarsin
Mary Anne Saunders
David Scarlett
Lance Schema
Stephen Scott
Akshay Shanker
Rock Shipton
Shân Short
Terrilee Simpson
Renai Smith
Natasha Smithies
David Solomon
Alanna Somers
Greg Staples
Adam Steinbeck
Scott Steward
Jonathon Street
Marina Suarez
Rob Sutherland

Ben Tart
Bronwyn Taverner
Matthew Taylor
Themistos Themistou
Mellisa Thorp
Patrick Tierney
Gerard Tobin
Kon Toumazos
Joy Treeanekpinij
Brian Treloar
Todd Trenerry
Ron Tripp
Andrew Trist
Julie Truong
Liza Turner
Ronnie Turner
Simon Turner
Chris Tzar

Bill Upton
James Urban
Sharon Walks
Pascal Van De Walle
Hans Vandyk

Francesco Vellozzi
Mary Vyssaritis
WPrakata Wager
Mailis Wakeham
Scott Walsberger
Michael Walton
John Wang
Tanya Warr
Carrie Watson
Robert Watson
Raymond Webb
Janna Weller
Lynne Whittall
Stephen Wilcox
David Wilkins
Darrell Williams
Ebony Williams
Sonny Williams
Kerry Williams
Rodney Junga-Williams
Terry Wills
Chris Wilson
James Winter
Lucky Wirajaya
Dave Wolpert
Richard Wong
James Woodhead
Ron Woods
Rachel Wotton
Julie Wylie

Farzad Yazdanparast
Craig Yeates
Zuni Zacutti
Tess Ziems
Pei Zou

Special thanks to the hundreds of other people who volunteered this year with:

- Community Support Network (CSN)
- Positive Living Centre (PLC)
- Red Ribbon Appeal
- Safe Sex Sluts
- Drug Rovers
- Packing Teams

SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS 52

AAAA Computers,
ABC Radio,
Access Systems,
AIDS Councils around Australia,
AIDS Dementia and HIV
Psychiatry Team (ADAHPT),
AIDS Trust of Australia,
Albion Street Centre,
Alcohol and Drug Information
Service (ADIS),
Allsorts (University of
Wollongong),
Ankali,
Ansell,
Arq,
Arrows/MC's,
Aurora,
Aussie Boys,
Australian College of Applied
Psychology,
Australian Council of Social
Services (ACOSS),
Australian Federation of AIDS
Organisations (AFAO),
Australian Federation of
Homelessness Organisations,
Australian Health and Medical
Research Centre (AHMRC),
Australian Institute of
Management Services,
Australian Lesbian Medical
Association (ALMA),
Australian Personal Computer,
Australian Red Cross,
Australian Research Centre
in Sex, Health and Society
(ARCSHS),
Australian Society for HIV
Medicine (ASHM),
Bell Shakespeare,
Big Beat,
Big Boy's Café,
Bigge Park Centre,
Bingay - Mitzi Macintosh &
Naomi Palmer,
Black Pan Restaurant,
Blockbuster Newtown,
Bloxham & Chambers,
Blue Sisters Softball Team,
Bobby Goldsmith Foundation
(BGF),
Bodyline,
Boehringer Ingelheim,
Bondi Youth,
Bookshop Darlinghurst,
Bridge Climb,
Bristol Myers Squibb,
Bruce Pollack Publicity,
Byrongay.com,
Café Abercrombie,
Canterbury Bankstown Gay &
Lesbian Social Group Inc,
Carers NSW,
Cellblock Youth Services,
Central Coast Area Health
Service,
Central Sydney Community
Transport,
Centrelink,
City of Sydney Council,
City of Sydney Overdose
Community Training Project
Clinic 145,
Clinic 16,
Coca-Cola Amatil,
Colombian Hotel,
Commonwealth Department of
Health and Ageing,
Community Centre for Welfare
Training,
Community Housing Federation
of Australia,
Community Options (COPS),
Community Transport of NSW,
Community Transport
Organisations (CTO),
Computerworld,
CONTACT,
Corporate Express IT,
Correllis Café,
Council for Civil Liberties,
Critic Sitter,
CSN Carers' Representative
Committee,

Darcy House,
Darlinghurst Community Health
Centre,
Dendy Cinemas,
Department of Family and
Community Services,
Des Kilkeary Lodge,
Dimension Data,
DIVA,
DNA Magazine,
Do Hair,
Domestic Violence Advocacy
Service,
Domestic Violence Line,
Dr Ben Hanson and Associates,
Dympna House,
East Nowra Neighbourhood
Centre,
Fit X Gym,
Floral Decorator,
Foley House,
Food Distribution Network,
Foundation for Young
Australians,
FPA Health,
Gay & Lesbian Counselling
Service,
Gay & Lesbian Immigration
Taskforce (GLTIF),
Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby
(GLRL),
Gay and Married Men's
Association (GAMMA),
Gay Men's Domestic Violence
Counselling Service,
Gender Centre,
Glaxo Smith Kline,
Gloria Jean's Oxford St,
Glow Girl,
Glyde,
Gold's Gym,
Ground Zero Medical Practice,
Harbour City Bears,
Headquarters,
Healthy Cities Illawarra,
Hepatitis C Council,

Hewlett Packard,
HIV AIDS Library Network
(HALN),
HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC),
Holdsworth House General
Practice,
Home and Community Care
(HACC),
home Nightclub,
Homecare NSW,
Homeless Action Team and
Support Services,
Homelessness NSW/ACT,
House of Priscilla,
Hunter New England Area
Health Service,
IBM,
IDC,
IDG and their associates,
Illawarra Legal Centre,
Illawarra Women's Health
Centre,
Imperial Hotel,
Inner City Legal Centre,
Jansen Newman Institute,
Ken's of Kensington,
Kings Cross CDAT,
Kingsteam,
Kirkton Road Centre,
Krispy Kreme,
Langton Centre,
Laurie Perrett,
Learn to Include,
Legal Aid,
Leichhardt Women's Health
Centre,
Lemon Sundaes,
Lesbian Health Interagency
Network (LHIN),
Lesbians Incorporated (LINC),
Lesbians on the Loose (LOTL),
Lifeline,
Lismore and Districts Women's
Health Centre,
Lismore City Council,
Liverpool Hospital,
Luncheon Club,

Manly Drug Education and
Counselling Centre,
Mardi Gras Medical,
Massage Therapy Erskineville,
Max's Corporate Catering,
MCC 'Out of the Closet'
Emporium,
Meals on Wheels,
Medically Supervised Injecting
Centre,
Mental Health Coordinating
Council,
Merck Sharpe & Dohme,
Metropolitan Community
Church,
Midnight Shift Hotel,
Mission Australia,
Mortgage Choice Bondi
Junction and Newtown,
Moulin Rouge Down Under,
Multi-cultural HIV/AIDS &
Hepatitis C Service,
National Association of
People Living with HIV/AIDS
(NAPWA),
National Centre in HIV
Epidemiology and Clinical
Research (NCHECR),
National Centre in HIV Social
Research (NCHSR),
National Drug and Alcohol
Research Centre (NDARC),
Network of Alcohol and Drug
Agencies (NADA),
New Mardi Gras,
New Theatre,
News Ltd.,
Newtown Hotel,
North Sydney Council,
NorthAIDS,
Northern Rivers Community
Legal Centre,
Northern Rivers Social
Development Council,
Nowra Youth Centre,
NSW Anti-Discrimination Board,

NSW Anti-Homophobia
Interagency,
NSW Attorney-Generals
Department,
NSW Council of Social Services
(NCOSS),
NSW Department for Women,
NSW Department of Aboriginal
Affairs,
NSW Department of Ageing,
Disability and Home Care,
NSW Department of
Community Services,
NSW Department of Corrective
Services,
NSW Department of Housing,
NSW Federation of Housing
Associations,
NSW Health,
NSW Ombudsman's Office,
NSW Police Service,
NSW Users and AIDS Association
(NUAA),
Office of Community Housing,
Opera Australia,
Outfielders Softball Team,
Oxford Hotel,
Oxford St Medical Centre,
Oz Showbiz Cares/Equity Fights
AIDS,
Ozigay.com,
Pacific Internet,
Parents, Family and Friends of
Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG),
People Living with HIV/AIDS
(PLWH/A),
People with Disabilities,
Pets Are Wonderful Support
(PAWS),
Pine Street Studios,
Pink Nation,
Pink Plane,
Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison
Officers (GLLOs),
Positive Central,
Positive Heterosexuals,

Premier's Department NSW,
Pride,
Prince of Wales Hospital,
Private Workers Alliance,
Psychologists & Counsellors in
HIV/AIDS,
Queer Arts Collective,
Queer Nation,
Queer Screen,
Quilt Project,
Radical Faeries,
Redfern Aboriginal Medical
Service,
Redfern Community Health
Centre,
Relationships Australia,
REPIDU Redfern,
Roche Pharmaceuticals,
Royal North Shore Hospital,
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital,
Sacred Heart Services,
Sanctuary,
Scarlet Alliance,
Seven Eleven,
Sexual Health Services in NSW,
SHAIDS,
Shellharbour City Council,
Shellharbour Youth Services,
Signal,
Social Workers in AIDS (SWAIDS),
South Eastern Sydney &
Illawarra Health Service
South West Inner Sydney
Housing Co-op (SWISH),
Southern Youth and Family
Services,
St George Hospital,
St Vincent's Community Health
Centre,
St Vincent's Hospital – Mental
Health Service and Alcohol &
Drug Service,
Stanford House,
Star City Showroom,
STIGMA,
Stonewall Hotel,

SX News,
Sydney Children's Hospital,
Sydney Hospital,
Sydney Masonic Centre,
Sydney Morning Herald,
Sydney Sexual Health Centre,
Sydney Star Observer,
Sydney Symphony,
Sydney University,
Sydney West Area Health
Service,
Sydney Women's Baseball
League,
Taxi Club,
Taylor Square Private Clinic,
Tender Loving Cuisine,
Thrifty Car Rental,
Token Artists,
Toolshed,
Touching Base,
Toy Box Parties,
Tree of Hope,
Tropical Fruits,
Twenty10,
Unity,
Urunga House,
Victims Compensation Tribunal,
Victims Support Line,
Video Ezy,
Virgin/Sanity,
Western Suburbs Haven,
Westmead Hospital,
Winsome Hotel,
Wollongong Women's Centre,
Wollongong Youth Services,
WOW,
357 – Sydney City Steam,
407 Doctors

Many thanks to our major
funder NSW Health as well as
our pro-bono legal advisors
Freehills and our auditors
PriceWaterhouseCoopers and
our other funders

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55 FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report

It is with pleasure that I present the accounts for the 2004-05 financial year which indicate that ACON has once again finished the year in a strong and healthy financial position.

We finished the year with an operating deficit of \$215,164. However, due to a change in accounting policy for grant revenue, grants in advance of \$250,887 were recognised as income. Therefore we are showing a surplus of \$35,724 for the year compared to the budgeted deficit of \$364,781. At the same time we have ensured that we retain sufficient reserves to ensure the long term financial security of ACON. The retained surplus at the end of the financial year was \$1,301,965.

The original budget deficit was to enable us to continue to build programs in lesbian health and drug & alcohol use pending finding new funding sources.

The Financial Statements show a substantial amount of cash on hand at 30 June 2005 of \$2,110,703. This is primarily made up of grant income provided in advance, and provision for employee entitlements, guaranteeing the association's ability to pay such entitlements when required. There have been no borrowings this financial year.

In summary, these statements reflect the high standard of financial management within ACON, and a continued focus on both short-term services provision and long-term security.



Rod Bruem
Treasurer

Directors' Report

The board of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated submits its Report on the Association for the year ended 30 June 2005.

- The principal activities of the Association during the year were the provision of education, health promotion, advocacy, care and support services to members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, including indigenous people and injecting drug users, to sex workers and to all people living with HIV/AIDS.
- After providing \$nil for income tax, operations for the year ended 30 June 2005, resulted in a net surplus of \$35,724 (2004: \$184,062) compared to budgeted deficit of \$364,781. The current year result includes grants in advance of \$250,887 (2004: \$456,473) recognised as income.
- Gifts of Works of Art valued at \$102,850 were re-valued this financial year to \$123,350. Also new Gifts of Works of Art valued at \$11,480 were brought to account this financial year. Total Gifts of Works of Art are now valued at \$134,830.
- The Association is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW) and is restricted from declaring any dividends.
- During the year ended 30 June 2005, there was no significant change in the state of affairs of the Association other than those referred to in the above review or financial statements.
- There have not been any matters or circumstances that have arisen since the end of the financial period, other than those referred to in the review or financial statements that have significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in subsequent years.

7 Members of the Board at 30 June 2005

Name Qualifications Special Responsibilities	Experience
Adrian Lovney LLB (Hons) President	15 years experience at governance level in HIV/AIDS organisations, and in public sector program and policy analysis/advice. Currently a General Manager in the financial services industry.
Kate Connors BA, LLB (Hons) Vice President	8 years experience in public sector policy advice and analysis. Currently employed as a lawyer with the Australian Law Reform Commission.
Rod Bruem Treasurer	Rod Bruem is a communication specialist with 20 years experience in journalism, politics and media management. Currently employed as a corporate relations manager for Telstra. He has a keen interest in rural and regional issues services.
David Buchanan SC Secretary	Barrister. Has served on the ACON Board for 18 years.
Simon Moore B.A. (Comms)	Director of Creative Services in boutique design and advertising agency with over 10 year experience in business management.
Garrett Prestage BA (Hons), PhD.	Lecturer at National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research, two decades experience researching gay and lesbian community and health issues.

Stevie Clayton Chief Executive Officer

3.5 years as Deputy Executive Officer of ACON & 4 years as CEO. Member of Equal Opportunity Division, Administrative Decisions Tribunal. Long history of involvement in community based organisations and in management positions.

Linette Collins Dip. Soc Studs, MPH (Hons)

Has a background in public health, public policy, health services management, research and law enforcement.

Hugh MacLeod

General practitioner with experience working in a high HIV caseload general medical practice.

Geoff Honnor

Extensive background in health administration and management together with policy development and leadership experience within the HIV sector. Currently Executive Director of PLWH/A (NSW).

Dean Price

Currently working with People with Disability Australia, a peak disability rights and advocacy organisation. 5 years experience in campus, State and nationwide student and GLBTI organisations.

Deb Broughton Dip Frontline Mgmt; Cert III Community Services ACON Staff Representative

ACON employee since 1997. Previously worked and volunteered in CSN. Currently CSN Coordinator as well as Organisational Health Committee member and First Aid Officer.

8 Attendances by Members of the Board who held office during the year at meetings of the Board during the year ended 30 June 2005 were as follows. Elections for the elected Board Members were held in December 2004.

Elected Members and Ex Officio	Meetings held	Meetings attended
Adrian Lovney	10	10
David Buchanan	10	9
Linette Collins	10	5
Garrett Prestage	10	8
Simon Moore	10	8
Hugh MacLeod	10	6
Tony Baca (to May 2005)	9	6
Kate Connors	10	8
Geoff Honnor	10	8
Rod Bruem (from November 2004)	7	7
Deb Broughton (Staff Reps)	10	10
Stevie Clayton (CEO)	10	9

9 Other than Staff Representatives and the Chief Executive Officer, no Member of the Board has received or has become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the Association with the member, a firm of which the member is a member or an entity in which the member has a substantial financial interest.

10 There are no significant environmental regulations which affect the Association's operations.

11 The Association has paid a premium of \$5,885 [2003/2004: \$3,180] to insure certain officers of the Association. The officers of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated covered by the insurance policy include the Members of the Board. The liabilities insured include costs and expenses that may be incurred in defending civil or criminal proceedings that may be brought against officers of the Association.

12 The net surplus obtained from fundraising activities was applied to the purposes of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated as set out in Note 1 above.

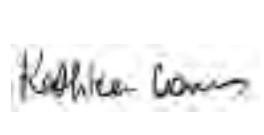
13 PricewaterhouseCoopers continues in office as auditors to the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated in accordance with section 327 of the Corporations Act 2001.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board.

Dated at Sydney this Ninth Day of November 2005.



Adrian Lovney
President



Kate Connors
Vice-President

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Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2005

Revenue from Ordinary Activities	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Grants:			
Grants In Advance		250,887	456,473
Grants Rolled Over Prior Year		173,117	404,642
NSW Dept of Health		6,684,074	6,392,608
NSW Department of Community Services		86,766	85,065
Commonwealth Dept of Health & Aged Care		-	25,155
Area Health Services		482,157	534,282
AIDS Trust of Australia		-	37,223
NSW Users & AIDS Association		6,959	-
Other grants		68,803	20,529
Fundraising	21a	321,908	276,281
Interest received/receivable		112,381	122,535
Membership		2,580	3,362
Rent received		51,977	53,350
Sale of Vitamins		89,022	78,509
Sale of Materials		80,502	95,526
Registration Fees		6,172	4,931
Other Income		80,785	60,804
Gifts of Works of Art		11,480	-
Total Revenue from Ordinary Activities		8,509,570	8,651,275

Expenditure	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Salaries & Associated Costs		5,447,503	5,544,732
Programs and Services		584,592	478,474
Rent and Rates		217,470	224,393
Depreciation – Plant & Equipment		140,049	164,912
Building Maintenance		280,941	279,264
Communications		296,439	309,515
Travel and Representation		347,052	314,667
Donations given		28,975	21,281
Publicity and Promotion		347,142	178,571
Events and Activities		94,017	75,630
Administrative costs		600,763	804,357
Cost of goods sold		88,903	71,417
Total Expenditure		8,473,846	8,467,213
Surplus from Ordinary Activities	2	35,724	184,062

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

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Current Assets			
Cash	4	2,110,703	2,060,181
Receivables	6	26,137	198,110
Inventories	7	10,356	14,384
Other	8	178,678	26,114
Total Current Assets		2,325,874	2,298,789
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	9	360,954	331,512
Deposits, Bonds	10	-	1,600
Total Non-Current Assets		360,954	333,112
TOTAL ASSETS		2,686,828	2,631,901
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	11	743,203	800,053
Employee Entitlements	12	397,932	350,002
Total Current Liabilities		1,141,135	1,150,055
Non-current Liabilities			
Employee Entitlements	13	218,228	210,605
Total Non-Current Liabilities		218,228	210,605
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,359,363	1,360,660
NET ASSETS		1,327,465	1,271,241
Members' Funds			
Retained Surplus at the end of the Year	25	1,301,965	1,266,241
Revaluation Reserve	24	25,500	5,000
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		1,327,465	1,271,241

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

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Receipts from customers, granting bodies and fundraising (inclusive of goods and services tax)		9,296,546	8,536,013
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of goods and services tax)		(9,239,705)	(8,813,385)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	5	188,033	(155,517)
Cash out flows from investing activities		(137,511)	(140,677)
Payment for plant and equipment			
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(137,511)	(140,677)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		50,522	(296,194)
Cash at beginning of the financial year	4	2,060,181	2,356,375
Cash at end of the financial year	4	2,110,703	2,060,181

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

Notes To The Financial Statements

1 Statement Of Significant Accounting Policies

This general purpose report has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Urgent Issues Group consensus views, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW), the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW), and the Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW).

It is prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention on an accruals basis, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation.

Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies are consistent with those of the previous year.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) is adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for application to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. The AASB has issued Australian equivalents to IFRS, and the Urgent Issues Group has issued interpretations corresponding to IASB interpretations originated by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee or the former Standing Interpretations Committee. The adoption of Australian equivalents to IFRS will be first reflected in the entity's financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2006. Information about how the transition to Australian equivalents to IFRS is being managed, and the key differences in accounting policies that are expected to arise, is set out in note 1(n).

(a) Grant Revenue

Grant revenue received is brought to account when received or receivable.

(b) Receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at the amounts receivable as they are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised where some doubt as to collection exists.

(c) 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.

(d) Recoverable Amount Of Non-Current Assets

The recoverable amount of an asset is the net amount expected to be recovered through the cash inflows and outflows arising from its continued use and subsequent disposal.

Where the carrying amount of a non-current asset is greater than its recoverable amount, the asset is written down to its recoverable amount. Where net cash inflows are derived from a group of assets working together, the recoverable amount is determined on the basis of the relevant group of assets. The decrement in the carrying amount is recognised as an expense in net profit or loss in the reporting period in which the recoverable amount write-down occurs.

(e) Revaluation Of Non-Current Assets

The Association 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 three yearly intervals. Revaluations reflect independent assessments of the fair market value of works of art.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, unless they are reversing a previous decrement charged to the statement of financial performance, in which case the increment is credited to the statement of financial performance.

Revaluation decrements are recognised as expenses in the statement of financial performance, unless they are reversing revaluation increments previously credited to, and still included in the balance of, the asset revaluation reserve in respect of that same class of assets, in which case they are debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

Revaluation increments and decrements are offset against one another within a class of non-current assets, but not otherwise.

Potential capital gains tax is not taken into account in determining revaluation amounts unless it is expected that a liability for such tax will crystallise.

Revaluations do not result in the carrying value of Works of Art exceeding their recoverable amount.

(f) Depreciation Of Plant & Equipment

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis so as to write off the net cost of each depreciable non-current asset over its expected useful life to the Association. Estimates of remaining useful lives are made on a regular basis for all assets, with annual reassessments for major items.

The expected useful lives are as follows - Plant and Equipment, Office Equipment, Equipment under lease: 2-5 years. Works of Art are not depreciated.

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(g) Leasehold Improvements

The lease for premises at 9-25 Commonwealth Street, Darlinghurst between the Association and the NSW State Government expired 30 September 2005 and negotiations are continuing for an extension until 30 September 2006. The costs of Leasehold Improvements relating to this property will be amortised over the remaining period of the lease, or the estimated useful life to the Association, whichever is shorter. Leasehold Improvements held at the reporting date are being amortised over the remaining life of the lease.

(h) Leased Non-Current Assets

A distinction is made between finance leases which effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incident to ownership of leased non-current assets, and operating leases under which the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and liability are established at the present value of minimum lease payments. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.

The lease asset is amortised on a straight line basis over the term of the lease, or where it is likely that the Association will obtain ownership of the asset, the life of the asset. Lease assets held at the reporting date are being amortised over 5 years.

Incentives received on entering into operating leases are recognised as liabilities. Lease payments are allocated between interest (calculated by applying the interest rate implicit in the lease to the outstanding amount of the liability,) rental expense and reduction of the liability.

Other operating lease payments are charged to the statement of financial performance in the periods in which they are incurred, as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

(i) Trade And Other Creditors

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

(j) Web Site Costs

Costs in relation to the web site controlled by the Association are charged as expenses in the period in which they are incurred unless they relate to the acquisition of an asset, in which case they are capitalised and amortised over their period of expected benefit.

Generally, costs in relation to feasibility studies during the planning phase of the web site, and ongoing costs of maintenance during the operating phase, are considered to be expenses. Costs incurred in building or enhancing the web site, to the extent that they represent probable future economic benefits controlled by the Association that can be reliably measured, are capitalised as an asset and amortised over the period of the expected benefits which vary from 2 to 5 years.

(k) 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 of the reporting date are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when the leave is taken and measured at the rates paid or payable.

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.

Superannuation

Contributions are made by the Association to several employee superannuation funds of choice and are charged as expenses when incurred.

(l) Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

(m) Cash

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes deposits at call which are readily convertible to cash on hand and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(n) International Financial Reporting Standards

Entities complying with Australian equivalents to IFRS for the first time will be required to restate their comparative financial statements to amounts reflecting the application of IFRS to that comparative period. Most adjustments required on transition to IFRS will be made, retrospectively, against opening retained earnings as at 1 July 2004.

The Finance team in ACON has carried out necessary training of staff and made internal systems and control changes, in order to gather all the required financial information to manage the transition to Australian equivalents to IFRS. These changes have been analysed to determine the most appropriate accounting policy for ACON. To date, there are no significant accounting policy changes that affect ACON's financial report.

2 Operating Deficit

Operating deficit from ordinary activities includes the following specific net gains and expenses:

(a) Net gains and expenses	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Cost of Goods Sold	88,903	71,417
Depreciation Plant & Equipment	140,049	164,912
Donations Given	28,975	21,281
Bad and Doubtful Debts	86	2,616
Provision for Employee Entitlements	55,552	(9,584)
Rental expense relating to operating leases	127,252	134,774

3 Income tax

The AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated as a public benevolent institution is exempt from paying income tax.

4 Current Assets - Cash

Cash on hand	4,300	4,150
Cash at bank:		
Cheque account - Operations	152,288	531,759
Deposits	1,954,115	1,524,272
	2,110,703	2,060,181

5 Reconciliation of Operating Surplus/deficit to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Operating Surplus	35,724	184,062
Depreciation and Amortisation	140,049	164,912
Gifts of Works of Art	(11,480)	-
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities:		
Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Employee Entitlements	55,553	(9,584)
(Decrease) in Grants in Advance	-	(739,199)
Decrease in Receivables	171,973	38,088
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Current Assets	(152,564)	77,620
Decrease/(Increase) in Inventory	4,028	(6,613)
Decrease in other Non-Current Assets	1,600	-
(Decrease)/Increase in Creditors	(56,850)	135,197
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	188,033	(155,517)

6 Current Assets - Receivables

Accounts Receivable	19,069	116,689
Accrued Income	7,068	81,421
	26,137	198,110

7 Current Assets - Inventories

Finished Goods (Vitamins) at cost	10,356	14,384
	10,356	14,384

8 Current Assets - Other

Goods & Services Tax Receivable	93,576	160
Prepaid expenses	85,102	25,954
	178,678	26,114

9 Non-Current Assets - Plant & Equipment

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Furniture & Fittings, at cost	1,235,643	1,231,442
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,221,643)	(1,207,970)
	14,000	23,472
Office Equipment, at cost	763,879	639,230
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(568,326)	(456,057)
	195,553	183,173
Equipment Under Lease, at cost	48,116	48,116
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(48,116)	(48,116)
	-	-
Library Resources	3,663	3,663
Gifts of Works of Art (at valuation)	134,830	102,850
	138,493	106,513
Leasehold Improvements	49,427	40,766
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(36,519)	(22,412)
	12,908	18,354
Total Plant & Equipment	360,954	331,512

Reconciliations

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

	Furniture & Fittings	Office Equipment	Equipment Under Lease	Library Works of Art	Leasehold Improvements	Totals
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at 1 July 2004	23,472	183,173	-	106,513	18,354	331,512
Additions	4,201	124,650	-	11,480	8,660	148,991
Revaluation increment	-	-	-	20,500	-	20,500
Depreciation expense						
Carrying amount at 30 June 2005	(13,673)	(112,270)	-	-	(14,106)	(140,049)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2005	14,000	195,553	-	138,493	12,908	360,954

10 Deposits, Bonds

Deposits, Bonds	-	1,600
	-	1,600

11 Current Liabilities - Accounts Payable

Goods & Services Tax Payable	215,403	164,141
Trade Creditors	336,020	430,740
Accrued Expenses	191,780	205,172
	743,203	800,053

12 Current Liabilities - Employee Entitlements

Provision for Annual Leave	397,932	350,002
	397,932	350,002

Employee Numbers	Number	Number
Number of employees at reporting date	102	91

13 Non-Current Liabilities - Employee Entitlements

Provision for Long Service Leave	218,228	210,605
	218,228	210,605

14 Financial Instruments

(a) Credit Risk Exposures - The credit risk on financial assets of the Association is the carrying value, net of any provision for doubtful debts.

(b) Interest Rate Risk Exposures - The Association's exposure to interest rate risk and the interest rate for each class of financial assets and liabilities are set overleaf.

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Interest Rate Risk Exposures

2005	Note	Fixed Interest Maturing in:				Total \$
		Floating Interest Rate \$	1 year or less \$	Over 1 to 5 years \$	Non-Interest Bearing \$	
Financial Assets:						
Cash and deposits	4	110,945	1,954,115	-	45,643	2,110,703
Receivables	6	-	-	-	26,137	26,137
		110,945	1,954,115	-	71,780	2,136,840
Weighted average interest rate		3.88%	4.93%			
Financial Liabilities:						
Trade and other creditors	11	-	-	-	743,203	743,203
		-	-	-	743,203	743,203
Net financial assets/(liabilities)		110,945	1,954,115	-	(671,423)	1,393,637

Interest Rate Risk Exposures

2004	Note	Fixed Interest Maturing in:				Total \$
		Floating Interest Rate \$	1 year or less \$	Over 1 to 5 years \$	Non-Interest Bearing \$	
Financial Assets:						
Cash and deposits	4	431,873	1,524,272	-	104,036	2,060,181
Receivables	6	-	-	-	198,110	198,110
Other	10	-	-	-	1,600	1,600
		431,873	1,524,272	-	303,746	2,259,891
Weighted average interest rate		3.70%	4.35%			
Financial Liabilities:						
Trade and other creditors	11	-	-	-	800,053	800,053
		-	-	-	800,053	800,053
Net financial assets/(liabilities)		431,873	1,524,272	-	(496,307)	1,459,838

Reconciliation of Net Financial Assets to Net Assets

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Net financial assets as above	1,393,637	1,459,838
Non-financial assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	10,356	14,384
Property, plant & equipment	360,954	331,512
Other financial assets	178,678	26,114
Provisions	(616,160)	(560,607)
	1,327,465	1,271,241

(c) Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities - Financial assets and liabilities comprise cash and borrowings. The net fair value of financial assets and liabilities approximates their carrying value.

15 Remuneration of Members of the Board

Members of the Board serve the Association in a voluntary capacity. Staff representatives and CEO who serve on ACON Board provide their time for this activity on a voluntary basis as well.

Amounts received or due and receivable from the Association and related corporations by members of the Board.

	2005 \$	2004 \$
	Nil	Nil
16 Remuneration of Auditors		
Remuneration for audit and review of the Association's Financial report - PricewaterhouseCoopers	35,000	30,000
Remuneration for other services - PricewaterhouseCoopers	15,000	5,100
	50,000	35,100

17 Segments

The principal activities of the Association during the year were the provision of education, health promotion, advocacy, care and support service to members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, including Indigenous people and injecting drug users, to sex workers and to all people living with HIV/AIDS. The Association operates predominantly in one geographical area, being New South Wales, Australia.

18 Share Capital

The Association is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW) and as such does not have authorised or issued capital.

The liability of a member of the Association to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Association is limited to the amount, if any, of unpaid annual fees by the member in respect of membership of the Association.

19 Economic Dependency

The major source of funding for the Association is an annual grant from the NSW Health Department. The Association has negotiated a triennial funding agreement with the Department for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2005. The Department continues to provide quarterly funding based on the annualised grant approved for 2004/2005. Subsequent to year end, the Association submitted the next triennial funding agreement for the years 2005 to 2008.

20 Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year ended 30 June 2005.

21 Charitable Fundraising Act 1991

The AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated was re-issued with an authority to fundraise by the Office of Charities on 4 April 2001.

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

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

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Gross proceeds from fundraising:		
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	104,412	100,555
Other including Donations & Sponsorship	217,496	175,726
Total gross income from fundraising	321,908	276,281
less total costs of fundraising		
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	69,208	27,630
Other	116,837	104,711
Total costs of fundraising	186,045	132,341
Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals	135,863	143,940

(b) Forms of fundraising appeals conducted during the period covered by these financial statements were: Dance Parties, Appeals, Bingo, Dinners and Special Nights at Venues.

(c) Comparative Ratios

Ratio of costs to gross proceeds	58%	48%
Ratio of net surplus to gross proceeds	42%	52%
Ratio of total cost of services to total expenditure	2%	2%
Ratio of total cost of services to total income	2%	2%

In the view of the Board, all expenses incurred by the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated contribute to the delivery of its programs and services.

22 Contingent Liabilities

Bank guarantees in respect of office leases, (\$8,450) and electronic funds payroll (\$150,000) and credit card facility (\$6,000) were held at 30 June 2005. No material losses are expected in respect of any of the above contingent liabilities.

23 Commitments for Expenditure

Lease Commitments

Operating Leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities, payable:

Within one year	90,045	82,869
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	59,574	66,756

24 Reserves

Revaluation Reserve

Opening balance	5,000	5,000
Revaluation increment	20,500	-
Closing balance	25,500	5,000

25 Retained Surplus

Retained surplus at the beginning of the year	1,266,241	1,082,179
Current year surplus	35,724	184,062
Retained surplus at the end of the year	1,301,965	1,266,241

Included in the retained surplus is an amount of \$707,360, which is restricted in its use. This relates to grants received not yet expended for the purpose for which it was intended.



Independent audit report to the members of the AIDS Council of NSW

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation on our audit procedures referred to in the qualification paragraph below not existed:

- 1 the financial report of The AIDS Council of NSW:
 - gives a true and fair view, as required by the Corporations Act 2001 in Australia, of the financial position of The AIDS Council of NSW as at 30 June 2005, and of its performance for the year ended on that date;
 - is presented in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, and the Corporations Regulations 2001;
 - presents a true and fair view as required by the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) of the financial result of fundraising appeals for the financial year ended 30 June 2005;
- 2 its associated records have been properly kept in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993(NSW) for the financial year ended 30 June 2005;
- 3 money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted by The AIDS Council of NSW during the year ended 30 June 2005 has been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW); and
- 4 there are reasonable grounds to believe that The AIDS Council of NSW will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This opinion must be read in conjunction with the rest of our audit report.

Qualification

Cash from donations and other fund raising activities are a significant source of revenue for The AIDS Council of NSW. Although The AIDS Council of NSW has implemented systems of control to ensure that monies received are properly recorded in the accounting records, it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of revenue from these sources prior to receipt. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenue from cash donations and other fundraising activities was limited, our audit procedures with respect to revenue from these sources had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the Company's financial records. As a result, we are unable to express an opinion as to whether revenue from cash donations and other fundraising activities is complete.

Scope

The financial report and directors' responsibility

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the directors' declaration for The AIDS Council of NSW(the company), for the year ended 30 June 2005.

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW). This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit Approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the company. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected. For further explanation of an audit, visit our website <http://www.pwc.com/au/financialstatementaudit>.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW), Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW), accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, and its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report,
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors, and

Our procedures include reading the other information in the directors' report to determine whether it contains any material inconsistencies with the financial report.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Our audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by directors or management.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Sydney 9 November 2005

Brett Entwistle
Partner

Declaration by the Board for the Year Ended 30 June 2005

The Members of the Board declare that the financial statements and notes set out on pages 54 - 61

- (a) comply with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows, for the financial year ended on that date.

In the Board's opinion:

- (a) the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW), the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW);
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable;
- (c) 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
- (d) the internal controls exercised by the Association 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:

Adrian Lovney
President

Kate Connors
Vice-President

Dated at Sydney this Ninth Day of November 2005

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Images on pages 4 & 8 from *Mates*



**"Show the universe you still care about HIV/AIDS"
World AIDS Day December 1**

Miss Universe Jennifer Hawkins in the ACON 2004 Red Ribbon Appeal

