



Keeping you informed of the services ACON offers across NSW to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, sistergirls and HIV+ people.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Aboriginal Project had a very busy year. Since January this year we have had over 60 volunteers generously donate over 230 hours of their labour to the Project, we have distributed over 3000 condoms/safe packs and over 47,000 education materials to around 60 different venues. The Aboriginal Project has participated in over 80 events including Yabun, Fair Day, NAIDOC Week and World AIDS Day.

Thank you for your support in 2009 and can't wait to work with you in 2010. Jump online at www.acon.org.au/aboriginal and apply to join in our Mardi Gras Parade Entry, the ACON Aboriginal Advisory Group, get involved in our campaigns or register to volunteer at our next community stall - Yabun 2010.



Cherie Mincham, Clinical Nurse Specialist & Vicky Bardon, Aboriginal Sexual Health Education Officer, staff of Sexual Health and AIDS (SHAIDS) team, Lismore.

SHAIDS and ACON Northern Rivers NAIDOC partnership success

In August this year ACON teamed up with Vicky Bardon, Aboriginal Sexual Health Worker at North Coast Area Health Service at a local NAIDOC Week in Lismore with a creative idea to encourage Aboriginal people to get to know more about the work of ACON Northern Rivers.

Together they decided to offer people the opportunity to get their photo taken on a Harley Davidson motorbike. Lynda Saville from Juvenile Justice in Lismore kindly provided her gold Harley. Over 30 people now have an A4 sized photo from the ACON Northern Rivers office.

It was a great day and everyone had lots of laughs and fun working together in such a creative way. If you missed out this year plans are being made for another such photo opportunity for NAIDOC Week 2010.

For the latest news, events and updates on our project check out our website www.acon.org.au/aboriginal



MARDI GRAS 2010

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

PARADE ENTRY

We invite people interested in participating to register by 30/01/2010 at www.acon.org.au/aboriginal



Dance Movement workshops 5:00 - 9:00, Redfern Community Centre
8 - 15 February 2010. Workshops led by Choreographer: Sani Townson

STAY SAFE THIS MARDI GRAS SEASON    

Upcoming dates to get excited about and to get involved in

Yabun Festival	Victoria Park, Broadway, Sydney	26 January 2010
Fair Day	Victoria Park, Broadway, Sydney	21 February 2010
Mardi Gras Parade	Oxford Street	27 February 2010



PROUD TO BE BLACK PROUD TO BE GAY

Be proud of who you are.
Protect yourself and your mob from HIV and STIs.

Always use condoms and water-based lube.

You have the right to a safe and satisfying sex life, free from violence or abuse.

www.yarns.org.au

Volunteers for Yabun Festival and Fair Day

Two very important dates are coming up and we need you. The Aboriginal Project will have stalls at both the Yabun Festival and Fair Day. If you have some time to come and hand out show bags, information and safe packs, please contact us. If you are interested and want to help out, and want to have a lot of fun, please e-mail James Saunders, our Acting Community Outreach & Liaison Officer on jsaunders@acon.org.au

HIV Basics

HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. HIV can only live in a human host and is passed between people by blood, semen, breast milk and vaginal fluids. It is most often transmitted through:

- Anal or vaginal sex without a condom
- Sharing injecting equipment
- Pregnancy and the process of childbirth and breastfeeding (to infants from their mothers)
- Oral sex if there are tiny cuts in the mouth (rarely)

It **cannot** be transmitted through the air or through sweat or saliva or by kissing, insects or animal bites, faeces or casual everyday contact such as sharing food, toothbrushes, clothes, linen or furniture, etc.

Looking for work?

Don't forget to visit our website to check for our latest vacancies www.acon.org.au/about-acon/jobs





The accommodation at the Retreat venue, Department of Sport and Recreation, Narrabeen

POSITIVE RETREAT

ACON held its 2009 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Retreat from Friday 27 to Monday 30 November. Organised by Retreat Coordinator, Michael Blakeney-Campbell, the Health Retreat was available to all Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people living with HIV in NSW. Attendees were invited to bring along one support person (e.g. partner, carer or family member), regardless of age, gender, sexuality or cultural identity.

There were information and yarnning sessions, screen printing, massage, canoeing and much more. This event was alcohol and drug free. All attendees had a great weekend, with friendships formed and a greater sense of community was felt.

Protecting your Privacy and Providing Quality Health Care

At ACON we uphold the privacy and confidentiality of all our clients. Client confidentiality is an underpinning philosophy and foundation of ACON's work. ACON supports and complies with the requirements of the *Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000*.

This includes the Board, all levels of staff, volunteers and contracted service partners. Anyone whose work brings them in contact with client information signs ACON's Confidentiality and Privacy policy. Your privacy and confidentiality is assured when dealing with the Aboriginal Project team.

If you ever have a concern or complaint about confidentiality please let us know as soon as possible.



The Aboriginal Project exists to help NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to minimise the impact of HIV and STIs and to assist those living with HIV to live healthy lives.

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Aboriginal Project
Team Leader
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Shaun Edwards
Aboriginal Project
Health Promotion Officer
Community Development
02 9206 2114

James Saunders
Acting Community
Outreach and Liaison
Officer
02 9206 2113

Lawrence Shearer
End of Year
Gathering
Coordinator
02 9206 2000

Michael Blakeney - Campbell
Retreat Coordinator
02 9206 2118

ACON also has branches in locations around NSW.

- Northern Rivers 27 Uralba St, Lismore | 1800 633 637
- Hunter 129 Maitland Rd, Islington | 02 4927 6808
- Mid North Coast Shop 3, 146-150 Gordon St, Port Macquarie | 02 6584 0943
- Illawarra 47 Kenny St, Wollongong | 02 4226 1163