



 **acon**
community, health and action

Annual Report 2003

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Acknowledgments

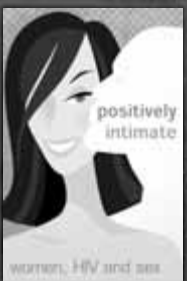
The Board and management of ACON would like to acknowledge and thank the staff and volunteers of our organisation for their commitment and dedication to our clients and communities. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of staff, supporters and former Board Members who passed away during the year including Phillip Metcalf, Kath Vallentine, Ken Irvine and John Sullivan.

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ACON is a health promotion organisation based in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities with a central focus on 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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Adrian Lovney

Just before the close of the 2002–2003 financial year NSW Health announced the first increase in HIV infections in NSW for 8 years. In combination with rises in other states in recent years this is a serious reminder that the AIDS epidemic is far from over in Australia.

ACON is working to reinforce the safe sex culture among gay men and to raise awareness of HIV and other STIs and the need for regular testing. During the past year we launched our annual safe sex campaign, an awareness campaign for at risk Asian gay men and a new information booklet on prevention and testing for HIV and other STIs. We are continuing to work closely with NSW Health and with other organisations to plan a community response to the rise in HIV infections.

Sydney has one of the highest rates in the world of testing for HIV amongst gay men and one of the lowest rates of HIV prevalence. Much of our success in containing the HIV epidemic in Australia has been due to the fact that most gay men continue to use condoms the vast majority of time. Gay men have sustained a change in behaviour unmatched in any other area of public health.

ACON's HIV prevention work in recent years has covered a wide variety of health promotion activities including:

- Widely distributed safe sex education/HIV testing campaigns for gay men
- HIV prevention counselling and peer support
- Relationship workshops for HIV negative and positive partners
- More than 18,000 condoms and 3,000 syringes distributed each month
- Education and testing campaigns on sexually transmitted infections

We have achieved a great deal during the last three years of *Strategic Directions 2000–2003* and in the first part of this year we spent considerable time consulting with our communities and

stakeholders on plans for the next three years. At the end of this consultation we released *Strategic Directions 2003–06* with a continuing commitment to HIV/AIDS prevention and care within a broader sexual health context.

I am confident that the commitment of our staff, Board, partners, members and volunteers will ensure our goals for the next three years will be achieved and that our work in addressing HIV/AIDS will be strengthened.

ACON Board Members

Adrian Lovney (President)

Jackie Braw (Vice-President)

Tony Baca (Treasurer)

Margaret Hansford (Secretary)

Simon Moore

David Buchanan

Linette Collins

Rita Harding

Garrett Prestage

Hugh McLeod

CEO'S MESSAGE

The rise in HIV infections in NSW and in other Australian states was a central focus for ACON staff during the 2002–2003 year. This year also represented our final year of *Strategic Directions 2000–2003* and the initial stage of broadening of our role into gay and lesbian health. We explored a range of health issues facing our communities at Health in Difference 4, the fourth national conference on queer health held in Sydney in November with ACON as a key sponsor. We presented a number of papers during the conference and launched our *Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2002–05*, the first Australian strategy for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Lesbian health officers have been appointed in all of our branches and we have held several lesbian health speaker series as well as the launch of a campaign targeting health professionals in their dealing with lesbians – ‘*Sometimes it’s good not to think straight*’ – in partnership with the Lesbian Health Interagency Network (LHIN) and the Australian Lesbian Medical Association (ALMA).



Stevie Clayton

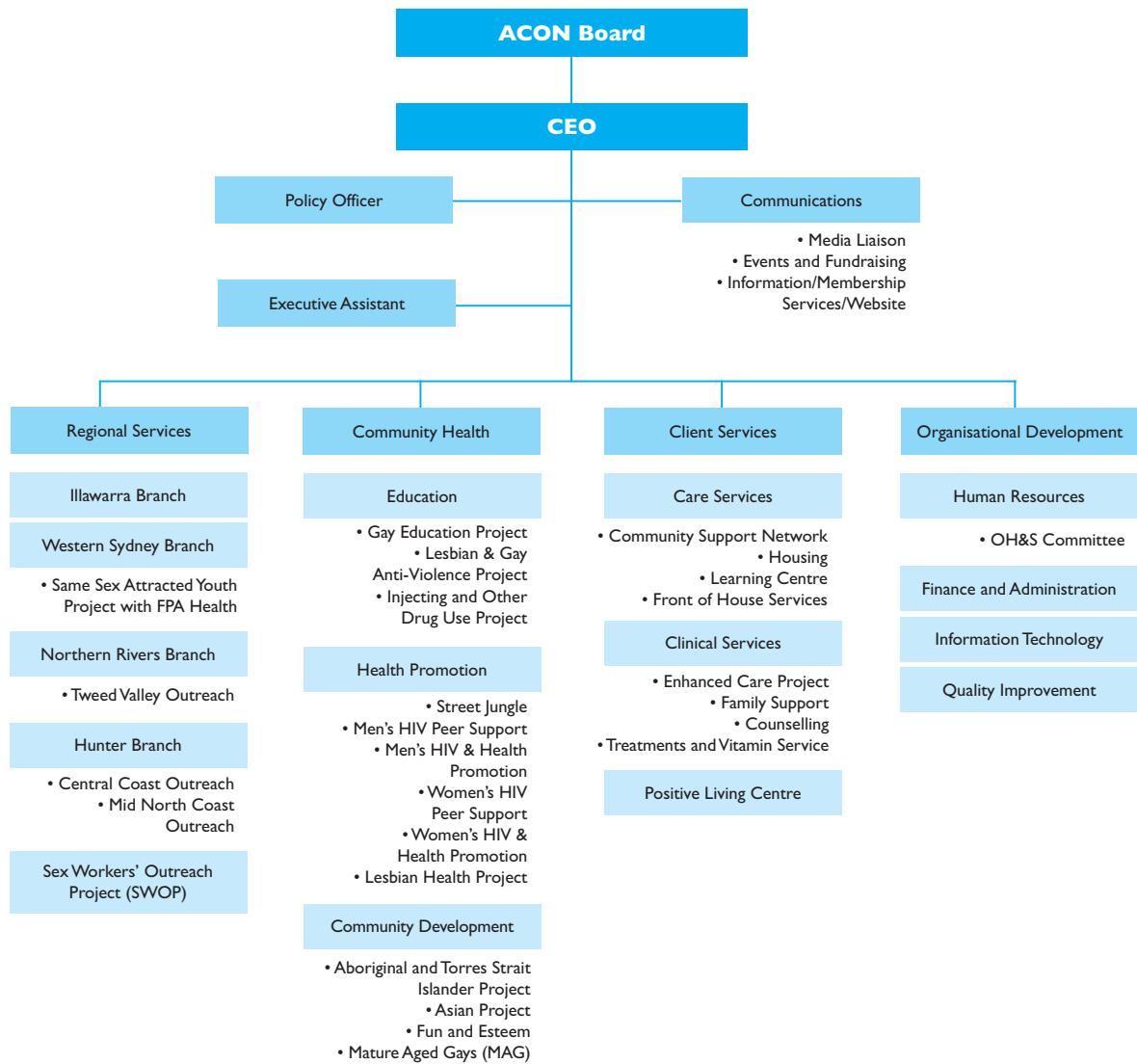
The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project (AVP) focussed on supporting the health and safety of our communities with the launch of the Safe Place program and the return of pink triangles for key businesses and venues. Same sex domestic violence became an increasingly important issue for the AVP and for our counselling service which is now focussing on expanding the skills and expertise of our counsellors in this area. Our advocacy efforts this year including lobbying the NSW Department of Housing over proposed changes to the Special Assistance Subsidy (Special) SASS, working alongside the Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby and FPA Health for an equal age of consent in NSW, and through SWOP working for fairer planning regulations for sex workers.

Health promotion for people living with HIV/AIDS was a key focus for ACON during the year with visibility campaigns for HIV positive men and women. An initiative at Mardi Gras Fair Day saw Bill and Ben the Positive Men raising awareness of people living with HIV/AIDS with body paint to depict characters from well known David McDiarmid campaigns. A major awareness campaign for HIV positive women was launched with postcards, posters and booklets on women making healthy sexual choices. Health was also a focus for people living with HIV/AIDS with our Healthy Life+ booklet and gym program focussing on fitness and wellbeing for HIV positive gay men. The Positive Living Centre continued to expand its programs throughout the year and new opening hours of Tuesday to Saturday have attracted many more people to this centre. We continued to support positive people with an extensive vitamins service and were quick to act in the face of the TGA Pan Pharmaceuticals recall and replace several of our products.

The 2002–2003 year has certainly been a busy one for ACON. We would not have been able to achieve as much as we did this year without the incredible efforts of our staff and volunteers, particularly those in our regional branches. I would like to acknowledge their ongoing support and thank them in advance for the dedication they continue to show in implementing *Strategic Directions 2003-06*.



ORGANISATIONAL CHART



In March 2003 all ACON staff came together to discuss Strategic Directions 2003–06 and our plans for the next three years as we work to improve the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV/AIDS, gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people.

2002–2003 YEAR IN REVIEW

Community Health

HIV prevention and health promotion were a clear focus for the community health division this year. A number of HIV/STI prevention campaigns and initiatives were developed with information shared through community development peer workshops and social support networks. Our health promotion teams also focussed on visibility campaigns for HIV positive men and women during the year. It is a reflection of the quality of our work that a number of these resources have been used nationally. The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project continued to have a major presence in promoting safety issues for our communities as did our Alcohol and Other Drugs Project in working to promote harm minimisation.

Regional Services

ACON has branches and outreach services in a number of regional areas where we provide a range of services tailored to meet the needs of our local communities. We provide education, health promotion and HIV prevention services, social support groups and a range of care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. This year the new Western Sydney office was officially opened by then Minister for Western Sydney, Hon Kim Yeadon MP, and both Illawarra and Mid North Coast branches found new homes.

Organisational Development

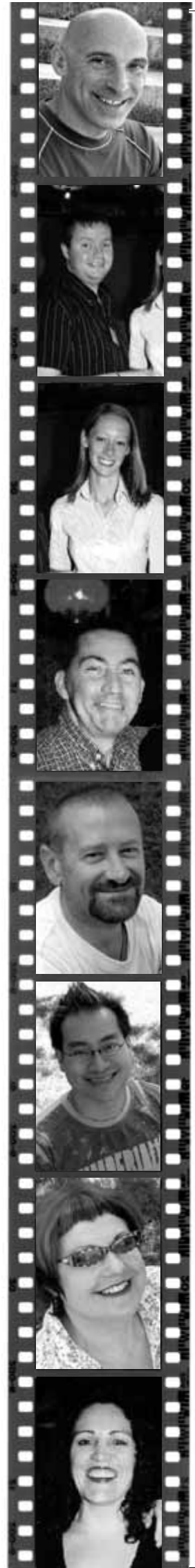
This year our internal infrastructure teams introduced a new and improved payroll system, restructured our human resources unit, adopted a new enterprise agreement for staff, updated a number of internal policies and procedures and reviewed our information technology statewide service. As part of our progression to accreditation with the Quality Improvement Council of Australia we underwent a rigorous external peer review through Quality Management Services.

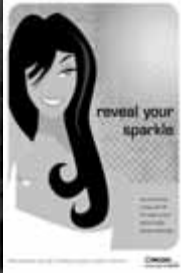
Client Services

People living with HIV/AIDS benefited from a revamped program at the Positive Living Centre and a range of new skills building activities. Our clinical and care services continued to provide valuable support for HIV positive clients and for other members of our communities seeking assistance with counselling, referral and advice. The Learning Centre doubled the number of clients accessing this new information and resource service.

Communications

Events and fundraising staff were kept busy during the Sydney 2002 Gay Games, the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras and a number of other special events such as the annual red ribbon campaign. We spent considerable effort developing a new website – www.acon.org.au to help improve the sharing of information and knowledge with our communities.





ADVOCACY

ACON develops policy and plays a lead role in NSW advocating for public policy and a legislative and social environment which protects the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people, sex workers, intravenous drug users and for all those directly affected by the epidemic.

We actively contribute to the national HIV/AIDS policy agenda through working closely with our national peak body, the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO).

This year we were involved in state-based lobbying around the Special Assistance Subsidy-Special (SAS-S), the Community Pharmacy Trial, medicinal cannabis and NSW Health's policy on post-test HIV counselling amongst other things.

Age of Consent

In May 2003 we joined forces with the Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby and FPA Health to lobby NSW parliamentarians for an equal age of consent with the introduction of the Crimes Amendment (Sexual Offences) Bill. We rallied the community around the need to reduce barriers for young gay men accessing sexual health services including information about HIV/AIDS and safe sex resources.

We are now working to ensure that our services are appropriate and accessible for 16 and 17 year old gay men who we can now legally provide services to.



ACON Members

A new membership campaign commenced in 2003 to encourage more people to join ACON as members and help us continue to play an important role in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS and the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. Our financial members contribute to innovative and groundbreaking work in HIV prevention, health promotion, advocacy, care and support. We are grateful for their support, participation in focus groups and research, volunteering, attending fundraising and other special events as well as providing valuable feedback on our services and campaigns. A number of members provided valuable feedback on our draft *Strategic Directions 2003–06*. We also received positive feedback from members who attended the launch of our new STI resource *Last night I picked up someone ... and something*.

ACON Volunteers

Volunteers have always been the backbone of community-based organisations like ACON and they continue to be an amazingly committed and dedicated workforce. All of our branches rely heavily on volunteers in administrative roles and to help us stage special events and fundraising activities. Tireless red ribbon volunteers hit the streets every year to sell ribbons, rattle buckets and raise awareness in the lead up to World AIDS Day. Safe Sex Sluts help spread the safe sex message at major events and venues and our volunteer packing teams help distribute health information resources, newsletters and condoms. One of our larger volunteer-staffed projects is the Community Support Network (CSN) which relies on trained volunteers to help provide home care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

HIV PREVENTION

ACON began the 2002–2003 financial year publicly joining the dots between HIV prevention and the role that the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras plays in gay men's health. As a founding member of the New Mardi Gras organisation we fought to save this Sydney icon and the important role it plays in HIV prevention and health promotion work. Our campaigns are highly visible during the Mardi Gras season when we distribute thousands of condoms and safe sex information and the parade helps raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Before the 2003 Mardi Gras Season got underway our Education and Events teams were busy getting the safe sex message out at the Sydney 2002 Gay Games. We promoted a *Get It On* condom reinforcement campaign through all Sydney's gay and lesbian venues and sex on premises venues. Our Safe Sex Sluts distributed condoms and safe sex information to venues and major events during the Gay Games and Mardi Gras when we launched our *Expose the Myths* campaign.

Our HIV prevention messages also underpinned much of our health promotion work for the gay and lesbian community with peer workshops and social support groups. Improving the general health and wellbeing of our communities will help reduce vulnerability overall.

HIV education programs were once relatively easy. 'Use a condom every time' was a simple and effective message. Twenty years into the epidemic many gay men now have a much more sophisticated understanding of HIV. ACON is working to provide gay men with accurate information on risk reduction and to engage the community in responding to the HIV rise in NSW. A strong, comprehensive community response to HIV/AIDS two decades ago brought us many successes and we need to reinvigorate that sense of community responsibility again.

During the year our HIV prevention efforts included:

Increasing rates of HIV testing

Get Tested for Free campaign

Sexually adventurous gay men

Sex on premises venues workshops supporting SOPV Code of Practice

Gay men and relationships

Opposites attract, sero-discordant relationship workshops

Reducing sexually transmissible infections

Look what's back syphilis campaign and *Last night I picked up someone and something* STI booklet

Reinforcement of condom use

Get It On Gay Games campaign, *Expose the Myths* campaign and *Score with a Condom* football banner advertising

Impact of drug use on risk behaviour

Drug use in the gay and lesbian community roundtable Mardi Gras Festival event

Supporting newly diagnosed gay men

Genesis weekend workshops, *Asia Plus* for HIV+ gay Asian men and the *Bill & Ben* visibility campaign



GAY MEN'S HEALTH

Expose the Myths

ACON's annual safe sex campaign for gay men this year addressed a series of myths about HIV transmission. The first three posters in a series of nine were released during Mardi Gras with messages around HIV vaccines, assuming someone's HIV status and myths of immunity. As a supporting activity to this campaign a series of popular fridge magnets in the shape of a penis and a range of novelty condoms were also produced.

Gay Games Campaign

The Sydney Gay Education Team developed and distributed a range of HIV education and safe sex resources targeting men during the 2002 Sydney Gay Games. These included a Gay Games specific *Get It On* poster displayed in all of Sydney's gay pubs and clubs, at the Games parties and events and in all Sydney's sex on premises venues. More than 20,000 safe sex packs were also distributed by teams of volunteer Safe Sex Sluts during the games period.



Syphilis Campaign

Local epidemiological evidence indicated an increase in syphilis among Sydney gay men during the year and we took this opportunity to promote a new campaign as part of our Gay Games public health messages. With an award winning campaign from the Terrence Higgins Trust we increased awareness of syphilis transmission, symptoms, testing and treatments.

PEP Campaign

A series of new PEP messages were developed during the year with posters, press advertising and pamphlets for the second stage of a PEP awareness campaign. ACON works closely with a number of health organisations to promote post exposure prophylactics.

STI Booklet

ACON produced a 25-page booklet on sexually transmissible infections - *Last night I picked up someone ... and something*. The booklet includes information on safe sex, condom use, STI and HIV testing, self-examination techniques and referral information.

Partners' Workshops

We ran three six-week workshops for HIV negative partners of HIV positive men. A total of 24 men participated in the workshops discussing topics such as negotiating safe sex, understanding HIV, treatments and PEP.

SOPV Workshops

Two three-week sex on premises venue workshops, titled *Cruising 101*, were run with a total of 16 men enrolled. The workshops included information on negotiating safe sex and identifying venues that complied with ACON's voluntary Code of Practice for Sex on Premises Venues.

LESBIAN HEALTH

Sometimes It's Good Not To Think Straight

ACON launched this postcard in October 2002 in partnership with the Lesbian Health Interagency Network (LHIN) and the Australian Lesbian Medical Association (ALMA) to raise awareness amongst health care providers about the impact of heterosexism on lesbians' accessing health and screening services.

Building a Lesbian Health Research Agenda

This meeting in November 2002 saw researchers from Australia, Canada and the United States report on research about various aspects of lesbian health. This ACON partnership with ALMA (Australian Lesbian Medical Association) attracted more than 80 people to discuss data about lesbian domestic violence, screening programs and other current issues and opportunities relating to lesbian health.

Young Same Sex Attracted Women's Group

This year ACON commenced Tu2, a pilot project with Twenty/10 for same sex attracted women under 21 years of age. We ran two groups for 16 young women exploring issues such as relationships, coming out, self esteem, community and family. The success of this project has prompted the development of a Fun & Esteem style group for young same sex attracted women.

27UP

This project was a joint partnership between ACON and Sydney Sexual Health. The six-week programs explored sexual health issues for gay men and lesbians over 27 years of age. Two gender specific groups were run with 15 participants in each program. 27UP was so popular it is being repeated in the next financial year.

Dyke Express

ACON's Lesbian Health Project worked in partnership with South Sydney City Council and Pine St Creative Arts Centre to provide women with opportunities to learn about photography, photo development, framing and exhibition curation. Participants took photos that explored notions of lesbian visibility and community. The project culminated in a successful exhibition of their works during Mardi Gras in March 2003 with more than 80 people attending the launch.

Stir It Up

Our lesbian health speaker series continued to be a well received health promotion initiative. The popular discussion forums featured guest speakers on issues such as lesbian parenting, Indigenous lesbian health and alcohol and other drug use. Between 20–40 people attended each event and the speaker series has been adopted by a number of ACON branches around the state.



HIV HEALTH PROMOTION

Positive Men's Health Promotion Team

Genesis

This peer based health promotion intervention offers gay men newly diagnosed with HIV the opportunity to address a range of psycho-social issues at a weekend workshop. The majority of participants are referred to Genesis by their GPs within six months of sero-conversion. About 60 men attended Genesis during the year.

Street Jungle

Community gardens at Waterloo and Newtown provide a relaxed forum for sharing knowledge about gardening as well as providing an opportunity for social re-engagement for HIV positive men. Twelve HIV positive men were regular gardeners throughout the year.

Planet Positive

This popular social night held at the PLC every two months attracts up to 120 people at a time with a social focus for HIV positive people and their friends to meet in a supportive environment. Planet Positive is a partnership project with PLWHA (NSW).

Healthy Life+

This award winning health promotion program for HIV positive gay men addresses key health issues of weight loss, treatment side effects and social isolation. The 12-week gym program with anaerobic exercises and information on nutrition, relaxation, stress and goal setting has attracted up to 15 participants twice a year.

Opposites Attract

We ran a number of workshops for HIV positive partners in sero-discordant relationships to discuss issues in a supportive environment with peers. As well as affirming relationship choices, participants were assisted to develop skills in communication and negotiation around issues including HIV/AIDS and safe sex practices.

Bare-backing and nail-biting

This hypothetical about sex, pleasure and other catastrophes between ran in partnership with PLWHA (NSW) (hosted by Vanessa Wagner) to provide a forum for open discussions about HIV positive sex and sexual health while giving voice to diverse perspectives. So popular the first time, it was repeated with close to 250 people attending.

Bill and Ben Visibility Campaign

We helped raise the visibility of HIV+ gay men and increase awareness around living with HIV in the gay and lesbian community at Mardi Gras Fair Day. Two men in David McDiarmid body paint circulated among the crowd having their photo taken and a message about HIV was included on the back of each of the 400 polaroids.

Women, HIV and Health Promotion Project

Activate

This speaker series exploring current issues for HIV positive women and service providers alternated between the inner city and Western Sydney combining positive women's stories with HIV specialist speakers. Up to 40 people attended each discussion with topics including sex and sexuality, HIV/AIDS and families, and women and late diagnosis.

Positive Women's Campaign

ACON developed the Healthy Sexual Choices sex and relationships campaign to increase the visibility of HIV positive women and provide them with useful strategies in improving their relationships. A series of three postcards, two posters and a booklet written by a positive woman called *Positively Intimate* about HIV, sex and relationships were produced and distributed widely.

POSITIVE LIVING CENTRE

The PLC uses community development, health promotion and capacity building strategies to develop and implement a range of services, programs workshops and partnership events for people living with HIV/AIDS. We have more than 200 active members registered at the PLC with most visiting once or twice a week. The current PLC model has attracted attention from other centres throughout Australia with visits from representatives from Melbourne, Brisbane and the Hunter region of NSW.

In the past year the PLC has run courses, workshops and groups designed to increase skill levels for participants and also to encourage participation from working people living with HIV/AIDS. Courses assisting improvements in life skills, literacy and creative expression/development have been provided. Workshops and courses run in eight week cycles and are facilitated mostly by committed professionally trained volunteers

Highlights of the 2002–2003 year include:

- Opening the PLC from Tuesday to Saturday and offering increased evening programs to increase opportunities for working positive people to attend the centre.
- Increasing the range and number of opportunities for accessing complementary therapies.
- Replacing the Thursday lunch with a Saturday *Cook your own breakfast*.
- The establishment of a Client Working Group to better involve the people who use the PLC in developing new programs and policies for the centre.
- Providing a practical pet care program with the assistance of Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) and Gay & Lesbian Vet Association (GALVA) for people living with HIV/AIDS on limited incomes.
- Improving and expanding the range of in-reach service provision.
- The number of individuals visiting each day has doubled from July 2002 to May 2003.

- Attendance at meals has stayed steady, with the growth in attendance directed to courses, workshops and therapies

We provide a range of services to assist people living with HIV and on limited incomes. Weekly bus outings to a variety of destinations including museums, national parks and beaches are popular. A picnic lunch, or cook your own barbecue is provided together with subsidised entry fee to venues.

PLC Courses

Creative writing	PC training
Internet	Cooking
Play reading	Self imaging
Art workshops	

PLC Services

Housing advice	Head space
Employment advice	Financial planning
Treatments advice	

Complementary therapies

Acupuncture	Massage
Shiatsu	Yoga
Reiki	



A program of ACON in partnership with BGF, the Luncheon Club, PLWHA (NSW, Positive Hetrosexuals and St Vincent's Community Health.



CARE SERVICES

Community Support Network (CSN)

CSN has been providing practical home care support and transport services for 19 years to people living with HIV/AIDS. With support from the Carer's Representative Committee we have enhanced our training and support programs for our many volunteers. In the past year we have held movie nights, parties and a Carer Forum. In return our volunteer carers have provided 3,166 individual occasions of service, translating to 5,786 hours of support to assist people to live independently. CSN Transport provides transportation to and from medical and allied health appointments and over the year we provided 2,138 individual trips for clients. Our CSN staff continue to provide a valuable link to support and information for people with HIV/AIDS.

Housing Project

ACON Housing provides support to people living with HIV/AIDS who need advice about the range of social housing alternatives available to them. We support those who are at risk of homelessness as well as people having trouble with rental arrears or discrimination in public and community housing. Our housing advocacy program provided support to 752 individuals seeking housing assistance – 40% of these needed ongoing support. About 25% of clients presented with high needs requiring support around sustaining independent tenancy, AIDS related physical or cognitive issues or escaping abusive relationships. We also maintain a small number of properties for people with HIV/AIDS who need transition accommodation from hospital to home, those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or who need short-term support to develop skills for independent living. During the year we housed 12 people in crisis who needed short-term housing.

Learning Centre

The Learning Centre installed four public access computers for use by clients. A number of positive people have been able to source information on HIV treatments and have worked directly with our Treatments Officer online. We also supported many people to build resumes and learn to use the internet for employment opportunities. The Centre also established a new online catalogue that will allow people to search our catalogue for useful resources and order them over the net. An internet training program was completed during the financial year allowing 28 staff and volunteers to develop their skills for research over the internet. These developments have resulted in a six-fold increase in use of the Learning Centre computers by ACON's communities, staff and volunteers.

Reception

Our reception staff present a professional and caring service to clients and community members over the telephone and face-to-face every day. They are often the first point of contact for many people with ACON and can help direct clients to the most appropriate services, offering referrals and information. A large number of community groups and organisations access ACON's meeting rooms and reception staff help coordinate these bookings. They are also responsible for the operation of our Vitamin Service and are trained to meet the needs of clients of the needle and syringe program when the NSP office is closed during lunch and after hours. In early 2003 we conducted a client satisfaction survey with people accessing services through reception staff. Respondents indicated a high level of satisfaction in all areas of the questionnaire including staff friendliness and politeness, the timing of service and effectiveness of service.

CLINICAL SERVICES

Counselling

ACON's Counselling and Assessment team provided professional one-on-one counselling for 177 individuals including people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. In addition we set aside three hours daily for Intake and Assessment whereby 973 individuals received service over the telephone or face-to-face for crisis intervention, counselling or referrals to services both within and outside of ACON. The counsellors developed a priority access model for clients living with HIV or those at risk of harm. Our counsellors have worked closely with the AVP and the Same Sex Domestic Violence Interagency during the year and have provided stress management workshops for Healthy Life +.

Enhanced Care

The GP Enhanced Care Project worked with over 300 patients referred by 24 different GPs in five practice settings providing onsite support and care co-ordination services. The team of health care professionals now includes a psychologist, nurse, and treatments education officer providing counselling, health education, and practical support with an aim to maximise health outcomes in the community. The Enhanced Care Project officers have provided care plan workshops for the ASHM short-course in HIV offered to community sector workers and presented a team abstract on the model of Enhanced Care with participation from the NCHSR at the ASHM conference in Sydney. Over the past year the team has successfully embarked on a learning and development plan to strengthen skills in theory and practice for community-based case management.

Family Support

The project was reviewed in October 2002, through a stakeholder consultation and interview process involving 45 staff from 30 services. As a result the service has been relaunched as an outreach service providing care co-ordination for families living with HIV/AIDS. The new Family Support worker has been busy promoting the relaunch of the project to PozHets, the Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C service, community health and hospital-based health professionals. The service provides emotional support, information, referrals and advocacy for the entire family unit in collaboration with GPs, community health centres, and social workers through co-case management and care plans.

Treatments Information and Vitamin Service

The Treatments Information Officer provided information, support, resources and referrals for over 200 HIV positive people to assist them in making informed decisions about treatments. In addition the project conducted 17 information sessions to a range of health and community services, produced regular information briefs for community publications, and developed a set of fact sheets on the use of complementary therapies in managing treatment side effects. A new initiative in collaboration with the Albion Street Centre saw diet and nutrition services offered at ACON's Sydney office and the PLC. Our Vitamin Service collaborates with the Treatments project and provides vitamins and supplements at cost price to HIV positive people. During the year 291 people were registered with the service and more than 5,000 products distributed. The TGA recall of Pan Pharmaceutical products did impact on our Vitamin Service with a number of products withdrawn from sale. We quickly sourced alternative products to ensure our clients continued to have access to appropriate products.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mature Aged Gays



The average MAG member is 57 years old and has been attending MAG's regular fortnightly meetings for more than five years. Up to 200 people attend these meetings to discuss a range of issues that impact on mature aged gay men. MAGnet, a new weekly social night for MAG members and friends commenced in August 2002 and has gone from strength to strength. MAGnet is held at a local inner-city venue and provides an alternative space to ACON where people can meet. This new social gathering was primarily initiated to encourage a younger age group to MAG (40–50 yrs) and up to 40 people are attending the weekly get together.

Thursday Group

Fun & Esteem's new Thursday Afternoon Group (TAG), is a drop-in group for school aged young gay and bisexual males. TAG ran a number of discussions and interactive activities to address safe sex, STI and HIV risk, homophobia and links with community and services.



Fun and Esteem Project

Our Start Making Sense peer education workshops continue to be popular with young gay and bisexual men under 26. These workshops deal with coming out, understanding gay identity, negotiating relationships, safe sex and the prevention of STIs and HIV. Part of promoting a gay community norm of safe sex and HIV awareness with these groups included the production of a new 20 minute video *Negotiating Safe Sex*. This peer-based educational video resource was produced in partnership with FPA Health and NSW Health. The scripts were written and workshopped with young gay and bisexual men along with youth group facilitators. This video resource is used within the Start Making Sense workshop environment to provide an informal and innovative approach to peer health education through a living theatre model. It aims to increase the awareness of HIV, STI's and sexual health information, and to provide sexual negotiation skills.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Asian Project

In recognition of its achievements for the community, the Asian Project received the award for 'Outstanding Community Group' in the 2002 Annual Pride Awards.

Silk Road

The monthly Silk Road peer support group for Asian gay and bisexual men attracts an average of 40–60 men at each meeting. Topics for discussion during the year included sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention, personal change facilitation, building self esteem, discrimination and racism. Silk Road provided the setting for the launch of the Asian Gay Men's Periodic Survey 2002 results to members of the Asian and broader community.

Asia Plus

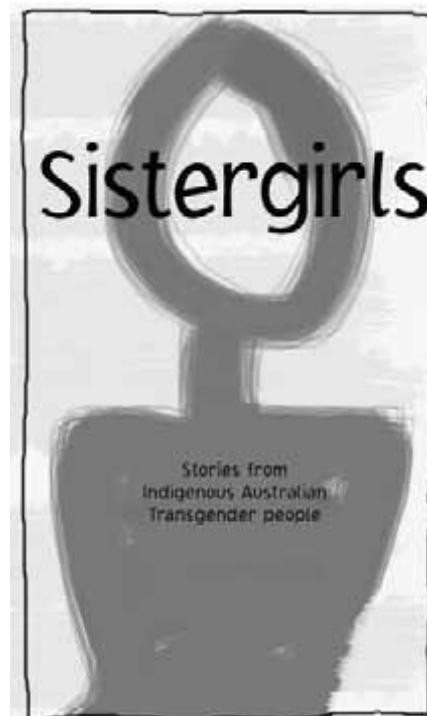
The new monthly support group – Asia Plus – was established in response to the needs of positive Asian gay men who expressed a desire to meet in a safe, confidential environment to discuss issues affecting them. Asia Plus began in November 2002 and has since covered a range of topics including treatments, services available to people living with HIV/AIDS, relaxation, nutrition and life story writing. A volunteer assists the Asian Project officer to facilitate this group which is attended by an average of 8–12 people each month.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project

During the year we held two community workshops in partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Services at Redfern and Mount Druitt. The workshops used an established framework (Access for All) to present on such topics as sexuality and HIV/AIDS.

Much of the year involved the production of a new documentary *Sistergirls – stories from Indigenous Australian transgender people*. This story-telling video was produced as an educational resource to help raise awareness of some of the challenges which Indigenous transgender/sistergirls face. The project was conceived and developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sistergirl Project worker, who shares her story along with three other sistergirls from around Australia.



REGIONAL SERVICES

Western Sydney

The new home for ACON West was officially opened by the NSW Minister for Western Sydney in November 2002 who acknowledged the wide range of services ACON provides to Sydney's Greater West. Throughout the year we conducted a variety of outreach activities to groups and venues in the area providing services and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and the GLBT community. A number of client and service provider training and education projects were also held with anti-homophobia and sexual health workshops. Lesbian health was the focus of a popular speaker series addressing a range of health issues impacting on lesbians in the area and we also provided a range of support, resources and practical assistance to GLBT social and support groups. ACON's Prisons Project remains based out of ACON West with peer support work conducted at Parklea and Longbay Gaols and weekly information distribution to inmates across the state.

CSN West

CSN West continues to provide care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the Western Suburbs and commenced an outreach program with PLWHA Blue Mountains once a month. CSN volunteers also helped establish a new community garden in Westmead which was the focus for World AIDS Day activities on December 1.



Illawarra

In March 2003 ACON Illawarra moved into a new home in the heart of Wollongong. The new premises include ample office space for all ACON services and an adjoining community space providing a community meeting place for GLBT groups in the Illawarra. Community response to the new premises has been extremely positive and the new meeting space is being used by a number of community groups and organisations. Our Care and Support officer works with close to 60 HIV positive clients in the area and also provides outreach services to Nowra. The Education and Community Development officer commenced a new venture for local GLBT community members with Café Q and a gay and bisexual men's social support group continues to meet twice monthly to provide a safe and friendly space. Throughout the year ACON Illawarra ran a number of anti-homophobia and GLBT awareness education sessions in local schools. Our Lesbian Health Project is conducted as a joint project with Illawarra Women's Health Centre.

Young and Proud

A social support group for young GLBT members under 25 has also proved to be an extremely popular fortnightly meeting. In just over a year this group has grown from around 10 regular participants to an average of 20 people each meeting. Young and Proud now has more than 50 current members and is run as a partnership project between ACON, Wollongong Youth Services, Urunga House, Illawarra Women's Health Centre and CHAIN.



REGIONAL SERVICES

Northern Rivers

ACON Northern Rivers was involved in a number of activities to assess the needs of our local communities and to inform branch programs. In September 2002 we released the results of a needs assessment of people living with HIV/AIDS, gay men, lesbians and transgender people in the Northern Rivers and continued to implement the recommendations of this report. Our monthly HIV peer support groups fed into the local PLWHA Consultative Committee to raise awareness around HIV service issues within the area. The Consultative Committee is a joint partnership of ACON and the Northern Rivers Area Health Service. During the year we held a two-day workshop on alternative therapies for 22 people living with HIV/AIDS and hosted a weekend health retreat for 33 HIV positive people covering alcohol and other drugs, mental health, motivation and sexual functioning.

The annual Lismore Community Bake Off was held in September raising much need funds for people living with HIV/AIDS in the northern rivers with Vanessa Wagner proving to be a popular hostess. We also developed an HIV Services Directory to assist people to find HIV prescribers, GPs, dentists and natural therapies in the local area. Our focus on lesbian health saw the establishment of a counselling partnership with Lismore and Districts Women's Health Centre and a partnership with Women's Health Matters in Lismore.



Hunter and Mid North Coast

The Positive Living Program, a partnership project between ACON, Hunter Area Health Service and Karumah, is now well established in new premises. The PLP provides a range of services for people living with HIV/AIDS including vocational guidance, case management, information and support, referral and care services. We also worked with the Positive Support Network on the Central Coast to coordinate a weekend retreat for people living with HIV/AIDS that involved a number of activities including meditation, reiki, reflexology and massage. ACON counselling services at the ACON Hunter continue to see a wide range of needs in the local community with nearly 50 individual sessions held each month. The needle and syringe program at the ACON Hunter is one of the busiest services in the Hunter region, handing out thousands of clean fits every week. Community dances in Newcastle – Blizzard and Cyclone – proved to be a big hit with the local community and plans are underway for these events to continue in the future.

Our Mid North Coast outreach service moved into a new facility in Port Macquarie during the year and we coordinated a number of workshops for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on the Mid North Coast. Outreach to Coffs Harbour continues with a focus on support for local people living with HIV/AIDS and lending a hand to gay and lesbian support services.



SWOP (SEX WORKERS' OUTREACH PROJECT)

The Sex Workers' Outreach Project provided a range of health and support services to the sex industry during the year. SWOP provided health information, support and referral to workers in brothels, massage parlours, escort agencies, street work locations and private sex worker settings.

Outreach Sessions

SWOP provided more than 211 seven-hour long sessions of outreach in the Sydney metropolitan area servicing over 600 brothels, parlours, escort agencies and street sex work areas.

More than 440 individual sessions of outreach were conducted across NSW with staff distributing resources and safe sex equipment along with peer education interactions. Our outreach services outside of Sydney covered 160 different locations.

Sydney Outreach Services included:

- 73 sessions for male brothels
- 50 sessions for female brothels
- 41 sessions for non-English speaking background workers
- 54 sessions for street-based workers
- 27 sessions for transgender sex workers
- 9 sessions for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander workers

Safe Houses

As a member of South Sydney City Council's Street Prostitution Working Party, SWOP was vocal during the year in support of safe houses for street workers in the Darlinghurst area. Council approved development applications for two safe houses. SWOP supports safe houses where street workers can take their clients as a means of getting health and safety information along with condoms and lube directly to street based sex workers.

Street Sex Forum

SWOP addressed 36 participants at a one-day forum on street sex work organised by the NSW Local Government and Shires Association and commenced working with the association on a best practice management model. This model will be developed with input from police, councils, health services, SWOP and sex workers.

Community Development

SWOP held a number of barbecues and picnics for street sex workers and key service providers to increase community cohesion and increase access to services. About 45 sex workers attended gatherings in King Cross and other events attracted a number of workers in Cabramatta and Port Kembla.

Workshops

SWOP staff ran a number of well attended workshops in a variety of areas including B&D, massage, safe sex and condoms. A joint project between SWOP and DISC (Drug Intervention Services Cabramatta) saw 78 sex workers involved in sexual health workshops, safe sex and services negotiation, contraception, safety and police issues.



ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

In November 2002 we released our *Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2002–05* with plans to help improve our communities' understanding of alcohol and other drug use, the associated harms and strategies for reducing those harms.

The Strategy was produced in consultation with other services providers, clients and community members on how our harm reduction activities can better address issues around alcohol and other drug use in our communities. We understand this strategy may in fact be the world's first drug and alcohol strategy developed specifically for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

ACON's work for some time has included activities directed towards alcohol and other drug use issues. Our history and current directions mean ACON is well placed to play a role in addressing issues related to licit and illicit drugs. The strategy has a harm minimisation framework and addresses all forms of drug use including prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Injecting and Other Drug Use Project

This project provides education, harm reduction and health promotion programs to people who choose to use drugs. It is dedicated to the health rights and equity issues of people who use both licit and illicit drugs. We develop and produce drug information resources and provide comprehensive client education and support around HIV and HCV prevention and management. During the year we joined the Hepatitis C Council in hosting forums for health workers along with the National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) and the NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA).

NSP

During the year we finalised a major expansion of our secondary needle and syringe program in Sydney. The NSP moved to a dedicated space where clients can access the service with greater ease and more opportunity for interventions around safe using and harm minimisation. This service extends to the provision of outreach NSP at major gay and lesbian dance parties and we have an NSP in all of our branches.

Smoking Cessation

During the year we developed a six-week cognitive behaviour therapy based smoking cessation/reduction program. This program, called *Stop Kissing Butts* was successfully piloted in-house with ACON staff wanting to address their smoking habit. The program has also been tailored specifically for people living with HIV/AIDS and members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community who will be encouraged to take part in the program in 2003–04. *Stop Kissing Butts* is not an abstinence based model but provides participants with information and skills to use a behavioural change model to quit or reduce smoking.



ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

Self Defence Workshops Safe Place Program

The AVP runs regular self-defence workshops for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. Topics covered in the workshops include strategies to avoid violence, assertiveness and techniques to fend off physical attacks, group attacks and sexual assault. During the year we held nine workshops with 99 participants.

Drink Spiking

The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project formed a partnership with the NSW Police and RPA Sexual Assault Service to develop an anti-drink spiking campaign for the gay and lesbian community in the lead up to the 2002 Gay Games. We produced posters, drink coasters and guidelines for venue staff in dealing with patrons who may have had their drinks spiked. We also ran a second campaign prior to Mardi Gras 2003.

2002 Gay Games

The AVP produced and distributed the *Sydney Safety Passport* for interstate and international visitors to Sydney for the 2002 Gay Games. The Passport included information specific to the games along with general safety issues, partying and picking up safely. About 20,000 passports were distributed to games participants and volunteers.

The Sentinel

During the year we produced two issues of the *Sentinel*, a newspaper style product distributed with the Sydney Star Observer. More than 30,000 copies were distributed throughout the state to venues and social and support groups. In the week after the release of both issues there was a marked increase in the number of reports made to the AVP. From the second edition, nine reports of homophobic violence were directly attributed to the *Sentinel*.

The AVP in partnership with South Sydney Council relaunched the Safe Place program that existed in Sydney in the early 1990s. Safe Place works like the safe house program by providing a range of locations where members of the gay and lesbian community who are experiencing harassment or violence can seek help. The program was launched prior to the 2002 Gay Games and there are now more than 150 businesses enrolled in the program in South Sydney, Sydney City, Marrickville, Wollongong, Newcastle and Lismore.

AVP Website

The AVP developed a new website dealing with a wide range of issues related to homophobic abuse and violence. The site includes pages on general safety, reporting an incident, getting help, your rights, street safety and the Safe Place program. For the first time the AVP has an on-line report form. This feature of the site has been effective in increasing the number of reports made to the project especially from victims of crime who are concerned about confidentiality.

Same Sex Domestic Violence

The AVP chairs the Same Sex Domestic Violence Interagency and its associated Working Group. These groups bring together governments and community organisations to work together to develop a united and effective response to the issues of domestic violence in same sex relationships.

ACON printed copies of a resource manual for workers in related areas to help them understand the special needs of gay men and lesbians experiencing domestic violence. ACON is currently building relationships and developing our own capacity to deal with domestic violence in the lead up to a major campaign to be released early in 2004.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Periodic Surveys

ACON worked with a number of academic partners on research projects and surveys during the year including the National Centre in HIV Social Research, the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and PLWHA (NSW) on the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey. For the past two survey periods ACON has taken a much larger role hosting and providing management support for the survey coordination in-house. We also contributed to the *Asian Gay Community Periodic Survey*, *Health in Men (HIM)* and *HIV Futures 3*.

Roundtables

ACON held a number of roundtable discussions to bring together HIV, health and community researchers and workers to discuss a range of issues. Topics included:

- Drug use in the gay and lesbian community: strategies for action
- Global restrictions: migration and travel issues for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Sociality and belonging: gays and lesbians out fitting in
- Growing older together: ageing in the gay, lesbian and transgender community
- World AIDS Conference 2002: Report back to the community HIV/AIDS services sector
- The back of beyond is not that far away: issues relating to the HIV/AIDS workforce and people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in regional, rural and remote NSW.

NESB Project

This six-month research project aimed to identify better ways to deliver HIV awareness messages, including HIV testing, to men from non-English speaking backgrounds. We assessed and identified the barriers that exist in relation to health services and accessing HIV and sexual health messages for these men. The project developed and implemented an appropriate HIV health awareness and testing campaign specifically targeting Asian gay men.

Health in Difference 4

The fourth national conference on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender health was held as part of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games Global Rights Conference Program. ACON was a major sponsor of the conference helping to bring together researchers and service providers from across the globe to discuss queer health issues. We presented a number of papers and launched our Drug and Alcohol Strategy at the conference.

Homophobic Violence

ACON's Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project played a central role in a major statewide research project of the NSW Attorney General's Department Crime Prevention Division. The research project looked at homophobic hostilities and violence against gay men and lesbians in NSW and ACON worked with a number of government and community agencies to recruit participants for the survey.

Anti-Discrimination Advocacy

This action research project with Southern Cross University aims to document peoples' experience of using anti-discrimination complaint mechanisms and informal strategies to respond to issues of discrimination. We are now progressing to the final stage of this research to evaluate participating community-based organisations' capacity to provide an effective interface between the GLBT and HIV positive communities and the human rights systems.

Adventurous Sex

This action research project with the University of Western Sydney investigates gay male sub-cultures of sexual adventurism and esoteric practices. The project aims to identify health needs of sexually adventurous gay men and increase our understanding of ways to promote health messages within this target group.





EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

2002 Gay Games

ACON played a key role during the Sydney 2002 Gay Games with an information stall at the City Hub in Hyde Park and an army of bucket collectors at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Our Safe Sex Sluts were out in force during the games distributing safe sex information and equipment at the five dance parties and to busy gay and lesbian venues.

Egg Party

This was our first year in over a decade without a Hand in Hand dance party on the Queen's Birthday long weekend. We still managed to party away on the June long weekend with a smaller replacement party at the Midnight Shift called Egg. A large crowd came together to dance the night away and raise funds for ACON's many health services. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and we can look forward to the return of the big dance party next year with Hand in Hand's return as *Big Queer Nation* at Fox Studios.

Mardi Gras

The 25th anniversary Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade saw an old ACON float personality brought back to life for the special occasion. The giant colourful figure affectionately known as *Vicki Virus* was created by the late acclaimed artist David McDiarmid and made her Oxford Street debut in 1992. ACON was also visible at Mardi Gras Fair Day with an information stall and *Chill Out* tent that proved popular when the afternoon rain rolled in.



Bingay

This naughty numbers game continues to be a valuable weekly fundraising event at the Imperial Hotel on Tuesday nights with Mitzi MacIntosh and Naomi Palmer. Mitzi is a great supporter of ACON and won the DIVA 2003 ACON Queen of Hearts Award. We have quite a few regulars attending Bingay but are keen to see new faces quizzing number calls, laughing themselves silly, accidentally calling out Bingo and having to wear an awful hat as punishment. Just roll up at 8.30pm and have a ball!

Candlelight Memorial

The annual AIDS Candlelight Memorial was held in Green Park, Darlinghurst on Monday November 25, the start of AIDS Awareness Week. More than 200 people attended the twilight ceremony, lighting candles to remember the friends we have lost and listening to the Reading of the Names.

Red Ribbons

AIDS Awareness Week, leading up to World AIDS Day on December 1, is ACON's major fundraising period. We work to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention and the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS by selling red ribbons. These ribbons are the international symbol for HIV/AIDS awareness and each year we rely on hundreds of volunteers to help sell ribbons and pins in NSW. A number of local events were also held in our branches to commemorate AIDS Awareness Week.



Staff and Volunteers

Cath Adams, Nicola Addison, Brent Allan, Glenn Archibald, Karen Askew, Heidi Avery, Helen Babbington, Tony Baca, Gavin Bambry, Jason Barry-Cotter, Ruth Bearpark, Scott Berry, Zoe Bishop, Nigel Blackwood, Greg Bork, Jackie Braw, Bronwyn Briggs, Rosemary Bristow, Barrie Brockwell, Kayleen Bromley, Alan Brotherton, Deb Broughton, Kooncha Brown, David Buchanan, Kallista Buchanan, Christopher Bull, Shane Burgess, John Byrne

Bianca Calandra, Julie Callaghan, Dale Campbell, Donna Campbell, Theresa Caruana, Julie Cassidy, Jason Chatwin, Somali Cerise, Jum Chimkit, Stevie Clayton, William Clement, Teresa Clonan, Bec Coleman, Linette Collins, Crellyn Collison, Mark Connolly, Brad Cooper, Duncan Cresswell, Stuart Crofts, Graham Curtis, Luke Cutler, Jumrus Dabbhadatta, John Daly, Gil Dalzell, Glenn David, Ron Davis, Kate DeMaere, Roy Devellerez, Sarah Dickson, John Dixon, Lee, Doherty, Hamish Downie, Jaclyn Draper, Alan Dun, James De Vere

John Edgell, Cindii Edwards, Nicky Evans, Gerard Farmer, Lance Feeney, Jason Fisher, Kate Fisher, Marie Fisher, Michael Flinn, Harry Fransen, Denis Fuelling, Stephen Gallagher, Danny Gallant, Tony Gardner, Gareth Gillham, Lara Goulding, Brad Gray, Richard Green, Stephen Griffith, Kent Gryphon, Denise Hanlon, Margaret Hansford, Rita Harding, Barrie Harrison, Peter Harrison, Duncan Harvey, Tony Head, Jacqueline Head, Kim Heap, Barbara Hickson, Anthony Hillis, Patricia Holton, Rachel Holmshaw, Matthew Hua, Stacey Hughes

Peter Irons, Detlev Jackson, Paul Jansa, Doerthe, Jansen, Dean Johnston, Cindy Jones, Laurie Keane, Ron Keevers, Robert Kellet, Carl Kneipp, Ron Knight, Sandra Ladd, Julie Lawrence, David Lee, Eric Lewis, Kay Lewis, Jane Liddy, Olivia Lolohea, Adrian Lovney, Jane Lowe, Dane Lyddiard

Daniel Maddedu, Annette Maie, Dusan Marjanovic, Chantell Martin, Leigh Matthews, norrie May-welby, Tony Maynard, Rima Mazloum, Pol McCann, David McGuigan, Hugh McLeod, Maria McMahan, Christine McSweeney, Dennis Meijer, Karen Michael, Sara Mitchell, Simon Moore, Jefferson Moreira, Maggie Moylan, Eric Muller, Mel Nahlos, Rusty Nannup, Rosemary Nojima, Graham Norton, David Novella, John O'Dea, Sean O'Rourke, Kevin Orrell, Stephen Ostrow

Antonio Pangallo, Bruce Parker, Fiona Parker, Wendy Parsons, Adelaide Pascoe, William Pastoors, Kevin Paton, Robert Pearson, Sandi Peel, Greig Phillpot, Sera Pinwill, Carl Piraino, Katelund Povey, Ty Power, Garrett Prestage, Priyadi Prishwan, James Quinan, Michael Riches, Thomas Robertson, Kenn Robinson, Marian Robinson, Sue Rodda, Maureen Rogers, Lisa Ronneberg, Paul Rooms, Katy Roy, Jen Rudland, Flic Ryan, Lisa Ryan

Alfeo Salcedo, Ray Sarsin, Mary-Anne Saunders, Stephen Scott, Elizabeth Sheehan, Rock Shipton, Shan Short, Gina Silverstone, Geoff Sloman, Natasha Smithies, Alanna Somers, Geoffrey Spinks, Billy St Jon, Greg Staples, Jonathan Street, Marina Suarez, John Sullivan, Rob Sutherland, Christopher Sutenfield, Themistos Themistou, Gerard Tobin, Kon Toumazos, Tracey Treleaven, John Tsioulos, Ronnie Turner

Bill Upton, James Urban, Sharon Valks, Andrew Van-Twist, Hans Vandyk, Peter Varena, Jose Vulcao, Michael Walton, Tanya Warr, Daniel Webb, Jaclyn Webber, Sky Wells, Harry West, Steve Wheatley, Michelle Wickham, David Wilkins, Darrell Williams, Sonny Williams, Terry Wills, Lucky Wirajaya, Rachel Wotton, Julie Wylie, Craig Yeates, Tess Ziems

Many thanks to our many volunteers for their support during the year – red ribbon sellers, Community Support Network (CSN) carers, Positive Living Centre (PLC) volunteers and our Safe Sex Sluts.

Thank You



ACON PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS

Access Systems
Aged Care Rights Service
AIDS Dementia and HIV Psychiatry Team (ADAHPT)
AIDS Trust of Australia
Albion Street Centre
Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)
Anglicare Youth and Family Services
Ankali
Arq
Aurora
Aussie Boys
Australian College of Applied Psychology
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Australian Lesbian Medical Association (ALMA)
Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society (ARCSHS)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)
Baine International
Barcardi Breezer
Beauty 93
Bent Magazine
Big Boy's Café
Bingay - Mitzi Macintosh & Naomi Palmer
Black Pan
Blockbuster Newtown
Blue Mountains PLWHA
Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre
BMG Australia
Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF)
Boland Funerals
Bondi Youth
Bookshop Darlinghurst
Break Thru Employment Agency
Bruce Pollack Publicity
Buena Vista International
Café Niagara
Canterbury Bankstown Gay & Lesbian Social Group Inc
Carelink
Carers NSW
Cellblock Youth Services
Central Coast Area Health Service (CCAHS)
Central Sydney Area Health Service (CSAHS)
Central Sydney Community Transport
Centrelink
Charles Sturt University
City of Sydney Council
Clinic 16
Combined Pensioners and Superannuation Association
Come-In Centre
Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services
Community Health for Adolescents in Need (CHAIN)
Community Housing Federation of Australia
Community Options (COPS)
CONTACT
Corrections Health Service
Correllis Café
Council for Civil Liberties
CRC Justice Support
Crossroads
Darlinghurst Community Health Centre
Daruk Aboriginal Medical Service
Deli Women and Children's Centre
Des Kilkeary Lodge
DISC Cabramatta
Disney
DIVA
DJ Ruby
DNA Magazine
Doctor Earth Newtown
Domestic Violence Advocacy Service
Domestic Violence Line
Donkey.com.au
Dr Ben Hanson and Associates
East Nowra Neighbourhood Centre
Eastern Suburbs Division of General Practice
Exit Café
Fairfield City Council
Family Drug Support
Fantasy Lane
Floral Decorator
Foley House
Food Distribution Network
Foxtel
FPA Health
Freehills
Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby
Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service
Gay Men's Domestic Violence Counselling Service
Gender Centre
Ground Zero Medical Practice
Haymarket Foundation
Headquarters
Hepatitis C Council
HIV AIDS Library Network (HALN)
HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC)
Holdsworth House General Practice
Holy Family Community Education Centre
Home and Community Care (HACC)
Homecare NSW
Homelessness NSW/ACT
House of Priscilla
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
Hume Phoenix Inc
Hunter Area Health Service
IGA Darlinghurst
Illawarra Area Health Service
Illawarra Healthy Cities
Illawarra Legal Centre
Illawarra Women's Health Centre
Immigrant Women Speakout
Imperial Hotel
Impotence Australia
Independent Distillers
Inner City Legal Centre
Inner South-West Community Development Organisation
Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development
Jansen Newman Institute
Karumah
Karuna Clinic
Kens of Kensington
King Street Chemist
Kirkton Road Centre
L J Hooker Newtown
Legal Aid
Leichhardt Women's Health Centre
Lesbian Health Interagency Network (LHIN)
Lesbians on Air (2GLF)
Lillyss Brasserie
Lismore and Districts Women's Health Centre
Liverpool Hospital
Liverpool Regional Museum
Liverpool Women's Health Centre
Luncheon Club
Mannacom Pty Ltd
Massage Therapy Erskineville

AND SPONSORS

McAfee Security
Meals on Wheels
Mental Health Coordinating Council
Metropolitan Community Church
Mid North Coast Area Health Service
Mid Western Area Health Service
Mission Australia
Moryua Community Health
Mrs Hill Café
Multi-cultural HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C Service
NAPWA
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR)
National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR)
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
Nepean Hospital
NESB Women's Housing
New Mardi Gras
NorthAIDS
Northern Rivers Area Health Service
Northern Rivers Social Development Council
NSW Anti-Discrimination Board
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 Family and Community Services
NSW Department of Housing
NSW Federation of Housing Associations
NSW Health
NSW Nurses Association
NSW Ombudsman's Office
NSW Police Service
NSW Tenants Association
NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)
Office of Community Housing
Opera Australia
Options Community Enterprises
Options
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Bowral

Our Pathways Inc (OPI)
Parents Family and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
Parramatta City Council
Parramatta Club
PAWS
People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A (NSW))
People With Disabilities
PFLAG Western Sydney
Pink Nation
Polaroid Australia
Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLO's)
Positive Central
Positive Heterosexuals
Pride
Prince of Wales Hospital
Private Workers Alliance
Psychologists & Counsellors in HIV/AIDS
Quality Management Services
Queer Out West
Queerascoot
Randwick Information & Community Centre
Randwick/Waverley Community Transport
Red Bull
Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service
Redfern Community Health
REPIDU Redfern
RMIT Publishing
Rough Edges
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Royal Botanic Gardens
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Sacred Heart Hospice
Sanctuary
Scarlet Alliance
Sexual Health Services
Shelter NSW
Shopfront Youth Legal Service
Signal
Social Workers in AIDS (SWAIDS)
South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service
South Sydney Community Transport
South Sydney Council
South West Inner Sydney Housing Co-op (SWISH)
South Western Sydney Area Health Service
Southern Cross University

St George Hospital
St Vincent de Paul Society
St Vincent's Community Health Service
St Vincent's Hospital
Stanford House
Stonewall Hotel
Striptease Artists Union
SX News
Sydney Children's Hospital
Sydney City Steam
Sydney Sexual Health Centre
Sydney Star Observer
Sydney University
Taxi Club
Taylor Square Private Clinic
Tender Loving Cuisine
The Bridge
Tooheys
Toolshed
Toy Box Parties
TRAIDS
Tree of Hope
Trimagic Software P/L
Tropical Fruits
Twenty Ten
Unity
University of Technology Sydney
Upper Mountains Family Support Service
Urunga House
Victims Compensation Tribunal
Victims Support Line
Wayside Chapel
Wentworth Area Health Service
Wesley Uniting Church on the Mall
Western Suburbs Haven
Western Sydney Area Health Service
Westmead Hospital
Wollongong City Gallery
Wollongong Youth Services
Women's Legal Resource Centre
Women's Refuge Working Party
Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre
Zomba Music
407 Doctors

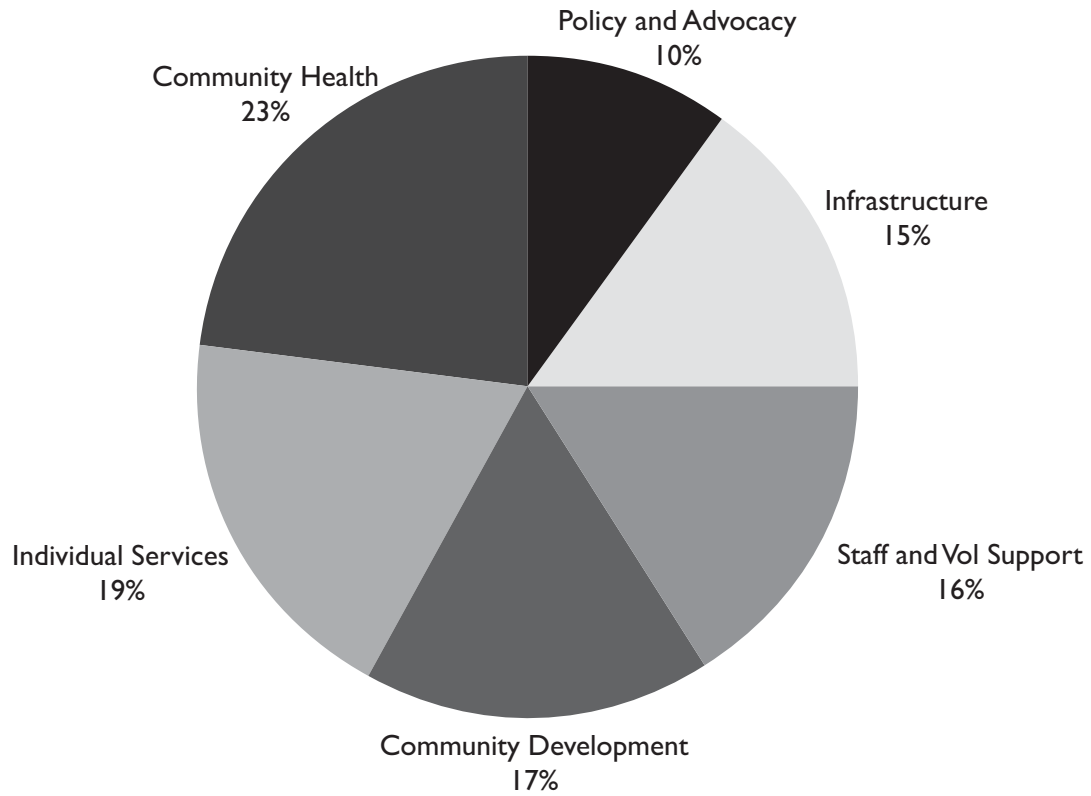
Many thanks to our major funder

NSW HEALTH
Working as a Team

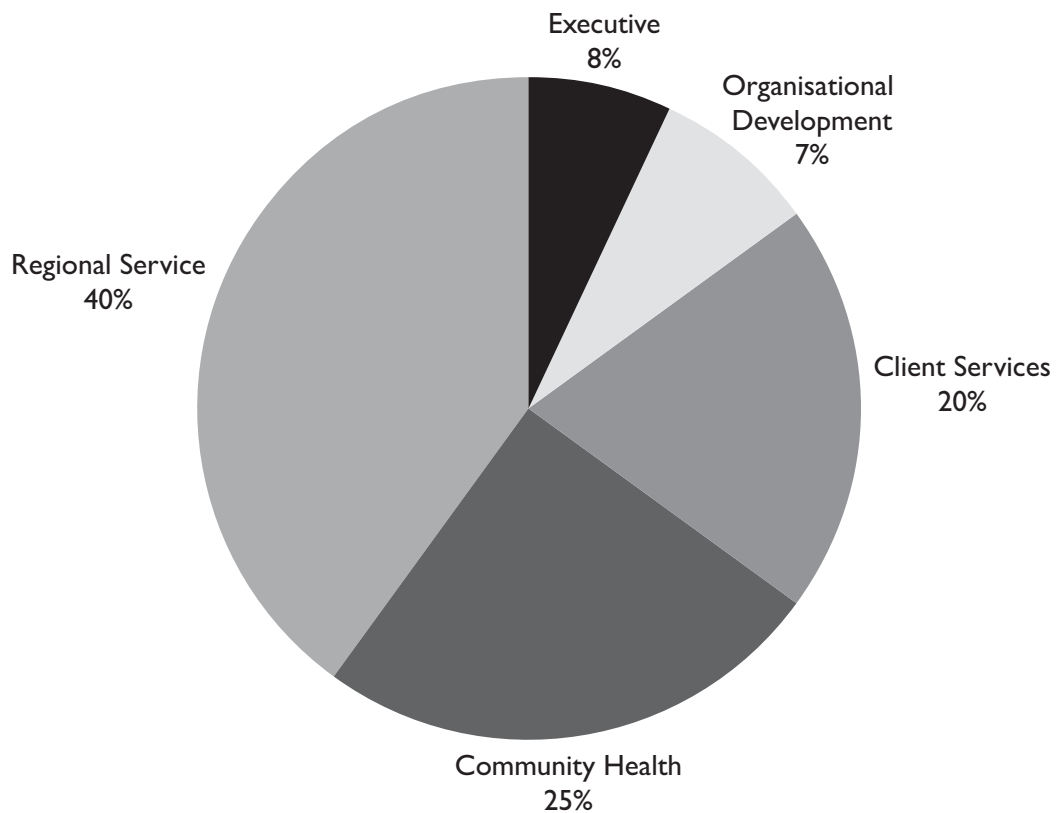
Many thanks to our pro-bono legal advisors Freehills and to our auditors PriceWaterhouseCoopers

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure by Program areas



Expenditure by Division after overhead allocation



These graphs do not form part of the audited financial report but are presented to give our members an indication of how ACON allocates its funding.

FINANCIAL REPORT

for the year ended 30 June 2003

Treasurer's Report for the Year ended 30 June 2003

It is with pleasure that I present the accounts for the 2002-03 financial year which indicate that ACON has once again finished the year in a strong and healthy financial position.

We finished the year with a small operating deficit of \$77,640 which was favourable compared to the budgeted operating deficit of \$158,646. 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 \$1,082,179.

The Financial Statements show a substantial amount of cash on hand at 30 June 2003 of \$2,356,375. This is primarily made up of grant income provided in advance, and provision for employee entitlements, guaranteeing the organisation's ability to pay such entitlements when required.

There have been no borrowings this financial year.

This was the second year of our rolling three year asset replacement program for IT equipment. This will improve the technology available to staff throughout the organisation.

We continue to consolidate improvements made in financial accountability. The timing of release of the monthly financial reports to management has greatly improved this financial year, enabling managers to be more pro-active in controlling their project expenditure.

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.



Tony Baca
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 2003.

- 1 The principal activities of the Association during the year were the provision of health promotion, advocacy and care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS and to the gay and lesbian communities, including indigenous people, transgender people, injecting drug users, and sex workers.
- 2 After providing \$nil for income tax, operations for the year ended 30 June 2003, resulted in a net deficit of (\$77,640) [2001/2002: surplus \$154,952] compared to budget deficit of (\$158,646).
- 3 Gifts of Works of Art valued at \$102,850 were not re-valued this financial year.

- 4 The Association is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW) and is restricted from declaring any dividends.
- 5 During the year ended 30 June 2003, 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.
- 6 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 2003

Name	Experience	Special Responsibilities
Adrian Lovney LLB(Hons)	13 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.	President
Rachel Pepper BA/LLB(Hons)	Barrister who practices in discrimination law, legal community centre experience, worked in voluntary capacity for Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.	Vice-President
Andrew Maiden BEC, LLB	Solicitor with extensive experience in community organisations. Currently an executive in the telecommunications industry.	Treasurer
Margaret Hansford BA, MPhC	Extensive experience in the women's health, with a particular interest in primary health care. Currently CEO of FPA Health.	Secretary
Simon Moore B.A. (Comms)	Presently General Manager of graphic design company. Involved in politics for five years.	
Garrett Prestage BA(hons), PhD.	Research Fellow at National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, two decades experience researching gay and lesbian community and health issues.	
David Buchanan SC	Barrister	
Rita Harding BA (Hons), MPRIA	Extensive experience in social issue campaigning and public policy promotion. Served as a committee member of the GLRL and as a volunteer for a variety of other community organisations. Currently employed in the private sector.	

FINANCIAL REPORT

Name	Experience	Special Responsibilities
Stevie Clayton	3.5 years as Deputy Executive Officer, Member of Equal Opportunity Division, Administrative Decisions Tribunal. Long history of involvement in community based organisations.	Chief Executive Officer of ACON
Linette Collins	Currently conducts research into Dip. Soc Studs, drug use. Has a background in MPH (Hons) health services management, public policy and public health.	
Tess Ziems	ACON Staff Representative; BA(Lib & Info Sc,) Dip comm Mgnt 9 years as ACON staff member, 5 as CSN volunteer carer. Currently ACON Quality Improvement Coordinator. Knowledge of ACON's staff/ project history, as well as previous Staff Representative position in 1996.	

8 Attendances by Members of the Board who held office during the year at meetings of the Board during the year ended 30 June 2003 were as follows. Elections for the elected Board Members were held in October 2002.

	Meetings held	Meetings attended
Elected Members and Ex Officio		
Adrian Lovney	10	10
Rachel Pepper	10	5
Andrew Maiden	10	7
Margaret Hansford	10	8
David Buchanan	10	9
Derek Chan [to November 2002]	5	4
Linette Collins	10	7
Andrew Grulich [to November 2002]	5	2
Rita Harding	10	7
Kane Race [to November 2002]	5	3
Garrett Prestage [from November 2002]	5	5
David Fowler [from November 2002]	5	5
Tess Ziems	10	9
Stevie Clayton [CEO]	9	9
Alan Brotherton [Acting CEO July 2002]	1	1

Subsequent to 30 June 2003, Jackie Braw was appointed Vice-President and Tony Baca was appointed Treasurer.

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 \$3,175 [2001/2002: \$1,750] 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 At its meeting held on 11 September 2002, the Members of the Board resolved to advance the newly incorporated New Mardi Gras the sum of \$50,000. The \$50,000 was repaid in full prior to 30 June 2003.

The advance was conditional upon New Mardi Gras providing a reporting mechanism which is certified by the acon President as satisfactory to acon; the acon Chief Executive Officer being a New Mardi Gras authorising signatory; the funds of the loan being subject to and disbursed in accordance with acon systems; and New Mardi Gras providing monthly cash flow and expenditure reporting to acon.

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 Twenty Seventh Day of October 2003



Adrian Lovney
President



Jackie Braw
Vice-President

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
Revenue from Ordinary Activities			
Grants:			
NSW Department of Health	6,680,778	6,680,778	6,468,791
NSW Department of Community Services	109,017	109,017	64,424
WorkCover New South Wales	0	0	7,436
NSW Department for Women	6,319	6,319	1,942
NSW Attorney General's Department	5,978	5,978	12,525
Commonwealth Dept of Health & Aged Care	82,311	82,311	205,706
Area Health Services	706,970	706,970	416,923
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations	10,886	10,886	5,059
AIDS Trust of Australia	37,223	37,223	47,273
NSW Users and AIDS Association	3,985	3,985	4,323
Other grants	97,467	97,467	65,388
Fundraising	22	223,468	410,081
Interest received/receivable		141,417	125,714
Membership		1,962	1,733
Rent received		30,511	36,358
Sale of Vitamins		80,684	68,299
Sale of Materials		97,714	117,372
Registration Fees		45,656	-
Other Income		48,572	60,672
Gifts of Works of Art		-	-
Total Revenue from Ordinary Activities		8,410,918	8,120,019
Expenditure			
Salaries and Associated Costs		5,179,717	5,068,260
Programs and Services		649,168	651,995
Rent and Rates		203,006	187,110
Depreciation – Plant and Equipment		139,640	115,980
Building Maintenance		422,552	284,761
Communications		275,962	246,700
Travel and Representation		318,292	328,246
Donations given		22,495	45,328
Publicity and Promotion		132,257	150,894
Events and Activities		89,201	183,368
Administrative costs		978,252	632,442
Borrowing Costs		-	398
Cost of goods sold		78,016	69,585
Total Expenditure		8,488,558	7,965,067
Surplus/(Deficit) from Ordinary Activities	2	(77,640)	154,952

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

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
Current Assets			
Cash	4	2,356,375	2,795,841
Receivables	6	236,198	210,707
Inventories	7	7,771	5,738
Other	8	103,734	93,807
Total Current Assets		2,704,078	3,106,093
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	9	355,747	368,549
Deposits, Bonds	10	1,600	2,467
Total Non-Current Assets		357,347	371,016
Total Assets		3,061,425	3,477,109
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	11	664,855	872,394
Employee Entitlements	12	369,079	314,671
Grants in Advance	13	739,199	948,904
Total Current Liabilities		1,773,133	2,135,969
Non-current Liabilities			
Employee Entitlements	14	201,113	176,321
Total Non-current Liabilities		201,113	-
Total Liabilities		1,974,246	2,312,290
Net Assets		1,087,179	1,164,819
Members' Funds			
Retained Surplus at beginning of the Year		1,159,819	1,004,867
Current Year Surplus (deficit)		(77,640)	154,952
Retained Surplus at the end of the Year		1,082,179	1,159,819
Revaluation Reserve	25	5,000	5,000
Total Members' Funds		1,087,179	1,164,819

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

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Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Receipts from customers, granting bodies and fundraising (inclusive of goods and services tax)		8,961,027	9,067,176
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of goods and services tax)		(9,404,905)	(8,486,521)
		(443,878)	580,655
Interest paid		–	(398)
Interest received		131,250	137,973
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	5	(312,628)	718,230
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Payment for plant and equipment		(126,838)	(100,826)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(126,838)	(100,826)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Payments reducing lease liability		–	(5,165)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		–	(5,165)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(439,466)	612,239
Cash at beginning of the financial year	4	2,795,841	2,183,602
Cash at end of the financial year	4	2,356,375	2,795,841

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

I 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.

(a) Grant Revenue

Grant revenue received is brought to account over the life of the funded project, hence all funds committed for the financial year have been recorded as revenue for that year and funds not committed as grants in advance.

(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.

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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 and 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.

(g) Leasehold Improvements

A lease for premises at 9–25 Commonwealth Street, Darlinghurst exists between the Association and the NSW State Government, terminating on 30 September 2004. 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 10 years.

(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) Goods and Services Tax Systems Changes

Costs incurred to update existing systems or to design, develop and implement new systems to deal with the GST are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they result in an enhancement of future economic benefits and are recognised as an asset.

(k) 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.

(l) 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. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

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Superannuation

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

(m) Borrowing Costs

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

(n) 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.

2 Operating Surplus

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

(a) Net gains and expenses:	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Cost of Goods Sold	78,016	69,585
Depreciation Plant and Equipment	139,640	115,980
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	0	1,766
Donations Given	22,495	45,328
Borrowing costs	0	398
Bad and Doubtful Debts	680	3,630
Provision for Employee Entitlements	79,200	47,549
Rental expense relating to operating leases	119,848	108,568

(b) Revision of Estimated Useful Life of Assets

During the year, the estimated total useful lives to the Association of certain items of Plant and Equipment and Office Equipment were revised. The net effect of the changes in the current financial year was a loss on disposal of non-current assets of \$0 [2001/2002:\$1,766].

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

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	5,600	4,200
Cash at bank:		
Cheque account - Operations	826,906	1,265,746
Deposits	1,523,869	1,525,895
	2,356,375	2,795,841

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

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(77,640)	154,952
Depreciation and Amortisation	139,640	115,980
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	–	1,766
Gifts of Works of Art	–	–
Lease Interest	–	398

Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities:

Increase in Provision for Employee Entitlements	79,200	47,549
Increase/(Decrease) in Grants in Advance	(209,705)	180,810
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(25,491)	93,550
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Current Assets	(9,927)	25,664
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventory	(2,033)	706
(Increase)/Decrease in other Non-Current Assets	867	(2,467)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(207,539)	99,322

Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

(312,628) 718,230

6 Current Assets - Receivables

Accounts Receivable	155,051	116,753
Accrued Income	81,147	93,954
	236,198	210,707

7 Current Assets - Inventories

Finished Goods (Vitamins) at cost	7,771	5,738
	7,771	5,738

8 Current Assets - Other

Prepaid Goods and Services Tax	88,350	83,070
Prepaid expenses	15,384	10,737
	103,734	93,807

9 Non-Current Assets - Plant and Equipment

Furniture & Fittings, at cost	1,229,395	1,229,395
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,156,497)	(1,101,628)
	72,898	127,767
Office Equipment, at cost	515,795	408,648
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(357,677)	(280,318)
	158,118	128,330
Equipment Under Lease, at cost	48,116	48,116
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(48,116)	(46,048)
	0	2,068
Library Resources	3,663	3,663
Gifts of Works of Art	102,850	102,850
	106,513	106,513
Leasehold Improvements	25,570	5,880
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(7,352)	(2,009)
	18,218	3,871
Total Plant and Equipment	355,747	368,549

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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 2002	127,767	128,330	2,068	106,513	3,871	368,549
Additions	-	107,148	-	-	19,690	126,838
Depreciation expense	(54,870)	(77,359)	(2,068)	-	(5,343)	(139,640)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2003	72,897	158,119	0	106,513	18,218	355,747

10 Deposits, Bonds

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
	1,600	2,467

11 Current Liabilities – Accounts Payable

Accrued Goods and Services Tax	65,378	65,495
Trade Creditors	557,095	600,974
Accrued Expenses	42,382	205,925
	664,855	872,394

12 Current Liabilities – Employee Entitlements

Provision for Annual Leave	369,079	314,671
	369,079	314,671

Employee Numbers	Number	Number
Number of employees at reporting date	147	142
Full-time equivalent at reporting date	110	108

13 Current Liabilities – Grants in Advance

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Grants Received in Advance:		
NSW Department of Health	163,961	354,712
NSW Department of Community Services	9,371	33,572
WorkCover New South Wales	13,640	13,640
NSW Attorney General's Department	69,414	4,496
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations	5,695	11,081
Area Health Services	163,912	231,342
NSW Users and AIDS Association	10,016	14,000
NSW Department for Women	18,739	25,058
NSW Department of Urban Affairs	18,859	16,275
Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care	61,170	14,431
Catholic Development Fund	183,883	183,883
Other grants	20,539	46,414
	739,199	948,904

14 Non-current Liabilities – Employee Entitlements

Provision for Long Service Leave	201,113	176,321
	201,113	176,321

15 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 out below.

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Interest Rate Risk Exposures

		Fixed Interest Maturing in:					
2003		Notes	Floating Interest	over 1 year or less	to 5 years	Non-interest bearing	Total
			Rate	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets:							
Cash and deposits	4	737,398	1,523,869	–	95,108	2,356,375	
Receivables	6	–	–	–	236,198	236,198	
Other	10	–	–	–	1,600	1,600	
		737,398	1,523,869	–	332,906	2,594,173	
Weighted average interest rate			3.70%	4.12%			
Financial Liabilities:							
Trade and other creditors	11	–	–	–	664,855	664,855	
Grants in advance	13	–	–	–	739,199	739,199	
		–	–	–	1,404,054	1,404,054	
Net financial assets (liabilities)		737,398	1,523,869	–	(1,071,148)	1,190,119	

		Fixed Interest Maturing in:					
2002		Notes	Floating Interest	over 1 year or less	to 5 years	Non-interest bearing	Total
			Rate	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets:							
Cash and deposits	4	1,247,447	1,525,895	–	22,499	2,795,841	
Receivables	6	–	–	–	210,707	210,707	
Other	10	–	–	–	2,467	2,467	
		1,247,447	1,525,895	–	235,673	3,009,015	
Weighted average interest rate			3.47%	3.96%			
Financial Liabilities:							
Trade and other creditors	11	–	–	–	872,394	872,394	
Grants in advance	13	–	–	–	948,904	948,904	
		–	–	–	1,821,298	1,821,298	
Weighted average interest rate							
Net financial assets (liabilities)		1,247,447	1,525,895	–	(1,585,625)	1,187,717	

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of Net Financial Assets to Net Assets		
Net financial assets as above	1,190,119	1,187,717
Non-financial assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	7,771	5,738
Property, plant and equipment	355,747	368,548
Other financial assets	103,734	93,807
Provisions	(570,192)	(490,992)
	1,087,179	1,164,818

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.

16 Remuneration of Members of the Board

Members of the Board serve the Association in a voluntary capacity.

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

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
	Nil	Nil

17 Remuneration of Auditors

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Remuneration for audit and review of the Association's financial report - PricewaterhouseCoopers	30,000	19,750
Remuneration for other services - PricewaterhouseCoopers	1,650	15,800
	31,650	35,550

18 Segments

The principal activities of the Association during the year were the provision of health promotion, advocacy and care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS and the communities affected by HIV/AIDS. The Association operates predominantly in one geographical area, being New South Wales, Australia.

19 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.

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20 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 2002/2003.

21 Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year ended 30 June 2003.

22 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

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Gross proceeds from fundraising:		
Dance Party	16,438	208,357
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	83,388	96,188
Mardi Gras Raffle	-	5,167
Other including Donations and Sponsorship	123,642	100,369
Total gross proceeds from fundraising	223,468	410,081
less total costs of fundraising		
Hand-in-Hand Dance Party	2,321	165,991
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	10,985	11,145
Mardi Gras Raffle	-	404
Other	86,492	94,983
Total costs of fundraising	99,798	272,523
Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals	123,670	137,558

(b) Forms of fundraising appeals conducted during the period covered by these financial statements were: Dance Party, Appeals, Raffles, Bingo, Dinners.

(c) Comparative Ratios

Ratio of costs to gross proceeds	45%	66%
Ratio of net surplus to gross proceeds	55%	34%
Ratio of total cost of services to total expenditure	100%	100%
Ratio of total cost of services to total income	101%	98%

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.

23 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 2003. No material losses are expected in respect of any of the above contingent liabilities.

24 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:

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Within one year	78,214	77,952
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	66,911	65,712
Later than 5 years	-	-

25 Reserves

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in Note 1(e).

FINANCIAL REPORT

Declaration by the Board for the year ended 30 June 2003

The Members of the Board declare that the financial statements and notes set out on pages 29–37

- (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 2003 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



Jackie Braw
Vice-President

Dated at Sydney this Twenty Seventh Day of October 2003

FINANCIAL REPORT

Independent Audit Report to the Members of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc.

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:

- gives a true and fair view, as required by the Corporations Act 2001 in Australia, of the financial position of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated (ACON) as at 30 June 2003 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, and
 - 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 2003
- 2 the accounts and associated financial records have been properly kept in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW) during the financial year ended 30 June 2003
 - 3 money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted by ACON during the financial year ended 30 June 2003 had 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 ACON will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This opinion must be read in conjunction with the following explanation of the qualification, scope and summary of our role as auditor.

Qualification

Cash from donations and other fundraising activities are a significant source of revenue for ACON. The members of the board have determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of revenue from these sources prior to entry into its financial records. 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 ACON, for the year ended 30 June 2003.

The directors of ACON are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001. 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 estimate inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of ACON. 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.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia and the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW), a view which is consistent with our understanding of ACON'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, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors.

When this audit report is included in an Annual Report, our procedures include reading the other information in the Annual 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 31 October 2003

Stephen Humphries
Partner

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