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In commemoration of 21 years of service to people living with HIV/AIDS and the GLBT community, this year's Annual Report features a retrospective of some of ACON's campaigns over the last two decades.

The Board and management of ACON (AIDS Council of NSW) gratefully acknowledges the support of our major funder NSW Health and our pro-bono legal advisors Freehills.

VISION AND MISSION

Our Mission

ACON is a community-based non-government organisation promoting the health and wellbeing of a diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, and a leading agency in HIV/AIDS policy development and program delivery.

What We Seek - Our Vision

- An end to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- A strong, healthy and resilient gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.
- A society that respects the link between health and social justice.

What We Believe In

- Social justice
- Creativity, innovation and excellence
- Strengthening community
- The equal right to health
- Working in partnership
- Harm minimisation
- Inclusiveness, respect and self-determination
- Sex positivity
- Minimising our environmental impact
- Leading by example in a caring workplace
- · Social responsibility as an organisation

Our Community

The community we come from, work in and are most accountable to is the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community. This is not one homogenous group but is made up of many different individuals. Some are younger or older, of different genders, economic, geographic or social backgrounds, some are from different cultures, some have disabilities and some have HIV/AIDS. We appreciate these differences as a strength of our community not a point for division so we speak of one community even though it has many parts.

Our Clients

Our clients most often come from within our community but not always. We provide services for all people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS about 15% of whom, at this time, are heterosexual. Many of our HIV and STI prevention programs target people who don't necessarily identify as part of our community but who interact with our community such as non-gay identifying men who have sex with men. We often work in partnership to develop programs where only a component will focus on our community.

Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP)

SWOP is a large and important part of ACON with a distinct focus and client group. SWOP represents sex industry workers and management as well as sex industry clients.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



- Asian Project
- Youth Programs
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project
- Western Sydney

HIV Living

- Positive Living Centre
- HIV Health Promotion
- Family Support

Front of House

- Reception Services
- Learning Centre
- Quality Improvement
- Vitamin Service

Treatments Information

2006 is a landmark year for ACON. Firstly, it marks 25 years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and secondly, it marks 21 years of ACON serving the GLBT community in NSW. As such, it's appropriate to reflect on the impact HIV/ AIDS has had on our community over the last quarter of a century, how ACON has developed as an organisation in response to the health needs of our community and what lessons we can learn from the past that can help us to continue our mission in the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

ACON began in 1985 as a major part of the GLBT community's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in NSW. At that time, HIV in Australia was restricted almost entirely to gay men and there was no treatment in sight. ACON gave a voice to people living with HIV/AIDS, worked alongside successive state and federal governments to develop HIV strategies and played an integral role in the Australian response to the crisis.

The gay liberation movement of the 1970's provided a strong foundation for the community to pull together for a political response to HIV and to fight for the community. In fact, the linkages between gay rights, human rights and HIV were identified at the very beginning of Australia's response to HIV/AIDS, with a strong belief that any work in HIV prevention, care and support necessitated the fostering of an 'enabling environment'. This involved, and continues to involve, advocating for public attitudes, laws and regulations that impact on the whole person and focuses on their health in context rather than just upon the disease. Partnerships, a community focus, the right of people living with HIV/AIDS to self-determination and a sense of shared responsibility set the enormously successful foundations for the response at both a policy and service delivery level.

As we mark our 21st anniversary, ACON not only pays respect to this history but we are proud to continue to uphold these core values, a pride which is evidenced in all the work undertaken by our staff, our volunteers and our community. As such, the determination, intelligence and thoughtfulness of those activists, most of whom were very personally involved in the epidemic, cannot be over-estimated or over-acknowledged. Alongside these activists, it is also vital to acknowledge the critical role played by the research and medical establishments, particularly general practitioners, in working with us over the last 21 years. Also of vital importance have been the many dedicated public servants who have lead and who continue to lead the government response. We thank all these practitioners for their vision and their hard work.

In the context of this broad social history, how has ACON changed as an organisation over the last 21 years? In the early days, ACON's programs were focused mainly on HIV prevention in a more limited way than we understand it today. We focused on caring for people as they became sick, helping them to die with dignity while supporting family and friends. Over time, especially after the advent of anti-retroviral treatments in 1996, our programs began to change to take a more holistic approach. Our methodology evolved from a focus on caring for people dying from AIDS to supporting people living with HIV. The demand for our services grew and we set up offices outside Sydney.





Gay men continued to be the most at risk but HIV became less central in the lives of negative gay men. Consequently, our programs changed so that HIV prevention was presented in the context of sex, relationships and the full, complex lives of members of our community. This approach was formalised in 2000 when ACON began describing itself as a health promotion organisation based in the GLBT community with a central focus on HIV/AIDS. By taking a broader health focus, we improved our work in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, and improved the general health of our community by encompassing a broader range of health issues such as sexual health, lesbian health, drug and alcohol issues, homophobic violence, same-sex domestic violence and mental health.

However, HIV/AIDS remains the greatest threat to the health of the GLBT community and as such, ACON continues to constantly renew and reinvigorate our focus on HIV/AIDS. Nevertheless a range of other health issues are emerging with increasing urgency. Some of these, such as sexually transmitted infections, are clearly and directly related to HIV prevention. Tackling issues such as suicide, violence and the use of alcohol and other drugs – all of which are disproportionately experienced by our community – will also help reduce HIV infections by reducing vulnerability overall. For this reason, ACON's new strategic plan for the next three years redefines our mission to better reflect the work that we do. We are now recognised as a community-based non-government organisation promoting the health and wellbeing of a diverse GLBT community and a leading agency in HIV/AIDS policy development and program delivery. We continue our HIV/AIDS work because that remains the most important health issue for our community and not because we are a single-focus AIDS organisation, as ACON was when it began.

So as ACON 'comes of age' in 2006, there is much that we have learned, many people that we acknowledge, many friends that we remember and many accomplishments that we celebrate. We thank all the staff, volunteers, stakeholders and members of our community who have supported our work for the last 21 years and we look forward to believing in and working for the future of our families, our friends and our community.

Therefore, it is with much pleasure and pride that we present this year's Annual Report to you.

Adrian Lovney President

Stere

Stevie Clayton CEO

The challenges faced each year by an organisation such as ACON are many and varied. However, the hard work and dedication of ACON's metropolitan and regional staff ensured these challenges were met with a high level of professionalism, enthusiasm, understanding and compassion.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Amongst ACON's many achievements in 05/06, some of the most significant were the development of our new strategic plan for the next three years, a comprehensive review of our rural and regional services, the development of new and the revision of existing educational resources, the restructuring of the executive team, and the consolidation of our relationships with other community service organisations as well as our presence at community venues and events.



Community Health

Throughout 05/06, ACON's Community Health Division continued to focus on the broad range of GLBT health issues as well as social marketing, community development and health promotion projects, working to ensure our communities have the skills, information, motivation and resources to make healthy life choices. These communities included gay men, lesbians, Asian gay men, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, same-sex attracted young people, mature-aged gay men and various communities in Western Sydney. In terms of raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, new diagnoses in 05/06 plateaued at the same level as the 04/05 figures. As has been the case since the start of the epidemic in Australia, the vast majority of these infections were amongst gay men. Throughout the year, ACON's Gay Education Team employed a range of new social marketing and education initiatives designed to deliver our HIV and STI prevention messages to gay men in the places they have sex, in culturally appropriate formats and at high profile events. Our strategy of working in partnership with other agencies was continued. These partnerships allow us to expand the reach of our own work and to support the work of each of the interagency members.

Client Services

Throughout 05/06, the Client Services Division continued to provide a broad range of therapeutic services to individuals and groups as well as spearhead health promotion and peer support programs in the GLBT community. While care, support and advice was administered to a variety of clients throughout the year, the primary client group remained people living with, affected by or at risk of HIV/AIDS. The division's overall caseload increased by 11 percent on 04/05 with more than 2740 people being assisted in 05/06. This included over 975 clients through the Community Care Unit, almost 800 clients through the Clinical Services Unit and over 970 clients through the HIV Living Unit. In addition, more than 7000 hours of care was provided by a dedicated group of 130 carers throughout NSW via the Community Support Network. New services and programs that were launched in 05/06 included changes to funding arrangements for our Housing Project to allow us to provide housing and accommodation to the broader GLBT community, the development of a comprehensive ageing strategy, a volunteer counselling program and a restructuring of our programs to better service people who have been recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Building partnerships, particularly with community transport providers, continued to be a primary focus as ACON and other HIV/AIDS agencies seek to overcome service duplication and maximise the value of our work in the community.

Regional Services

ACON's service delivery to regional areas in NSW continued to improve through 05/06. ACON's focus on developing partnerships with other agencies and organisations played a major part in the activities of all our regional branches. In the Hunter/Mid-North Coast. Illawarra and Northern Rivers branches. partnerships were either established or strengthened with schools, government organisations, health agencies and community groups. A major undertaking was a statewide review of all our rural and regional services with the aim of improving service delivery. Underpinning this review was the opportunity for community members, ACON clients, and partner agencies to come together and discuss ways that ACON can improve service delivery and expand services across the state to those communities that do not have an ACON branch in their immediate geographic area. This review will inform the development of a Rural and Regional Action Plan in 06/07. Support groups and outreach projects also factored prominently in the activities of all existing regional branches. Be it lesbian health projects and retreats for HIV+ gay men in Northern Rivers, new youth group initiatives and AIDS awareness family fun days in the Hunter/Mid-North Coast or sex industry outreach projects and a new transgender support group in the Illawarra, ACON was instrumental in providing information, care and support to a broad cross-section of clients and residents throughout regional NSW.

Organisational Development

In 05/06, the work of ACON's Organisational Development Division focused on a range of programs to increase the strategic focus of ACON, as well as ensuring that our IT, finance and human resource systems continued to build the capacity of the organisation. A major focus was the development of the new ACON Strategic Plan 2006-2009. This included a review of performance against ACON's Strategic Directions 2003-2006. The review surveyed ACON members, stakeholder organisations and other partners for feedback on key achievements and future priorities. As part of the negotiation process for the new Enterprise Agreement, the need to review ACON's competency framework was also identified. Work on a new Competency Framework commenced, which will form the basis for ACON's performance management, recruitment and professional development programs.



Executive

As ACON grows as an organisation, internal and external policy development and implementation becomes increasingly complex. In 05/06, ACON's executive team continued its focus on consulting and partnering with a broad range of agencies and community groups to deliver efficient and effective policies in relation to the awareness, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, same-sex relationship recognition, sex industry regulation and safety, sexuality and human rights, mental health, social housing and community development. Following the departure of Denise Hanlon, David McGuigan and Darrell Williams from ACON's executive team in 05/06, an opportunity also presented itself to restructure the executive and engage new directors to oversee and expedite the implementation of the new ACON strategic plan. The Organisational Development and Regional Services divisions were combined under one directorship and are now overseen by Nicolas Parkhill, while Community Health is now headed up by Nick Corrigan. In addition, a new position of Director of Marketing and Fundraising was created, filled by Jordana Blank. Generating additional revenue to finance ACON's ever-expanding activities as well as raising the profile of ACON and the work that it performs is an essential part of the organisation's strategic objectives. To this end, ACON presented or was involved in almost 100 events in conjunction with more than 30 community groups and commercial enterprises. Together with memberships, donations and sponsorship, these activities raised almost \$300,000. Highlights included the Red Ribbon Appeal, the Mardi Gras parade, festival and party, Bingay and Big Bingay, Candy Rouge, Super Fag Tag and Fair Day.

ACON continues to play a lead role in advocating for public policy and a legislative and social environment which fosters greater health and wellbeing for people living with HIV/AIDS, the GLBT communities and NSW sex workers.

Advocacy

HIV/AIDS

Together with PLWHA (NSW), we advocated for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. We also ran a community forum on HIV transmission offences, and lobbied the NSW Government over our concerns around the further criminalisation of sexual behaviour. We organised a number of forums for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS on issues such as travel, privacy and the proposed introduction of electronic health records by NSW Health. In partnership with the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) and the Australian Society for HIV Medication (ASHM), we publicly supported the continuing policy of the Australian Red Cross not to take blood from men who have had sex with other men in the past 12 months in order to minimise the risk of HIV transmission through blood supply. This proved to be a difficult and contentious issue. However, ACON ultimately took a position that we believed would protect the health of most Australians.

Same-Sex Relationship Recognition

ACON, together with the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (GLRL), continued to pursue the recognition of same-sex relationships. We participated in the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's National Inquiry into Discrimination Against People in Same-Sex Relationships: Financial and Work-Related Entitlements and Benefits, arguing in our submission that relationship discrimination and social exclusion has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of GLBT people, particularly those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. We also met with a number of key politicians at both the Federal and State levels to argue for further law reform.



This page: AIDS Public Meeting flier, 1985 Opposite: Rubba Me, 1985

Sex Workers

Through the Sex Workers Outreach Project and the Sex Industry Policy Advisor, ACON continued to work with local councils on the issue of sex industry regulation and safety for sex workers. We also worked with the Scarlet Alliance to combat sexual slavery and unfair contracting.

Submissions and Inquiries

ACON had input into and produced submissions to the following inquiries: Review of the NSW Mental Health Act 1990, the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Allocation of Social Housing in NSW, the City of Sydney Development Control Plan, and the City of Sydney Social Plan.

Sexuality and Human Rights

Along with FPA Health and GLRL, we met with the NSW Minister and the Department of Education in response to the decision to ban certain educational lessons regarding homophobia and discrimination. From these meetings we were able to develop a further dialogue which has led to a more comprehensive departmental approach to teaching anti-homophobia in schools. We lobbied the NSW Office for Science and Medical Research for a question on sexuality to become standard across all scientific research. In conjunction with the GLRL and New Matilda, we held a forum on the issue of sexuality and an Australian Bill of Rights, with specific reference to New Matilda's proposed Human Rights Act.

RUBBA Me



Rub cocks Rub bodies Use rubbers

GAY EDUCATION PROJECT

Education Groups

Throughout 05/06, the Sydney Gay Education Project reviewed existing or rolled out a range of new education and support groups for gay men. The Cruising 101 and Relationships workshops were updated while the new 20 Something Up workshop was developed for men in their 20s to 40s. This workshop included exercises on HIV and safe sex, communication, relationships and the gay community/scene. The project also trained a team of 12 volunteer facilitators so we can offer a greater number of workshops to the community.





The more you or your BOYFRIEND root around....

the more STI tests you need.

Rooting around can be fun but be aware that while condoms are effective for preventing HIV, they may not be as effective in preventing syphilis, gonorrhoea and Chlamydia.

You can have any of these STIs without showing symptoms and pass them on to your boyfriend.

For more influent STIs, beating, treatments or the location of clinics and doctors, check and www.whytest.arg or call the Sexual Health Infollor on 1800-451 E24.

MEN Project

ACON continued to tailor its HIV, STI and sexual health messages for specific groups of gay men. We worked with the Men's Erotic Network (MEN) to develop an education resource for new members of the group. The pamphlet combined information about MEN, their rules on safe sex and etiquette, and included HIV/STI and safe sex information.

M8 Mag

Transmissions within relationships continue to account for a significant proportion of new HIV infections. ACON's gay men's relationship magazine *M8* aimed to give men information on HIV, safe sex and sexual health within a relationship as well as articles on finding and maintaining a relationship, communication strategies and dealing with domestic violence.

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing

Increasing STI testing and treatment for sexuallyactive gay men is a priority. ACON developed and released the More Tests campaign which encouraged gay men with high partner numbers to be tested for STIs more frequently. The campaign used a direct message and culturally-appropriate language to address the audience. ACON also worked with the STI In Gay Men Action Group (STIGMA) on the Party, Play, Test campaign which linked the Mardi Gras party season with a reminder for gay men to get STI tests as 'part of your party plan'. Following these campaigns, sexual health centres saw an increase in gay men seeking STI tests.

Maintaining Partnerships

ACON continued to work in partnership with a wide range of key agencies in the areas of HIV/AIDS and sexual health for gay men. ACON and the Gay Men's HIV Prevention Interagency worked together to identify sexually-adventurous men and 'party boys' as the primary target groups for the upcoming year. ACON and STIGMA continued to work together to reduce the impact of STIs on gay men by increasing testing, improving clinical services and promoting partner notification.

HIV Vaccines Education Campaign

In light of the HIV vaccine trial being run in Sydney, ACON developed and released a number of education resources. The Prepared to Play booklet targeted gay men who were interested in joining the trial. It outlined in detail the risks associated with specific sexual activities so that these men could make informed decisions about their risk. A social marketing campaign also provided information about the longterm likelihood of success for vaccine development and encouraged men to continue using condoms.

This page: Vaccines, 2006 Opposite: Sensations, 2006 Up Ya Bum, 2006 More Cocks, 2006



However, it will be many years before an effective vaccine is available!



For more information about vaccines and vaccines trials go to **www.stepstudy.com.au**

Dacon

RESOURCES AND CONDOM DISTRIBUTION

SOPVs, Licensed Venues, Health Services and Community Parties

Throughout 05/06, ACON continued to forge new and build on our existing relationships with sex-on-premises venues (SOPVs), licensed venues, health services and community parties. Over the year we made 246 visits to SOPVs, 201 to licensed venues, 83 to doctor's surgeries and medical facilities and eight outreach events to major community parties.

In the major SOPVs we have been able to regularly display larger resources (A1 and Ao posters) and do larger resource displays around venues. By involving the SOPV owners and managers in the More Tests campaign we were able to do mass displays of four of the specific messages in the chill-out spaces of the five large venues. Other examples of the greater campaign reach into SOPVs and licensed venues included displaying Party, Play, Test magnets on lockers, erecting dedicated ACON poster frames, including safe sex and HIV messages on drag show posters and advertisements, establishing whytest.org as the default web site on the in-house computers at Sydney City Steam and Arrows, and working with licensed venues staff to ensure ACON resources, especially safe packs, are kept visible and available at venues.

THIS VENUE AGREES TO ABIDE BY THE **OCON SEX VENUE** CODE OF PRACTICE



or about this venue, please call ACON on 9206 2000

Frames

Due to changes and renovations in a number of licensed venues over time, the frames ACON had access to for our posters had substantially reduced. During 05/06, ACON purchased 30 x A4 and 10 x A2 metal-rimmed, security frames for installation in licensed venues. We installed 28 x A4 and two x A2 frames respectively in Arq, The Flinders, The Imperial, Manacle, The Columbian, The Newtown and The Oxford. These frames are for the exclusive use of ACON posters and assure us a permanent presence in venues.

Gyms, Cafes and Other Businesses

ACON continued to build relationships with a wide range of community businesses. These included Gold's Gym, Subway, Surry Hills IGA, Gloria Jeans Coffee, House of Priscilla, Duffy Brothers, HUM Records, Toolshed, House of Fetish, Starbucks, Milkbar Café, Piercing Urge, Route 66, The Pop Shop, Cafe Comity, Spank Records, Bottle O, Carnal Leather, Totally Pierced, Boost Juice, Newtown Gym, Reactor, Faster Pussycat, Happy High Herbs, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Dendy, Newtown IGA, Fish Records, Taste, Froot Store, and Pride Centre. We made over go visits to these 31 outlets.

Safe Pack Distribution

In 05/06, ACON produced and distributed approximately 105,000 safe packs. A fruitful commercial relationship was formed with gay.com, seeing jointly branded toolboxes and safe packs in venues and gay.com 'tradies' distributing packs at parties. Increased uptake in venues and parties was also aided by developing closer relationships with venue staff and managers, giving us greater access to a wider number of community spaces.

Report-Line Promotional Campaign

The AVP continued to run its Report-Line service throughout 05/06. The line provides the AVP with a picture of the levels and types of violence being experienced by the community. It also provides victims of abuse and violence with access to help and referrals by the AVP. The AVP launched the Seen It, Heard It, Report It campaign to increase the profile of the Report-Line.

LESBIAN AND GAY ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

Addressing Homophobic Violence In Schools

As a member of the NSW Anti-Homophobia Interagency (AHI), the AVP continued to work to reduce the impact of homophobic abuse and violence in schools and other educational settings. During 05/06, we ran two Sticks and Stones roundtables, one in Western Sydney with 32 participants and one in Bathurst with 41 participants. The Interagency also ran a full-day Sticks and Stones conference in Sydney with over 200 participants.





Same-Sex Domestic Violence (SSDV) Fair Day Survey

At Mardi Gras Fair Day, the AVP and SSDV Interagency ran a community survey to try to get a picture of the extent and types of abuse and violence experienced within GLBT relationships in NSW. Over 310 people filled in the survey. This is the first research to look specifically at the prevalence and nature of same-sex domestic violence in NSW. The preliminary findings of the survey indicated a higher prevalence of domestic violence in relationships among young people, especially young males aged 18 - 25. This suggests that young people in their first relationships are at greater risk of experiencing domestic violence and, therefore, the need for programs addressing domestic violence specifically targeting same-sex attracted young people. The research also found that among people who experienced same-sex domestic violence, few respondents sought assistance from formal support services. Many more respondents sought help from friends and family, suggesting the need for capacity building and education within GLBT communities around supporting people who are experiencing domestic violence. The results of this survey will be used to improve services to victims of abuse and violence in relationships.

This page: AVP Report Line, 2006 Opposite: Another Closet SSDV resource, 2004 Safe Place sticker, 2006



Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice)

Through the Alcohol and Other Drugs Project (AODP), ACON continued to address issues arising from crystal use in the community by releasing the Crystal – Effects, Health, Sex, Help booklet. The booklet includes a range of harm minimisation strategies for people using crystal, information on how to reduce or quit using and referrals to support services. It also includes information for friends and family so they can identify problematic use and strategies for how to provide help and assistance to their loved ones. The booklet proved to be extremely popular, with 10,000 copies being distributed and a second print run required within four months. In addition to developing, producing and distributing this popular resource, ACON also provided counselling and case co-ordination to people with problematic crystal use, applied to the National Illicit Drug Strategy for a community-based drug team, provided access to support groups like Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) and Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART), and conducted research on the use of crystal in the community and how the issue can be addressed through public health intervention.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS PROJECT

Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB or Fantasy)

Building upon the success of our GHB education resources, ACON undertook a range of projects to continue to address GHB use in the community. We hosted a community forum on GHB as well as forming the G Force group comprising venue owners and managers, the police and health workers to coordinate a response to GHB in the community.

Needle and Syringe Program

ACON's Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) provided 3,323 occasions of service to our Sydney communities during the year, including the provision of clean injecting and safe sex equipment, outreach at major GLBT community parties, health information and referral to drug treatment services. The NSP is promoted among inner-city intravenous drug-using communities as a GLBT friendly equipment and referral service, and our relationships with our client groups means that we are able to monitor and respond to changes in drug use patterns. Our close working relationships with primary health care providers, drug detoxification, and rehabilitation facilities and support groups leads to quick referral and access to information resources and support services to people with problematic drug use, including crystal methamphetamine use.

Drug Rovers

Since its inception in 2003, the Drug Rover program has provided a volunteer service at GLBT community parties and events. Drug Rovers are community members who mingle among partygoers and identify and attend to people who are distressed or in danger as a result of their drug use. The Rovers are trained and equipped to ensure that drug-affected partygoers receive medical attention promptly. The Drug Rover program is one of ACON's highest profile outreach activities, and receives a great deal of positive feedback from community members and party promoters.







This page: *Crystal Booklet*, 2005 *Crystal*, 2004 *GHB*, 2004 The Lesbian Health Project has continued to produce globally-pioneering health promotion for lesbians and bisexual women. This year, the Project's leading position was recognised with extensive profiling in the International Lesbian and Gay Association's global review of lesbian health programs. The Project ensured the inclusion of lesbian health issues within ACON's annual summer campaign, as well as conducting a range of other interventions promoting the health and wellbeing of lesbians and other samesex attracted women including social marketing, group work and research.

LESBIAN HEALTH PROJECT

Breast Cancer

ACON built upon our groundbreaking partnership with the NSW Cancer Council by implementing the Be Breast Aware campaign. The campaign aimed to increase lesbians' understanding of their increased risk of breast cancer and raise community awareness of lesbian-specific support options. It was launched with a forum attended by more than 50 women and supported with the commencement of a peer support program for lesbians with breast cancer. This program has since expanded to include lesbians diagnosed with other forms of cancer.



Smoking Cessation

This project addressed the very high rates of smoking among lesbians with the implementation of Become More Kissable, a campaign highlighting positive aspects to quitting smoking and promoting support pathways for smoking cessation. The campaign was teamed with a quit smoking program for lesbians and bisexual women.

Older Lesbians

ACON continued to work closely with older lesbians by supporting the L40 Gathering for lesbians over 40, held in the Royal National Park during Easter. ACON provided funding, participated in the event's steering committee and presented a series of workshops. We also continued to run the Late Bloomers group this year which provides much needed peer support to women coming out later in life.

SWASH

ACON and the National Centre in HIV Social Research conducted the fourth Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) research project during the 2006 Mardi Gras season. The only ongoing survey of lesbian community health and behaviour in the world, this year's SWASH achieved a record number of respondents and will continue to inform our health promotion work.



This page: *Smoking Cessation*, 2006 Opposite: *Lesbians and Breast Cancer*, 2006

MATURE AGE GAYS

Mature Aged Gays (MAG) is a social support group backed as an ACON project and has been running for fourteen years. It is believed to be the largest GLBT community organisation in Australia and the largest organisation for older gay men in the world. MAG's fortnightly meetings, typically involving a guest speaker presentation followed by a social dinner, are regularly attended by up to 200 men.



This page: Outliving, Outloving, Outlasting, 1988 Opposite: Myths, 1994

Outreach

MAG in the Community (MAGic) provides support and assistance to MAG members who are experiencing ill health either in hospital or at home. The project also provides outreach to a MAG sub-branch in Watson's Bay and established links internationally with its equivalent organisation in London.

Support

The size and scale of fortnightly MAG meetings enabled a smaller off-shoot meeting to commence where dedicated discussion and peer support can take place away from the larger meeting concerning personal health and illness issues affecting MAG members. MAG was frequently called on to provide advice to other non-government organisations as well as government agencies on age-related issues affecting gay men. The project was also proactive in increasing the profile of older gay men in the gay media. MAG provided phone support and referral to between 30 and 40 men each week from across a broad geographic area within NSW and more than 850 people received MAG's bi-monthly newsletter.

MAGnet

MAGnet is a weekly social night for MAG members and friends designed to encourage new membership among the 40 to 50 years age range. Throughout 05/06, this event was held each week at a local gay community venue and regularly filled the venue to capacity with more than 60 attendees.





ASIAN PROJECT

ACON's Asian Project has embarked on some refreshing new directions this year, introducing creative ways to engage volunteers, reviewing and reshaping its programs and sharpening the Project's focus on sexual health. The Project has continued to address racism, build bridges between Asian gay men and the rest of the GLBT community and respond to a wide range of issues concerning the health and wellbeing of the Asian gay community.

Volunteers

The Silk Road Design Team was formed by project volunteers to revise the long running Silk Road monthly discussion forums. Silk Road was reformed as a monthly event welcoming all gay men. A new activity, the Asian Support Group, started monthly meetings to provide a dedicated space for exploring important issues for Asian gay men's identity, community, culture and health. Another group of volunteers came together to develop a new six-week peer-facilitated workshop program to be piloted next year. In preparation for the pilot, the volunteers were trained in facilitation skills and gay men's health issues.

Thai Gay Men's HIV Campaign

ACON worked in partnership with the Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service, South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service and Sydney South West Area Health Service to develop an HIV/STI testing campaign for Thai gay men in Sydney. The campaign produced various Thai language resources and targeted Thai gay men through gay and Thai media, gay venues and Thai community GPs, businesses and organisations. The campaign has created a successful template for future sexual health promotion with gay men from a range of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Community Support

Continued support has been provided to community activities and groups for Asian gay men including the Asian Marching Boys as well as the Long Yang Club. Particularly exciting has been the Project's work with Salaam Namaste, a newly formed group for all queers of south Asian background.

Addressing Racism

Significant work has been directed at addressing racism within the GLBT community. The Project established a working group of volunteers from a range of CALD backgrounds and conducted the DiverseCity forum which was attended by more than 100 people. Discussions at the forum are informing the development of a campaign to address GLBT community racism for which ACON secured City of Sydney funding.

Opposite: Safe Sex, We Belong (Silk Road), 1995

ACON's role as a leading provider of support and advocacy for GLBT youth continues to grow. 05/06 saw a greatly expanded range of quality volunteer-driven youth programs emerge as well as the celebration of the coming of age of one of ACON's most enduring and much loved projects.

Youth Programs

Fun and Esteem

The Fun and Esteem Project is Australia's premier community program for young gay and bisexual men and has been running continuously for 18 years. To celebrate this milestone, the major promotional campaign for 05/06 was launched at an event attended by some 250 people at the Stonewall Bar on Oxford Street. Since 1988, more than 2000 young men have participated in *Start Making Sense*, the project's flagship peer education workshop, helping to foster a generation of safe sex culture among Sydney's gay community. A fresh intake of volunteer facilitators in 05/06 brought renewed vigour to *Start Making Sense*.

This page: *Start Making Sense*, 2006 Opposite: *School's Out*, 2006



A free and confidential six week group for gay and bisexual guys, 26 years and under.

Meet new people, get the latest information, enjoy yourself!

For more information, contact the Fun & Esteem Project.





School's Out

School's Out was consolidated as an ongoing priority program among the Project's suite of activities. Running three times in the last year, School's Out provides a ten-week structured peer-based workshop for young gay and bisexual men in high school and focuses on sexual health, social support, self esteem and antigay bullying. School's Out was glamorously promoted with a new campaign featuring ex-Australian Idol finalist and gay community darling Courtney Act. A presentation made at The Fifth National Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Health Conference resulted in the publication of an article by the Fun and Esteem Project staff in the academic journal Gay and Lesbian Issues in Psychology Review.

Ins and Out

In 05/06, ACON initiated the development of a parallel to Fun and Esteem for young same-sex attracted women. The result has seen Ins and Out, a six-week peer-facilitated workshop program, transformed into the primary community resource for young lesbians and bisexual women in Sydney. Now administered as a separate project with a dedicated staff member, demand for the workshops has continued unabated since its pilot last year. More than 40 young women participated in an Ins and Out workshop during this past year with an additional 12 young women trained as volunteers for the project.

Queer Peer Project

Funded by the Foundation for Young Australians and assisted by Twenty10 Gay and Lesbian Youth Support, the Queer Peer Project is a unique youth-driven initiative that provides health education and leadership training to groups of GLBT youth across NSW. Queer Peer resources these groups with funding and support to implement their own local projects. Guided by a steering committee of GLBT youth from across the state, the project has been implemented in Sydney, Newcastle and the Mid-North Coast, bringing more than 40 young people together from these locations for a weekend forum of networking, guest speakers and skills building workshops. Throughout 05/06, ACON's Aboriginal Project sought to engage more volunteers, raise our profile within the Aboriginal community, focus our sexual health work more effectively and develop stronger links with the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander GLBT community and the Aboriginal health sector. This focus helped us provide more community development opportunities for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander GLBT people, extend our outreach at key community events and form a community advisory group for the Project.

ABORIGINAL PROJECT

Positive Retreat

A health retreat for HIV+ Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people brought together 12 participants including some from regional areas of NSW. A volunteer-run working group and support from Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health organisations, including the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, were instrumental in delivering the event. A second retreat, building on the success of the first, is planned for next year.

Community Support Activities

A number of community activities were facilitated, bringing together our networks of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander gay men, lesbians, sistergirls and their friends and supporters. An ongoing calendar of bi-monthly social events was developed. An organising committee of volunteers continued to work with ACON to produce the Black Pearls variety night celebrations. These celebratory events, held twice a year in different venues, are attended by up to 300 people and profile a wide range of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander GLBT community talent. In 05/06, ACON provided infrastructure and funding support to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mardi Gras Parade entry. The Project's quarterly newsletter was also distributed across the state promoting activities to a wide range of stakeholders.

Community Outreach

An increased Project presence was seen at a range of community events in 05/06 including key annual community gatherings such as Knockout and Yabun. Outreach at these events included distribution of ACON campaigns and resources on top of the distribution of a promotional postcard for the project and a condom pack specifically designed for the Project's community outreach activities.

Advisory Group

An Aboriginal community advisory group, combining participation from volunteers and community members with representation from key Aboriginal health organisations and other stakeholders from across NSW, was established under the auspices of the Project. The advisory group meets quarterly to support and guide the work of the Project.



This page: Hey You Mob, 1999



This page: *Positive/Negative*, 1992 Artist: David McDiarmid After the integration of our Western Sydney programs into our Surry Hills office in 04/05, a newly recruited Western Sydney Community Development Team has emerged as an expanded and dynamic feature of ACON's community development activities. In 05/06, we formed new partnerships, redeveloped old relationships and commenced a range of innovative programs as we executed a new approach to our role in Western Sydney that sees us doing more work in more areas of the region than ever before.

Western Sydney

Partnerships

In tandem with the redistribution of the Area Health Service boundaries, ACON reformed our Gay Men and Men Who Have Sex With Men Education Team (GAMET) partnership with Sydney West Area Health Service. GAMET has refocused its work to produce better health outcomes for homosexually-active men in Western Sydney and has recommenced work on a gay men's condom reinforcement campaign appropriate for the region.

We took an active role in the newly formed Nepean GLBT Interagency, contributing to the staging of the first Mardi Gras event ever held in Penrith - a film and art exhibition staged in partnership with Penrith City Council and launched with more than 120 people in attendance.

We built strong links with women's health centres across the region, providing a range of support to Western Sydney's lesbian communities and co-located our Lesbian Health Officer at the Penrith Women's Health Centre for one day per week.

Youth Work

Throughout 05/06, ACON forged important new relationships with youth services in key centres of Western Sydney, paving the way for a range of supported interventions for GLBT youth to be implemented in 06/07. A key focus was our work with the Fairfield Liverpool Youth Health Team (FLYHT) to improve access to support for GLBT youth in the culturally-diverse communities of the Fairfield Liverpool area. An exciting new youth-led magazine project with a special focus on Western Sydney was also initiated.

Outreach Education

ACON expanded to monthly visits its outreach program to the numerous gay and lesbian nights held in different centres in the region, bolstering our provision of safe sex equipment and profiling ACON's campaigns and resources. Our collaborative work with sex on premises venues (SOPVs) in the region increased with us making contact with new SOPVs while building stronger, more supportive relations with others.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

Volunteers

ACON's Community Support Network (CSN) provided service to 240 people with HIV/AIDS. At the heart of the project is an amazing group of 131 deeply committed volunteer carers who delivered an incredible 7,000 hours of care during the year. CSN volunteers provide assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS in their homes, with cooking, gardening, cleaning and shopping.

We continued to grow in the Greater Western Sydney area, where we recruited an extra 45 new volunteers who are now actively engaged in supporting people with HIV/AIDS across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. We also trained eight new volunteers from the Illawarra who are now actively caring for someone with HIV/AIDS in that area.

With all that caring, we of course want to take good care of our volunteers too! We held 10 support groups for volunteer carers and hosted several social forums and activities to thank our carers for their incredible commitment. We also trained 17 carers in basic first aid and cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).



"We give up our time for HIV/AIDS in Blacktown."

"Working with people living with HIV/AIDS is a great experience that allows us to give something back to the community."

There are people living with HIV/AIDS in Blacktown who are finding it hard to cope. People like Bec and Nicola are lending a hand through Community Support Network. You can too.

> To find out more about becoming a CSN volunteer, freecall Colin on 1800 063 060 or visit www.acon.org.au/csn



KIACSNOSTODT



Services

Three years ago, ACON introduced the Walking the Ward program. We walk the hospital wards at St Vincent's and Royal Prince Alfred, and to a lesser extent, Westmead and Liverpool Hospitals. Working in partnership with hospital staff, we continued to ensure HIV+ clients discharged from hospital receive timely access to CSN and a smoother transition from hospital to home.

We continued to nurture and grow wonderful working relationships with Community Transport Services across Sydney. CSN staff assisted making 726 transport bookings in 05/06, largely for medical transport that is absolutely essential to maintaining the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV/ AIDS and keeping them living independently within the community.

Among other fundraising and volunteer carer support activities, ACON worked with an active and deeply committed CSN Carer Representative Committee which coordinated activities for Mardi Gras Fair Day and ensured a proud and obvious presence at this year's Mardi Gras Parade.

This page: CSN - 20 Years of Caring, 2004 Opposite: CSN Volunteer campaign, 2004







GLBT CARERS SUPPORT PROJECT

The GLBT Carer Support Project was funded by the NSW Health Carers Program to increase access to support services, reduce carer isolation and vulnerability and build community awareness of the needs of carers over a two year period. The project developed and ran a community awareness campaign in local media and delivered promotional material, directly engaging over 850 community members through events at Mardi Gras Fair Day and other community activities. 18 people came forward for advice and support and 10 carer support groups were undertaken to support these people in skills development, relaxation techniques, basic computer skills and anger management.

This page: *GLBT Carers Support campaign*, 2006 Opposite: *Housing Project*, 2006
Housing

ACON's Housing Project supports people from all our communities who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, to secure long-term, sustainable housing. We help people to identify their housing need, to navigate the application process for Department of Housing, community housing and the private rental market, and we advocate for people with rental arrears or those experiencing discrimination. In 05/06, ACON negotiated changes to the Project's funding specifications so that housing support and advocacy could also be provided to HIV negative gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at risk of homelessness, including those escaping same-sex domestic violence. We then increased the number of staff available to assist our communities. We delivered 1,995 hours of service to 241 individuals and directly provided short to medium-term transition accommodation for 17 people in crisis through a small number of properties that ACON has access to for this purpose.





COUNSELLING@ACON





ACON provides short-term counselling services to our communities as well as information and referral services for people in need. We offer short-term, solution-focused counselling of up to nine sessions with professional counsellors who have expertise in the main areas of concern to our communities. We operate an Intake and Assessment Service that means people can be assessed quickly and referred to the best service, including access to counselling and other services at ACON and beyond. In 05/06 we provided over 3,200 occasions of service to clients. The most common presenting issues were psychological, relationships, HIV/STIs, drugs and alcohol.

COUNSELLING

Enhanced Care Project

The Enhanced Care Project works in collaboration with general practitioners with high HIV caseloads to support the requirements of people with multiple needs, including people living with HIV or at risk of HIV. In 05/06, Project staff provided 1,279 hours of service to 179 patients based at four GP surgeries, including helping to develop and review patient care plans and to coordinate care services. Our thanks are due to 407 doctors, Holdsworth House, Taylor Square Clinic and Oxford Square Medical Centre for their participation in the project. An independent evaluation of the project recommended developing an early intervention model of service delivery that prioritises a clinical approach for high-need patients and integrates other ACON services for low and medium-need patients.

After Hours Counselling

This exciting new service was established in January 2006 to provide longer-term counselling support to people with HIV/AIDS and others in our communities. Up to 26 sessions of individual counselling are delivered to those in need. The service operates outside normal business hours and is conducted by qualified practitioners and final year students, who provide their services free of charge. So far, 24 clients have received 235 hours of counselling through the project, which operates Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Seven counsellors are currently giving their services to ACON's After Hours Counselling Program. We're now planning to extend the program to Western Sydney and to develop internet counselling services so we can better service the whole of NSW.



This page: *Talk, Test, Test, Trust*, 1996 Opposite: *Counselling @ ACON*, 2002

Positive Living Centre

The Positive Living Centre registered a staggering 605 clients for service this year. The centre provided over \$80,000 worth of complementary therapy to people with HIV/AIDS living with a functional impairment. The PLC also worked in partnership with TAFE Randwick to make it easy for people with HIV/AIDS to gain recognised qualifications in food handling and preparation as well as Workplace Training and Assessment.

HIV LIVING

HIV Health Promotion

The HIV Men's Health Promotion Project delivered services to 366 gay men with HIV/AIDS and continued to provide Genesis workshops for newly diagnosed gay men, as well as ongoing After Hours workshops for the newly diagnosed. Healthy Life+ continued to provide intensive fitness and nutrition programs in partnership with the generous support of Gold's Gym. The program provides free membership to the gym and it provides a personal trainer so that a tailored fitness and nutrition program can be developed. Special thanks must also go to Ingrid Cullen and Fit X Gym for their support of this Project.



Family Support

Our Family Support Project continued to deliver much needed one-to-one and social opportunities for families where one or more members are living with an HIV or AIDS diagnosis. We supported 25 families this year and we provided family picnic days, pamper days for mums in beauty salons around Sydney, as well as some skills building workshops for parents and women with HIV. In o6/07, ACON plans to launch a major investigation into the lives of families and to produce a Families and Children's Strategy to better target our work in the future.

Safe Sex Summer

DS Council of NSW (02) 211-0496

Have a

This page: *Safe Sex Summer*, 1987 Opposite: *Health Life* +, 2003



This Page and Opposite: Treatments Bugle Boy campaign, 2005

TREATMENTS INFORMATION

In o5/o6, ACON released its first major HIV treatments campaign in eight years for people living with HIV/AIDS. The campaign was built around Bugle Boy, a cartoon cut-out of a sailor playing a bugle, and appeared in community media and at pubs, clubs and other venues.

The campaign included a new basic HIV information website www.treatmentupdate.info where people with HIV and others can access basic information about HIV treatment and testing procedures. The campaign answers questions about when to start treating, how to prepare for it, what tests now exist for people with HIV/AIDS and other important issues. The website also provides some basic information for women living with HIV and a range of referral sites for more information. In o6/o7, Bugle Boy is set to become ACON's poster boy for new treatments announcements and campaigns.

still like bortying like it's 1999?

www.treatmentsupdate.info

the record's changed, and any information about DIV treatments that's more than three years old is probably out of date.

two dozen pills a day was the norm, now average daily doses are 3 or 4 pills total, and they're often all taken in the morning, instead of three different times a day.

Side effects are less common, and when they do occur, they're usually less severe, tecommendations about when – or even if – to start treating have also changed.

Usings will keep improving, so slay in the groove with the most correct and reliable information. Qet treatment Update Gaus from the usual aCOD outliets, or visit our special treatments website.

Dacon

Reception Services

Front of House staff provide excellent in-house and external services which range from room and car bookings for staff to maintaining the organisation's phone lists and providing referral, information and support for clients and visitors. In 05/06, reception became the entry point for new clients seeking counselling services. This enables staff to direct the enquiry in the most efficient and effective way possible. In terms of client satisfaction, the 05/06 survey of ACON clients revealed that 95 percent were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the service they received from reception.

FRONT OF HOUSE

Learning Centre

The Learning Centre's resource collection specialises in HIV/AIDS, particularly prevention, education, treatments, counselling, care and support. The collection also focuses on health concerns specific to gay men and lesbians and includes resources relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and Aboriginal communities. We have resources on issues around community health, health promotion, sexuality, and alcohol and other drug use. In 05/06, the Learning Centre continued to support the information needs of ACON's clients and communities with 96% finding the service 'very good' or 'excellent'. Clients and community members accessed computer services on at least 200 occasions each month and reported 94% of their information needs were met.

Quality Improvement

ACON has a quality improvement regime that continually evaluates and assesses our external and internal programs, services and systems to ensure that ACON maintains industry best practice at every level of the organisation. The 05/06 Continuous Quality Improvement Workplan was adopted across ACON in an effort to achieve improved outcomes across all facets of ACON's organisational structure.

Vitamin Service

ACON continues to provide a cost-price vitamins and food supplement service to people living with HIV/AIDS and beyond that, to anyone in our community requiring cheaper vitamins and food supplements. 122 people were registered for the service during 05/06 and we sold over 5,000 products to those in need.



This page: Get It On Summer Campaign, 2002

In 05/06, ACON's Hunter office and Port Macquarie outreach service provided 5,665 occasions of service to individuals, in addition to the 1,311 individuals who attended our array of groups, workshops and forums. ACON's Hunter and Mid North Coast branch has a strong focus on partnerships to deliver services to its broad geographic base of community members. This involved advocacy, community and service provider consultation, and training with mainstream service providers. The branch conducted its first triennial community survey with 217 people sharing their views in this online and paper-based consultation.

HUNTER/MID-NORTH COAST BRANCH

Local Government

Local government initiatives figured prominently in 05/06. The Hunter Youth Project partnered with the Newcastle City Council Youth Service and Octapod Arts Association to develop an audio project where young people produced a radio program about coming out and being 'queer' in the Hunter. In 05/06, Newcastle City Council agreed to ACON piloting 'beat culture' training with their parks and gardens staff and displaying sexual health promotion posters at selected public amenities. The Mid-North Coast office's involvement with Hastings Council saw GLBT and PLWHA inclusion in the Hastings Social Plan which was launched in April. In addition, a Hastings Council grant allowed the branch to run the Family Fun Day promotion for AIDS Awareness Week in Port Macquarie.





Partnerships

The Hunter Sex Worker Outreach Project collaboration with Newcastle University on the Working Life research project has given the branch a clearer picture of the health and wellbeing issues of local sex workers. This research provided useful background to the End Violence to Sex Workers Day campaign in December 2005.

Our partnership with Hunter New England Area Health Service and the NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) resulted in the Registered Nurse Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) Outreach Project. This project offers BBV testing and improved pathways to primary health care and sexual health for different communities with a focus on Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) clients. Over 210,000 new needles and syringes were distributed from the NSP service during 6033 occasions of service.

The partnership between Mid North Coast office and the Bearlay Aboriginal Interagencies resulted in a services expo for the Purfleet Aboriginal Community in May 2006. Embedding ACON's sexual health issues amongst an array of other issues has proven an effective means of health promotion to regional Aboriginal communities about sensitive 'shame' issues.

The Hunter office's work with the Shared Care Group established standardised care policies and procedures for better service provision for PLWHA. Coordinating advocacy about maintaining weekly Centrelink payments for vulnerable clients resulted in weekly rather than fortnightly payments to ACON's and local Complex Care Group clients.

ILLAWARRA BRANCH

In 05/06, the ACON Illawarra branch increased its emphasis on health promotion via a broad range of activities, including conducting workshops and forums as well as forming and coordinating numerous support groups.



acon

www.acon.org.au 02 9206 2000 ...it's what we do.

Support Groups

The Care and Support Project for people living with HIV/AIDS provided individual case work and social support groups in Wollongong and Nowra. This project also worked in partnership with South East Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service (SESIAHS) to provide an outreach Sexual Health Clinic at the branch three days per month, with an additional clinic per month focusing on sex worker clients.

The Youth Project conducts two youth groups, Label Free Youth (Nowra) conducted in partnership with Nowra Youth Centre, and Young and Proud in Wollongong. The Youth Peer Education Officer's increase in hours from one to three days a week further supported the project, and it continues to expand with fortnightly group meetings and well over 100 group members.

A monthly chat series called Café Q was conducted at different venues including local coffee lounges, involving both combined and separate events for gay and lesbian community members. A transgender support group was also established in the Illawarra in partnership with SESIAHS's Sexual Health Unit. The branch continued to support the local PFLAG group and is looking to further expand the membership of this group.

Education

The Illawarra Sex Industry Outreach Project worked in partnership with SESIAHS's Port Kembla Sexual Health and First Step Alcohol and Other Drug Service to provide sexual health information and resources to sex workers in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. Contact was made with local parlours, street sex workers and private workers, with an increase in contact with private workers occurring over 05/06.

The Community Health Education and Lesbian Health projects increased their focus in local high schools and TAFE colleges around anti-homophobia training and sexuality. This resulted in numerous presentations in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven area.

ACON's Northern Rivers branch services communities between Grafton and Tweed Heads and focuses on building and strengthening partnerships with other service providers and community members. We provided 5,020 occasions of service to individuals this year, in addition to providing service to 1,168 people as part of the Needle and Syringe Program (NSP). This year partnerships were strengthened via consultation with service providers and Memorandums of Understanding with key stakeholders were developed as were advocacy, outreach, training and education programs. Our partnership with North Coast Area Health Service resulted in the appointment of an Enhanced Primary Care worker and an Aboriginal Health officer based in Lismore.

NORTHERN RIVERS BRANCH

HIV

In o5/o6, ACON Northern Rivers reformed the HIV/AIDS and STI Interagency in the region, which continues to provide valuable input and advice on a range of policy and educational initiatives throughout the region. HIV health promotion commenced a range of new activities including the *Positively* series of information BBQs and a new internet chat site for HIV+ people. The site aims to provide a space for peer information exchange, support and story telling as a means of breaking the isolation experienced by many HIV+ people in rural areas around the Northern Rivers. The program also ran an annual HIV+ gay men's retreat.

Client programs continued to grow in the Northern Rivers with a new outreach program being offered in the Tweed, a community carer's event in partnership with the Commonwealth Carer's Respite Centre and our Treatments By the Sea program for HIV+ people. Volunteers were successfully trained in HIV/AIDS prevention to implement the Drug Rover and the Safe Sex Sluts program in partnership with Tropical Fruits Inc for the New Years Eve party, which attracted over 3000 GLBT people to the region. ACON campaigns such as *Mates, Sensations* and *Why Test* were featured at Tropical Fruits events through out the year.

Lesbian Health

The Lesbian Counselling Service continued to operate one day a week, in partnership with the Lismore and District Women's Health Centre. During the past 12 months there were 32 new clients, 85 repeat clients and six telephone appointments. The Shake It Up lesbian health speaker series ran on several occasions covering topics such as mental health, menopause and a session on bisexuality in the lesbian community. Partnerships with the Lismore Women's Refuge continued through the provision of the eight-week Lesbian Relationships course. Fundraising initiatives saw a great contribution towards the Lesbian Health Project and a 200 percent increase in volunteers continued to improve the distribution of lesbian health resources and the development of the lesbian health community library.

Community Development

The Northern Rivers branch produced a series of STI fact sheets as part of the Rainbow News newsletter. Rainbow News is published bi-monthly and goes to over 300 locations and individuals. As part of our community development program, the branch initiated a youth support group, Fresh, which held a research-based round table and a community hypothetical on ageing in the gay and lesbian community.



This page: Keep It Up, 1990

This year was one of change and growth for the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) and this continuing evolution is testimony to the Project's vibrant place in the sex worker community. Service delivery continued at a very high level with SWOP staff providing over 16,500 occasions of information, support and outreach services to the NSW sex industry, a significant increase on service provision in 04/05. More than 30 Sydney-based outreach shifts were undertaken monthly, with a minimum of six visits to various regional locations.

SEX WORKERS OUTREACH PROJECT

Peer education, health information, referral and support services were provided to individual sex workers, sex services premises owners and others on a broad range of issues including safe sex, occupational health and safety, sexually transmissible infections, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis A, B and C, mental health and drug and alcohol issues. SWOP was also actively involved in advocacy work in 05/06. In particular, SWOP worked in partnership with the Australian Taxation Office to assist them roll out the Adult Industry Tax Compliance Project. The aim of this partnership was to minimise any potential disadvantage to NSW sex workers. SWOP assisted this process through the promotion of a number of industry-based forums, as well as the delivery of a range of educational material to sex services premises.



Increasing our partnership work was a priority for SWOP this year. Successful outreach and research partnerships were undertaken with a number of service providers and organisations including:

- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) undertook a very well received research project with SWOP about the mental health of street-based sex workers.
- The Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice and the National Centre in HIV Social Research
 partnered with SWOP and other organisations to undertake the Sexual Health and Attitudes of Australian Prisoners (SHAAP) Study.
- The City of Sydney Council worked with SWOP to advocate for Kings Cross street-based sex workers and also looked at issues of violence to improve occupational safety for this group.
- The Law and Sex Worker Health Project (LASH) partnered with SWOP and the National Health and Medical Research Council to complete a national study of the law and sex worker health through the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research at UNSW.

Our community development work continued with our involvement in Mardi Gras, Fair Day and Sexpo as well as celebrating International Whores Day, the Red Light Disco and SWOP's Hookers and Strippers Ball.

Media Liaison

As ACON is primarily accountable to the GLBT community, the organisation maintains an extremely close relationship with the GLBT media including the *Sydney Star Observer, SX Magazine, LOTL* and *DNA* as well as community radio and television stations with GLBT-specific programming blocks. However, due to the ever-expanding nature of ACON's services and activities, our relationship with the mainstream media has broadened significantly and will become a particular focus for the organisation in the years ahead. Throughout 05/06, over 40 media releases were distributed to a range of local, state and national media organisations.

COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

Red Ribbon Appeal

ACON's biggest event and most important fundraising activity is the annual Red Ribbon Appeal held every year on 1 December. In 2005, almost \$60,000 in revenue was raised by more than 120 volunteers and local businesses collecting donations and selling red ribbon merchandise at over 50 locations in metropolitan Sydney and throughout NSW as well as fundraisers at ARQ Nightclub and the Stonewall Hotel. World AIDS Day was marked with the annual Candlelight Memorial at Hyde Park.



Mardi Gras

Over 450 participants created an amazing spectacle in a float themed 'ACON Believes'. The marchers were a sea of orange and white, wearing tee-shirts bearing the words that capture what it is that ACON believes in - diversity, health, testing, community, human rights, family, unity, action, love and trust. The back of the tee-shirts bore the web address www.whytest.org, again to support ACON's social marketing campaign. ACON hosted five Mardi Gras Festival events and had a strong presence at the Mardi Gras Launch and Fair Day as well as the Mardi Gras Party with our party outreach service. ACON events in the 2005 Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival included OZ Showbiz Cares Hats Off. The Great Debate -Rainbow Babies, Enough Already?, Big Bingay and Velvet 3.

Bingay

This weekly fundraising night at The Imperial Hotel is ACON's staple, grassroots fundraising activity and is vital to the organisation. It has grown to include three Big Bingays each year at the Paddington RSL Club raising in excess of \$10,000 at each Big night.

Grants Sourcing

ACON augments its revenue base through an ongoing process of applying for a range of financial grants from local, state and federal government agencies as well as private business and commercial enterprises. 14 grant applications were processed in 05/06.

Membership

ACON's membership base is not only an important means for raising additional revenue for the organisation but they also assist in promoting ACON's health campaign messages. ACON members totalled 335 in 05/06 with 76 new members signing up over the financial year and 259 renewing their memberships.

Corporate Publications

Keeping members and stakeholders up to date with ACON's services and activities, as well as the evolution of the organisation as a whole, plays a vital role in sustaining a knowledgeable and enthusiastic support base. To this end, four quarterly Update newsletters were produced and distributed to ACON members and stakeholders throughout the financial year. ACON's annual report for 04/05 was also distributed to members and stakeholders and profiled the contribution of our volunteers in a series of fullpage black and white portraits.

There's No Pride In Domestic Violence



MOST GAY AND LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS ARE BASED ON LOVE AND RESPECT. SOME ARE BASED ON ABUSE.

Domestic violence is when one partner uses any form of abusive behaviour to get and maintain control over the other. Ongoing humiliation, threats, stalking, outing, withholding medication or treatments, verbal abuse, controlling finances, and physical and sexual violence are examples of domestic violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXISTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

24 Hour DV Line 1800 65 64 63 FOR SAME SEX AND HETEROSEXUAL DV

For more info http://ssdv.acon.org.au or ACON 1800 06 30 60 / 9206 2000 (Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm)



Planning and Evaluation

ACON's Planning and Evaluation Coordinator had a busy year completing the roll out of ACON's activity database state-wide and leading the refining of reporting systems across the organisation. A major focus this year was the development of the new ACON Strategic Plan 2006-2009. This included a review of ACON's performance against Strategic Directions 2003-2006. The review surveyed members, staff, stakeholders and partners for feedback on our performance and on future priorities. An intensive planning exercise was designed for the ACON Board and Executive team who lead the development of the plan. The new strategic plan was released at ACON's 21st birthday in August 2006. The strategic plan is operationalised through business plans that have been developed for each division.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Human Resources

The major focus for the Human Resources Unit in 05/06 was the preparation and negotiation of a new Enterprise Agreement. The agreement pursues the objectives of workplace flexibility, serving the needs of our clients, balance between work and life, the management and improvement of staff performance and the provision of exciting and enjoyable work. As part of the process of negotiation, the need for a review of ACON's competency framework was identified and a new framework was rolled out for staff comment. This framework will form the basis for ACON's performance management, recruitment and development systems. HR continues to improve the use of information systems to capture information which will assist managers in making better and more informed decisions.

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Unit draws together a seasoned team of professionals, united in the aim to provide high quality service, strategic policy and financial advice to support management's decision-making and improve ACON's financial management and long term viability. In 05/06, the team held true to its goal of operating a complete service to the organisation, while ensuring that accounting records are properly recorded. Systems of control were implemented to ensure financial records are represented fairly and in accordance with accounting standards, while helping to develop and pursue strategic and transactional objectives.

Information Technology

During 05/06, the Information Technology Unit continued to improve IT support services throughout the organisation. Some of the key achievements included almost 100 per cent network availability throughout the year, along with a reduction of 50 per cent in the average helpdesk job turn around time. Throughout the year, ACON continued to build the IT capacity of the organisation by continuing the roll-out of our capital replacement program, which included the replacement of approximately a third of all PCs. We also introduced ThankQ software to aid in our fundraising, marketing and volunteer co-ordination activities. In order to strengthen the resilience of our Information Technology program, ACON ensured that all software was licensed, maintained the currency of our virus scanning, firewall and other security measures, and reviewed our Standard Operating Environment and IT Policies and Procedures.

Social Responsibility

Throughout 05/06 and in line with the new strategic plan, ACON ensured regular feedback systems to clients, community and other stakeholders, and the opportunity for them to contribute to ACON's planning processes. For example, the acquittal of grants to respective contributors were completed to a higher standard than required to assure maximum transparency and accountability. ACON also sought regular feedback from clients throughout the year via client satisfaction surveys and community consultations, the results of which then formed the basis for ACON's strategic planning process and the ongoing review of ACON programs.

SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

ACON's Regional and Rural Strategy also ensured this same process was applied to service delivery throughout NSW. In addition, ACON's accreditation through QMS requires that the organisation has processes in place for continuous quality improvement. ACON applied a similar process to all internal structures, policies and work environments to ensure that staff are immersed in the kind of workplace practices that ACON expects of other agencies.



Environmental

In June 2005 the ACON Reduce Reuse Recycle Committee (ARRRC) was formed to provide leadership in reducing ACON's environmental impact. ARRRC has worked with staff and volunteers to improve the organisation's environmental performance in three areas. At the Head Office site in Commonwealth Street, we have succeeded in the following:

Waste

We reduced the amount of waste generated and disposed of by:

- Instigating a recycling scheme for paper, glass, bottles and cans
- Setting printers to default to double-sided printing
- Replacing disposable cups and cutlery with reusable ones

Energy

We reduced our energy use and therefore our carbon emissions by:

- Removing over 120 unnecessary light globes
- Setting all computer screens to switch off after 10 minutes without use
- Replacing old printers with more energy-efficient models
- Putting all water boilers on a timer so they only operate during business hours

Water

We cut our daily average water usage from approximately 11 kilo-litres a day to 4 kilo-litres by:

- Installing dual-flush toilets where possible
- Establishing a system for repairing leaking taps and cisterns

In addition to environmental benefits, these measures will reduce our running costs.

Community

ACON is strongly committed to supporting other smaller groups in the HIV/AIDS and GLBT community sectors through an annual small grants program, the provision of ad hoc donations for good causes and by providing groups with office accommodation and meeting spaces at a nominal cost. In o5/o6, these groups included the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, Mature Age Gays, the Gay Married Men's Association, the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre, Fit X Gym, the Community Support Network and the Gay and Lesbian Immigration Taskforce.

Opposite: On Any Street, 2002 Last Night I Picked Up Someone...And Something, 2003 PEP, 2001

Staff and Volunteers throughout the Year

Cathy Adams Nicola Addison Brett Aitkenhead Tim Anderson Jennifer Anne Nassim Arrage Gary Aschmoneit Anna Bacik Raymond Balisoro Nicole Barakat Niki Barr Ben Bavinton Ruth Bearpark Kerri Bell Peter Bermingham Jeanne Bernhardt Scott Berrv Paul Bodisco **Gregory Bork** Rosemary Bristow Barrie Brockwell Alan Brotherton Deb Broughton Kooncha Brown Daniel Brown Shane Burgess John Burnett Keith Buss Judith Butler John Byrne Erin Cahill Bianca Calandra Maria Calandra Daniel Callaghan

Donna Campbell Theresa Caruana Julie Cassidy Somali Cerise Heather Chaffey Julie Chalmers **Baden Chalmers** Jason Chatwin Anna Checkley Jum Chimkit Samuel Choy Stevie Clayton Chris Clementson Teresa Clonan **Christine Collins** Mark Connolly Annaliese Constable Feona Cowlin Catherine Crawford John Daly Carla Daly Wasuntaree Daradikul Alex Davidson Ron Davis Suzanne Davis Kate De Maere Colin Dent Lily Dewisusana lan Down Simon Drew Corinne Drysdale Craig Duke Samual Duncan Veronica Fulate Gerard Farmer Janine Farrell

Lance Feeney Kate Fisher James Forbes Jacqueline Frajer Harry Fransen Debbie French Denis Fuelling Stephen Gallagher Dean Gilbert Gareth Gillham Susan Gilroy Rian Gledson Jamie Goninan Brad Gray **Richard Green** Brett Greenwood Denise Hanlon Andrew Harb Barrie Harrison Iain Harrison Martin Hartridge Jonathan Harvey Linda Hayes Tony Head Kim Heap Trevor Hobday Joanna Holden Patricia Holton **Florence Howard** Mitchell Hughes Charles Hunter Peter Irons Detley Jackson Paul Jansa Elena Jeffreys Dean Johnston

Cindy Jones Thomas Jones Allan Jones Fred Kakish Michael Kazonis Laurie Keane Jennifer Kerrison Peter Lalli Brian Le Casev Li Jayne Liddy Tania Lienert Jane Lowe Xiuyun Ma Kristin Magill Mahamati Emilv Marsden Curt Mason Terrv Mateer Ange Matheson Siri Mav norrie mAy-welby Rima Mazloum Amber McBride Jennifer McCaffery David McGuigan Maria McMahon Dennis Meiier Anton Mischewski Adnan Mohieddine Jefferson Moreira Margaret Moylan Mel Nahlos Anders Neilson Michael Nelson Julie Nikolich

Bjarne Nordin Graham Norton Olivia Noto Fred Oberg Mark O'Brien Alona Olsen Daniel O'Neill Vonnie Ong Sean O'Rourke Steve Ostrow Bruce Parker Wendy Parsons Jerry Pham Joanne Piggott Libby Pike Carl Piraino Emma Pocock Katelund Povev Ty Power Ray Prasad Gavin Prendergast Remi Pudlowski Cameron Purvis Michael Reece Michael Riches Tom Robertson Kenn Robinson Maureen Rogers Pablo Roman Lisa Ronneberg Christine Rowan Jen Rudland Fecility Ryan Dermot Ryan Kerry Saloner Chadi Sankary

Silvana Sannuto Ray Sarsin Mary Anne Saunders Sai Saylan David Scamell Lance Schema Stephen Scott Akshay Shanker Shân Short Alanna Somers Michelle Sparks Kate Starr Jonathon Street Marina Suarez Rob Sutherland Ben Tart Bronwyn Taverner Themistos Themistou Melissa Thorp Gerard Tobin Kon Toumazos Todd Trenerry Ron Tripp Julie Truong Veronica Turner Simon Turner Jodi Tyne Matt Vaughan Sam Vescio Mary Vyssaritis Mailis Wakeham John Wang Danielle Warby Tanya Warr Raymond Webb Christopher White

Richard Whitenstall Stephen Wilcox David Wilkins Darrell Williams Terry Wills James Winter Lucky Wirajaya Steve Wood James Woodhead Ronald Woods Grace Woods **Rachel Wotton** Stephen Wye Julie Wylie Farzad Yazdanparast Zuni Zacutti Thérèse (Tess) Ziems

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

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

SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

2BOB FM Community Radio 32 Hundred Lighting 3rd Space 407 Doctors AAA Computers Abbott Pharmaceuticals ABC Triple J Radio Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexual Health Network ADAHPT Advocate Immigration AHMRC AIDS Action Council of the ACT AIDS and Infectious Diseases Branch NSW Health AIDS Council of SA Alan Vella Albion Street Centre Alcohol and Other Drug Service Aldo Spina Anchor Men's Hostel ANEX Ankali Annie's Bar/Carrington Hotel Ansell Condoms APC ARCSHS ARO ASHM **ASI** Solutions Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) Australian Lesbian Medical Association (ALMA) Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society Australian Sailing and Cruising Club Australian Urethane and Styrene Awabakal Land Council Bankstown NSP Barbara Williams Bearlay Aboriginal Interagency Bedazzle Tanning Bellingen and Seaboard Youth Services Bingay - Mitzi Macintosh & Naomi Palmer Biripi Aboriginal Medical Service Bloxham & Chambers Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) Boehringer-Ingelheim Boyd Duncan Breakfast Star FM Bronwyn Turnbull Byron Bay Youth Services

Cancer Council of NSW Candy Lips Centrelink Outreach Team Hunter CHAIN Chris Puplick Chris Tzar, Exercise Physiologist Christ Church Cathedral CIO Magazine City Of Sydney Council Clarence River Women's Refuge Clinic 16 Clinic 33 Clinic 619 **Coastal Castaways** Coastal Lvnx Coffs Harbour City Council Community Support Network (CSN) Computerworld Corporate Express IT Council for Civil Liberties Darlinghurst Community Health Centre Darlinghurst Medical Centre David Fowler **Dimension Data** DJ Beaker DJ Rubv Dr Steven Lieu Durex Condoms Durri Aboriginal Medical Service First Step (SESIAHS) Fit X Gym Foundation for Young Australians Family Planning NSW Freehills Solicitors Gateway Hotel (Newcastle) Gay & Lesbian Counselling Service Gay & Lesbian Immigration Taskforce (GLITF) Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby (GLRL) Gav and Married Men's Association (GAMMA) Gay Men's Domestic Violence Counselling Service Gay.com Gender Centre George Aviet Staging Gilead Sciences Glyde Health Gold's Gym Hair Art by Matthew Snell Harbour Youth Service Hastings Council

Hepatitis C Council HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) HIV/AIDS Library Network (HALN) Holden St Sexual Health Clinic Holdsworth House General Practitioners Homebase Youth Service ΗP Hume Phoenix Hunter and New England Area Health Service Hunter Women's Centre IBM IDC IDG Illawarra Healthy Cities Illawarra Hotel Illawarra Legal Centre Illawarra Sexual Health Providers Network Illawarra Women's Health Centre Imperial Hotel Inflatable Image Technologies Interrelate Jane Worrallo Janine Tennille Jeannie Sotheran Jenny's Place Inc Job Placement, Employment and Training Program (JPET) Justice Health Kate Starr Kickstart Kimberly Allen Kirkton Road Centre L'Occitane Le Provence Langton Centre Lee Sullik Legal Aid Commission Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre Lesbian Health Interagency Network (LHIN) Lesbian Health Network Illawarra Lesbians on the Loose (LOTL) Lifeline Lily Victoria Beauty Salon Lismore Base Hospital and Ambulance Service Lismore Base Hospital Social Work Department Lismore City Council Community Services Department Lismore Community Legal Centre Lismore Neighbourhood Centre Lismore Women's Refuge Lismore Workers' Club

LINC Newcastle Loft Youth Service (Newcastle) Luncheon Club Lush Cosmetics Luxford Road Sexual Health Clinic

Mainspring Mardi Gras Medical Mature Age Gays (MAG) Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) Mental Health Association Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) Michael Cartwright Mid North Coast Community Support Fund Midnight Shift Migrant Resource Centre Newcastle Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS and STIs Mr Balloons Multicultural HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C Service Nadia Piave National Association of Drug Agencies (NADA) National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA) National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) National Centre in HIV Social research (NCHSR) National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) NCAHS Grafton Sexual Health Clinic NCAHS Policy and Planning Unit NCAHS Primary NSP Project NCOSS New Mardi Gras Newcastle City Council Newcastle Civic Theatre Newcastle Mental Health Service Newcastle Sexual Health Newcastle Youth Service Newtrain Northern Rivers North Coast Area Health Service North Sydney & Central Coast Area Health Service Northern Rivers Social Development Council Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council Nowra Youth Centre NSW Attorney General's Department NSW Department of Health NSW Farmers' Association NSW Police Service NSW Quitline NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) NSW Workforce Development Program

Outfielders Open Doors Youth Service Opera Australia Oxford Square Medical Centre Oz Showbiz Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Pacific Internet Paddington/Woollahra RSL Parramatta Sexual Health Clinic Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Pens Plus Promotional Products People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) (PLWHA NSW) People with Disabilities Aust Inc Pine Street Creative Arts Centre Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLOs) Port Kembla Sexual Health Clinic (SESIAHS) Port Panthers Port Piazza Port PLWHA PozHets PriceWaterhouseCoopers Queensland Association for Healthy Communities Queer Screen Quilt Project Quiver Adult Store Rainbow Visions Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service REPIDU RHed (Victoria) Ronnies Flower Shop Ruth Filewood Sally Whitwell Scarlet Alliance Shauna Jensen Showcase Cinemas SHOWNet Sign King St Leonards Signwave Newtown Sisterhoodlums Slide Nightclub Smokenders Solutions Focus Psychology Somerset Meats South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service Southern Cross University St Carthages (aged care) St George Sexual Health Clinic Star FM Steamworx (Newcastle) Stonewall Hotel

Striptease Artists Union Suki Hair Sweet Art SX News Sydney Convicts Sydney Morning Herald Sydney Sexual Health Clinic Sydney South West Area Health Service Sydney Star Observer Sydney Theatre Company Sydney West Area Health Service Sydney Women's Baseball League TAFE NSW Outreach Program **TAFE** Randwick Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases Taylor Square Medical Clinic Tesha Jones The Buttery The Columbian The Debbys The Look, Theatrical Drape Hire and Installation The OI Group The Sign Post Touching Base inc Trouble in Paradise Tweed Shire Women's Centre Twenty 10 Uniting Care (Caroona aged care) University of Newcastle Urban Realists Victor Feneck, TCM Acupuncturist Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre Visions in Style VOCAL Vourneen Ward Wellbeing Magazine Wendy Anggerani Western Area Adolescent Team (WAAT) Western Australian AIDS Council Whyte & Co. Coaches Wollongong City Gallery Wollongong Women's Health Centre Wollongong Youth Service Women and Girls Emergency Centre (WAGEC) Women's Health NSW Workcover NSW Yoga Sanga Youth Activities Centre Byron Bay Yvonne Hall

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

TREASURER'S REPORT

This twenty first year of ACON's service to the GLBT community and people living with HIV/AIDS has brought with it both a new three-year strategic plan and new challenges. ACON has continued to respond to health issues challenging our community even in some instances where we have not received dedicated funding for that purpose. This meant that monies from fundraising and ACON's reserves were deployed to address issues including increasing use of drugs like GHB and crystal methamphetamine, increasing homophobic violence and same sex domestic violence

As a result ACON finished the year with an operating deficit of \$312,254; however with the statutory requirements for grants in advance revenue to be recorded as a liability until expended, a further reduction of \$149,450 had to be made, bringing the overall deficit to \$461,704. This has had a substantial impact on our cash reserves. Nonetheless, at the close of trading for the 2005-06 financial year, ACON's asset base remains secure with retained earnings at the end of the financial year of \$840,260.

ACON will continue to advocate for government funding for programs we believe are vital and necessary for the GLBT community. We will also continue to place greater emphasis on fundraising and developing other sources of income in the coming year, to help us target emerging health and social issues we believe are worthy of immediate support. ACON has already undertaken significant planning and preparation during 2005-06 to better develop our fundraising capacity.

The Board is aware of its responsibility to balance the need to deliver services to our community - including where these are not yet specifically funded by government, against the need to maintain prudent levels of reserves to support the long term viability of the organisation. The challenges for ACON in terms of our financial future remain the same as they have always been; to find sufficient funds to continue to provide outstanding services in HIV & STI prevention and services for people living with HIV/AIDS, whilst building new programs around drug and alcohol use and other GLBT health issues, at the same time as keeping the organisation in a sound financial position for the future.

I'm pleased to present this report to members and in doing so I acknowledge ACON staff for their ongoing support and expertise.

RIL

Rod Bruem Treasurer

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The board of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated submits its Report on the Association for the year ended 30 June 2006.

- The principal activities of the Association during the year were the provision of education, health promotion, advocacy, care and support services to members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, including indigenous people, injecting drug users, to sex workers and to all people living with HIV/AIDS.
- After providing \$nil for income tax, operations for the year ended 30 June 2006, resulted in a net deficit of (\$461,704) (2005: net surplus \$35,724) compared to budget deficit of (\$274,984). The current year result includes grants in advance of \$149,450 (2005: \$250,887 recognised as income) recognised as an addition to expenditure.
- The Association is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW) and is restricted from declaring any dividends.
- 4. During the year ended 30 June 2006, 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.
- 5. 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.

6. Members of the Board at 30 June 2006

Name Experience Qualifications Special Responsibilities



Adrian Lovney 16 years experience at LLB (Hons) governance level in HIV/AIDS President organisations, and in public sector program and policy analysis/advice. Currently a General Manager in the financial services industry.



Kate Connors g years experience in public BA, LLB (Hons) sector policy advice and analysis. Vice President Currently employed as a lawyer with the Australian Law Reform Commission.



Rod Bruem Rod Bruem is a communication Treasurer specialist with 21 years experience in journalism, politics and media management. Currently employed as a corporate relations manager for Telstra. He has a keen interest in rural and regional issues services.



David Buchanan Barrister. Has served on the SC ACON Board for 19 years Secretary



Simon Moore Director of Creative Services B.A. (Comms) in boutique design and advertising agency with over 11 years experience in business management.

Garrett Prestage Lecturer at National Centre in BA (Hons), PhD. HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research, two decades experience researching gay and lesbian community and health issues.









BA (Hons) MPsvchol, PhD.

Michael Phillips Appointed to the board, December 2005.



Lance Schema Joined ACON in 2005 working ACON Staff as the GLBT Housing Officer Representative and was instrumental in launching the GLBT Housing Project.

Stevie Clayton 4.5 years as Deputy Executive Chief Executive Officer of ACON and 5 years Officer as CEO. Long history of involvement in community based organisations.

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

Dean Price Currently working with People with Disability Australia, a peak disability rights and advocacy organisation. 6 years experience in campus, State and nationwide student and GLBTI organisations.

Louisa Senior lecturer at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre and a senior investigator on a number of projects monitoring trends in illicit drug markets across Australia.

FINANCIAL REPORT

8. Attendances by Members of the Board who held office during the year at meetings of the Board during the year ended 30 June 2006 were as follows. Elections for the elected Board Members were held in December 2005.

Elected Members and Ex Officio	Meetings held	Meetings attended
Adrian Lovney	9	9
Kate Connors	9	8
Rod Bruem	9	8
David Buchanan	9	7
Linette Collins (to April 2006)	7	2
Garrett Prestage	9	9
Simon Moore	9	6
Hugh MacLeod (to April 2006)	7	4
Geoff Honnor	9	9
Dean Price	9	7
Michael Phillips (from Dec 2005)	5	3
Louisa Degenhardt (from Dec 2005)	5	5
Deb Broughton (Staff Reps until Nov 2005)	4	4
Lance Schema (Staff Reps from Dec. 2005)	5	4
Stevie Clayton (CEO)	9	9

- 11. The Association has paid a premium of \$6,215 [2005: \$5,885] 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.
- 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 Thirtieth Day of October 2006

Kathlen Com

Adrian Lovney President

Kate Connors Vice-President

- 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.

Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

Revenue from Continuing Opera	2006 \$	2005 \$	
Grants:	Notes	Ŷ	Ť
Grants In Advance		(149,450)	250,887
Grants Rolled Over Prior Year		482,110	173,117
NSW Dept of Health		7,031,815	6,684,074
NSW Dept of Community Serv	ices	111,895	86,766
Commonwealth Dept of Health &	Aged Care	-	-
Area Health Services		537,657	482,157
AIDS Trust of Australia		-	-
NSW Users & AIDS Association	n	7,050	6,959
Other grants		37,205	68,803
Fundraising	21a	300,787	321,908
Interest received/receivable		130,701	112,381
Membership		2,244	2,580
Rent received		56,054	51,977
Sale of Vitamins		82,354	89,022
Sale of Materials		75,053	80,502
Registration Fees		6,032	6,172
Other Revenue		34,340	80,785
Gifts of Works of Art		-	11,480
Total Revenue from Continuing C	perations	8,745,847	8,509,570
Expenditure			
Salaries & Associated Costs		5,830,336	5,447,503
Program Materials and Services		604,892	584,592
Rent and Rates		220,510	217,470
Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	nt	136,983	140,049
Building Maintenance		277,648	280,941
Communications		325,984	296,439
Travel and Representation		361,207	347,052
Donations given		22,275	28,975
Advertising costs		384,687	347,142
Events and Activities		105,470	94,017
Administrative costs		864,509	600,763
Cost of goods sold		73,050	88,903
Total Expenditure		9,207,551	8,473,846
(Loss)/Profit for the year	2	(461,704)	35,724

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2006

	Notes	2006	2005
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash	4	1,332,151	2,110,703
Receivables	6	132,889	26,137
Inventories	7	14,960	10,356
Other	8	185,367	178,678
Total Current Assets		1,665,367	2,325,874
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	9	367,192	360,954
Deposits, Bonds	10	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		367,192	360,954
TOTAL ASSETS		2,032,559	2,686,828
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	11	533,473	743,203
Employee Entitlements	12	424,795	397,932
Total Current Liabilities		958,268	1,141,135
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee Entitlements	13	208,530	218,228
Total Non-Current Liabilities		208,530	218,228
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,166,798	1,359,363
NET ASSETS		865,761	1,327,465
Members' Funds			
Retained Surplus at the end of the Year	25	840,261	1,301,965
Revaluation Reserve	24	25,500	25,500
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	the read in a	865,761	1,327,465

The above Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement Of Changes In Equity For The Year Ended 30 June 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
Total equity at the beginning of t year	he financial	1,327,465	1,271,241
Gain on revaluation of Artwork	24	-	20,500
Net income recognised directly i	n equity	-	20,500
(Loss)/Profit for the year		(461,704)	35,724
Total recognised income and ex the year	pense for	(461,704)	36,224
Total equity at the end of the fina	ancial year	865,761	1,327,465

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Cash Flows Statement For The Year Ended 30 June 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$			
Cash flows from operating activi	ties:					
Receipts from customers, gran and fundraising (inclusive of gc services tax)	0	9,345,262	9,296,546			
Payments to suppliers and emp (inclusive of goods and service		(10,099,023)	(9,239,705)			
		(753,761)	56,841			
Interest received		118,430	131,192			
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	5	(635,331)	188,033			
Cash out flows from investing act	tivities	(143,221)	(137,511)			
Payment for plant and equipment						
Net cash outflow from investing	activities	(143,221)	(137,511)			
Net increase/(decrease) in cash	held	(778,552)	50,522			
Cash at beginning of the financial year	4	2,110,703	2,060,181			
Cash at end of the financial year	4	1,332,151	2,110,703			
The above Cash Flows Statement should be read in conjunction with the						

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

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 30 JUNE 2006

1. Statement Of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated. The financial report includes the financial statements for the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) as an individual entity.

(a) Basis Of Preparation

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRSs), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and Urgent Issues Group Interpretations.

Compliance with IFRSs

Australian Accounting Standards include AIFRSs. Compliance with AIFRSs ensures that the financial statements and notes of ACON comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Application of AASB 1 First time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

These financial statements are the first ACON financial statements to be prepared in accordance with AIFRSs. AASB 1 First time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards has been applied in preparing these financial statements.

Financial statements of ACON until 30 June 2005 had been prepared in accordance with previous Australian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (AGAAP). AGAAP differs in certain respects from AIFRS. When preparing ACON's 2006 financial statements, management has amended certain accounting and valuation methods applied in the AGAAP financial statements to comply with AIFRS. The comparative figures in respect of 30 June 2005 were restated to reflect these adjustments. To date, there are no significant accounting policy changes that affect ACON's financial report.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of available for sale financial assets, financial assets and liabilities (including derivative instruments) at fair value through profit or loss, certain classes of property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Critical accounting estimates

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

(b) Grant Revenue

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

(c) 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 uncollectible are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised where some doubt as to collection exists.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

(f) 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 income statement, in which case the increment is credited to the income statement.

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

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

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

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

(g) Depreciation Of Plant & Equipment

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

The expected useful lives are as follows:

Plant and Equipment, Office Equipment, Equipment under lease: 2-5 years

Works of Art are not depreciated.

(h) Leasehold Improvements

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

(i) 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 incidental 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.

(j) 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.

(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.

(I) Employee Entitlements

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when the leave is taken and measured at the rates paid or payable.

Long Service Leave

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

Superannuation

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

(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 Deficit

Operating deficit from ordinary activities includes the following specific expenses:

Net gains and expenses	2006	2005	
	\$	\$	
Bad and Doubtful Debts	-	86	
Provision for Employee Entitlements	17,165	55,552	
Rental expense relating to operating leases	131,753	127,252	

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

Operating deficit from ordinary activities includes the following specific expenses:

Cash on hand	4,650	4,300
Cash at bank:		
Cheque account - Operations	330,452	152,288
Deposits	997,049	1,954,115
	1,332,151	2,110,703

5. Reconciliation Of Profit To Net Cash Inflow From Operating Activities

Loss/Profit for year	(461,704)	35,724
Depreciation and Amortisation	136,983	140,049
Gifts of Works of Art	-	(11,480)
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(106,752)	171,973
(Increase) in Other Current Assets	(6,689)	(152,564)
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventory	(4,604)	4,028
(Increase)/Decrease in other Non-Current Assets	-	1,600
(Decrease) in Creditors	(209,730)	(56,850)
Increase in Employee Entitlements	17,165	55,553
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	(635,331)	188,033

6. Current Assets - Receivables

	2006 \$	2005 \$
Accounts Receivable	115,235	19,069
Accrued Income	17,654	7,068
	132,889	26,137
7. Current Assets – Inventories		
Finished Goods (Vitamins) at cost	14,960	10,356
	14,960	10,356
8. Current Assets - Other		
Goods and Services Tax Receivable	92,040	93,576
Prepaid expenses	93,327	85,102
9. Non-Current Assets - Plant & Equipment	185,367	178,678
Furniture & Fittings, at cost	1,252,783	1,235,643
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,224,536)	(1,221,643)
	28,247	14,000
Office Equipment, at cost	887,458	763,879
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(692,444)	(568,326)
	195,014	195,553
Equipment Under Lease, at cost	48,116	48,116
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(48,116)	(48,116)
	-	-
Library Resources	3,663	3,663
Gifts of Works of Art (at valuation)	134,830	134,830
	138,493	138,493
	_	
Leasehold Improvements	51,928	49,427
less: Accumulated Depreciation	(46,490)	(36,519)
	5,438	12,908
Total Plant & Equipment	367,192	360,954

FINANCIAL REPORT

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.

2006	Furniture & Fittings \$	Office Equipment \$	Equipment Under Lease \$	Library Works of Art \$	Leasehold Improve- ments \$	Totals \$
Carrying amount at 1 July 2005	14,000	195,553	-	138,493	12,908	360,954
Additions	17,140	123,579	-	-	2,501	143,220
Revaluation increment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(2,893)	(124,118)	-	-	(9,971)	(136,982)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2006	28,247	195,014	-	138,493	5,438	367,192

2005						
Carrying amount at 1 July 2004	23,472	183,173	-	106,513	18,354	331,512
Additions	4,201	124,650	-	11,480	8,660	148,991
Revaluation increment	-	-	-	20,500	-	20,500
Depreciation expense	(13,673)	(112,270)	-	-	(14,106)	(140,049)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2005	14,000	195,553	-	138,493	12,908	360,954

10. Deposits, Bonds			12. Current Liabilities - Employee Entitlements		
Deposits, Bonds	-	-	Employee Entitlements - Annual Leave	424,795	397,932
	-	-		424,795	397,932
11. Current Liabilities – Accounts Payable			Employee Numbers	Number	Number
Goods & Services Tax Payable	53,284	215,403	Number of employees at reporting date	97	102
Trade Creditors	347,103	336,020			
Accrued Expenses	133,086	191,780	13. Non-current Liabilities – Employee Entitleme	ents	
	533,473	743,203	Provision for Long Service Leave	208,530	218,228

208,530 218,228

14. Financial Instruments

(a) Credit Risk Exposures

The credit risk on financial assets of the Association is the carrying value, net of any provision for doubtful debts.

(b) Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The Association's exposure to interest rate risk and the interest rate for each class of financial assets and liabilities are set below.

Interest Rate Risk Exposures

			Fixed Interest	Maturing in:		
2006	Note	Floating Interest Rate \$	1 year or less \$	Over 1 to 5 years	Non-Interest Bearing	Total
		φ	φ	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets:						
Cash and deposits	4	233,455	997,049	-	101,647	1,332,151
Receivables	6, 8	-	-	-	224,929	224,929
		233,455	997,049	-	326,576	1,557,080
Weighted average interest rate		4.43%	5.41%			
Financial Liabilities:		-	-	-		
Trade and other creditors	11	-	-	-	533,473	533,473
Net financial assets/(liabilities)		233,455	997,049	-	(206,897)	1,023,607
2005						

2000						
Financial Assets:						
Cash and deposits	4	110,945	1,954,115	-	45,643	2,110,703
Receivables	6	-	-	-	26,137	26,137
		110,945	1,954,115	-	71,780	2,136,840
Weighted average interest rate		3.88%	4.93%			
Financial Liabilities:						
Trade and other creditors	11	-	-	-	743,203	743,203
Net financial assets/(liabilities)		110,945	1,954,115	-	(671,423)	1,393,637

Reconciliation of Net Financial Assets to Net	2006	2005
Assets	\$	\$
Net financial assets as above	1,023,607	1,393,637
Non-financial assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	14,960	10,356
Property, plant & equipment	367,192	360,954
Prepaid expenses	93,327	178,678
Employee Entitlements	(633,325)	(616,160)
	865,761	1,327,465

(c) Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities comprise cash and borrowings. The net fair value of financial assets and liabilities approximates their carrying value.

15. Remuneration Of Members Of The Board

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

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

2005	2004
\$	\$
Nil	Nil

16. Remuneration Of Auditors

Remuneration for audit and review of the Association's Financial report - PricewaterhouseCoopers	38,000	35,000
Remuneration for other services - PricewaterhouseCoopers	8,500	15,000
	46,500	50,000

FINANCIAL REPORT

17. Segments

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

18. Share Capital

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

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

19. Economic Dependency

The major source of funding for the Association is an annual grant from the NSW Health Department. The Association has negotiated a triennial funding agreement with the Department for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2008. The Department continues to provide quarterly funding based on the annualised grant approved for 2005/2006.

20. Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year ended 30 June 2006.

21. Charitable Fundraising Act 1991

The AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated was re-issued with an authority to fundraise by the Office of Charities on 4 April 2001. Subsequent to year end, the Association was re-issued an authority to fundraise for the period 4 September 2006 to 3 September 2011.

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

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

	2006	2005
Gross proceeds from fundraising:	\$	\$
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	58,826	104,412
Other including Donations & Sponsorship	241,961	217,496
Total gross income from fundraising	300,787	321,908
less total costs of fundraising		
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	19,168	69,208
Other	194,027	116,837
Total costs of fundraising	213,195	186,045
Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals	87,592	135,863

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

(c) Comparative Ratios

Ratio of costs to gross proceeds	71%	58%
Ratio of net surplus to gross proceeds	29%	42%
Ratio of total cost of services to total expenditure	2%	2%
Ratio of total cost of services to total income	3%	2%

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

22. Contingent Liabilities

Bank guarantees in respect of Transport Workers Union, (\$2,500) and electronic funds payroll (\$150,000) and credit card facility (\$6,000) were held at 30 June 2006. No material losses are expected in respect of any of the above contingent liabilities.

23. Commitments For Expenditure

Lease Commitments

Operating Leases

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

Within one year	78,560	90,045
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	79,097	59,574

24. Reserves

Revaluation Reserve

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

25. Retained Surplus

Retained surplus at the beginning of the year	1,301,965	1,266,241
Current year surplus	(461,704)	35,724
Retained surplus at the end of the year	840,261	1,301,965

Included in the retained surplus is an amount of \$557,909, which is restricted in its use. This relates to grants received not yet expended for the purpose for which it was intended.

PRICEWATERHOUSE COPERS 1

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AIDS COUNCIL OF NSW

Qualified audit opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation on our audit procedures referred to in the qualification paragraph below not existed, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia as at 30 June 2006.

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

Qualification

Cash from donations and other fund raising activities are a significant source of revenue for The AIDS Council of NSW. Although The AIDS Council of NSW management has implemented systems of control to ensure that monies received are properly recorded in the accounting records, it is impracticable to establish controls 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 association'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, being a general purpose financial report, comprises the balance sheet, income statement, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, accompanying notes to the statements, and the directors' report for The AIDS Council of NSW, for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The directors' are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

We conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the association.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected. For further explanation of an audit, visit our website http://www.pwc.com/au/financialstatementaudit. We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association'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.

Our procedures include reading the other information included with the financial 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 the directors or management.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

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Muxielt

PricewaterhouseCoopers Sydney 27 October 2006

Marc Upcroft Partner

DECLARATION BY THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

The Members of the Board declare that the financial statements and notes set out on pages 62 - 72

(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 2006 and of its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows, for the financial year ended on that date.

In the Board's opinion:

(a) the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW,) the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW);

(b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable;

(c) the provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the regulations under this Act and the conditions attached to the authority to fundraise have been complied with; and

(d) the internal controls exercised by the Association are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received.

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



Adrian Lovney President

Kate Connors Vice-President

Dated at Sydney this Thirtieth day of October 2006

Designer: Farzad Yazdanparast Photography: Donna Campbell Printer: Bloxham & Chambers

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