

AIDS

COUNCIL

OF

NEW

SOUTH

WALES

INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1986/87

AIDS COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED
P.O. BOX 350, DARLINGHURST, NSW 2010.
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Committee:

Don Baxter, President (from 16 March)
Greg Tillett, President (to 11 March)
Robert French, Vice-President
Peter Connelly, Secretary
Peter Collingwood, Treasurer
Steve Auburn
Ian Beattie
David Buchanan
Ross Duffin (to 11 February)
Sarah Dunn
Lou McCallum (from 11 March)
Gray Sattler
Brett Tindall (to 13 May)

Principal Affiliate Members:

John Galletly (Bobby Goldsmith Foundation)
John Goosen (Community Support Network)
Mac McMahon (Body Positive)
Brett Hughes (Gay & Lesbian Counselling Service)
Lou McCallum (Ankali) (to 20 January)
Robert Oliver (Sydney Gay Youth Group)
John Gibbs (PWA Group)
Dave Kirby (PWA Group)
Bob Taylor (T-Cell Group)

Staff of Council:

Bill Whittaker, Executive Director
Norman Boyle, Office Manager
Ross Duffin, Education Officer (from 20 July)
Graeme Head, Education Officer (to 8 May)
Terry Batterham, Welfare Co-ordinator
Peter McCarthy, Community Care Trainer
Simon Donohoe, Information Officer (from 9 March)
Geoff England, Information Officer (to 7 November)
Ken Davis, Public Relations Officer
Chas Stewart, Roster Officer (from 16 June)
Barry Fitzgerald, Roster Officer (to 20 February)
Julie Wurm, Receptionist (to 20 February)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1986/87 has been a year of consolidation and expansion for ACON as the gay community grapples with the ever-widening problems and issues brought on by the AIDS crisis.

The end of ACON's second year has been clouded by the tragic death of John Galletly, President of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, one of the founders of ACON, and a long serving committee member. John's unflinching devotion to people with AIDS, his tenacity, his long experience, wise advice and sensible head in a crisis will all be sorely missed by the committee: his death is a tragic loss to the community.

The solid groundwork and credibility established by ACON in its first year led to a one hundred percent increase in government funding for 1986/87 to \$313,000. This reflects very favourably on the previous committee and staff.

This increase allowed us to expand activities in both the support services and education areas. The establishment of the Roster/Volunteer Co-ordinator position, now held by Chas Stewart, and the more recent appointment of Terry Batterham as Welfare/Accommodation Officer has allowed us, in conjunction with Community Support Network, to expand and develop direct support services to people with AIDS. Fuller details of these services will be found in the Welfare Unit section of this report.

Similarly the establishment of the Information Resources position (Simon Donohoe) and the six month project appointment of Ken Davis (funded by AFAO) has allowed expansion of education activities, as detailed in Ross Duffin's Education Unit report. Our foundation Education Officer, Graeme Head, has moved on to accept the position with the NACAIDS secretariat.

The Committee also resolved to move early on a major interim recommendation of the consultants engaged to review ACON's operations and appoint an Executive Director to manage and direct the staff and resources of the Council. We were fortunate to be able to employ Bill Whittaker, whose long experience in both gay community organisations and Parliamentary bureaucracy provides a uniquely valuable background for the complex tasks the position requires. Since Bill took up duties at the end of February the efficiency of ACON operations has improved dramatically.

The move to the Sophia Street Resource Centre in August finally saw adequate working space and resources for staff and volunteers from both ACON and affiliate organisations; something of a milestone had been achieved. Nevertheless, expanding staff and services indicate the building may not be adequate for its projected 6-year life span. The building was officially opened by the Minister for Health, Mr. Peter Anderson on January 28.

The building has a high usage rate, with meetings of working groups or affiliate groups most evenings of the week and many weekends. An unexpectedly successful venture has been the Vitamin Co-operative, established by the People With Aids group and sponsored by ACON, and with the support of the B.G.F. The Vitamin Co-op has had a much higher turnover than expected and is becoming something of a drop-in centre for people with AIDS and their friends.

ACON and the Commonwealth Government

A major part of ACON's work is in lobbying and negotiating with politicians and government departments in guaranteeing services for and protecting the rights of those affected, or possibly affected, by AIDS. At the federal level ACON has been represented on NACAIDS by Greg Tillet and then by myself. Greg was a participant in the 'Antibody testing Summit' in August 1986, and more recently I have met with Health Minister Blewett to discuss ongoing funding of community-based organisations and the provision of AZT. ACON is now regularly consulted by senior health department officers on all issues concerning AIDS and the gay community.

The 2nd National AIDS Conference at the Hyatt Kingsgate in October/November included an address by Greg to the opening plenary session. I was on the Organising Committee for the conference. Undoubtedly the highlight of the conference was the Statement by People With Aids to the final plenary session.

The National AIDS Education Program (N.A.E.P.) particularly the "Grim Reaper" advertisements, had a dramatic effect on ACON. While the Commonwealth provided one and a half telephone counsellors for a ten week period the net effect of the campaign was in fact a three month disruption of ACON's education programs. Our crash program in recruiting and training a team of volunteers to staff the phone lines was successful, and we found it necessary to also train some of the Lifeline staff. Our print material resources were all but exhausted. Moreover, some of the content of the program was faulty, and we found it necessary to publicly criticise it. Our criticisms have subsequently been incorporated in N.A.E.P. materials. A detailed critique of the whole program has also been provided to the Health Department.

ACON and the N.S.W. Government

Through 1986 the N.S.W. government's response to the AIDS crisis had been less than impressive, hampered by poor decision-making processes and inadequate staffing, leading to problems and confusion at many levels. ACON submitted a detailed proposal to the (new) Minister for Health in March 1987, and much of the committee and administrative structure we suggested has now been adopted. The gay community is represented through ACON on all committees (except the medical committee), with Bill Whittaker playing a key role on the Ministerial Advisory Committee.

In May an ACON delegation met with State Minister Anderson to discuss gay community concerns about AIDS issues, including funding for services and for community-based organisations. Effective relationships have also been established with the newly appointed State AIDS Bureau officers.

Representation on Health Department AIDS committees requires writing seemingly endless proposals and submissions. ACON has also been involved in lobbying and submission efforts to a range of other bodies, including the Education Department concerning AIDS education and schools, with Corrective Services concerning condom use, needle/syringe provision and AIDS education in jails, the department of Foreign Affairs concerning antibody testing of international travellers, the Sydney City Council concerning provision of services and AIDS education, and to the Censorship Board concerning classification of safe sex videos.

ACON and Health Care Organisations

ACON has developed good working relations with most significant organisations and individuals working in the AIDS area. We were particularly pleased to be able to successfully negotiate a mutual agreement with the Home Care Service of N.S.W. on caring for people with AIDS at home. The assistance of Brian McGahen was particularly valuable in reaching this arrangement.

Relations with St. Vincents and Prince Henry hospitals have developed closely. Relations with the Albion Street Centre have been somewhat more mercurial, with disagreements over the Isoprinosine trials and the affiliation of Ankali with ACON. Nevertheless our recent policy of emphasising current issues on which we agree – reform of the antibody testing notification procedures and the need for drug trials in early stages of infection – have led to more productive co-operation: Dr Gold speaking at our Drugs Trials Forum, and ACON being represented on the informal Albion Street Centre trials committee. Policy differences at the management level have not hindered ongoing co-operation between the staffs of the two organisations.

ACON and the Media

ACON has made substantial attempts to improve media coverage of AIDS, and intervene on particular issues which directly affect the gay community. Success has been variable. ACON held a very successful launch of the A.F.A.O. Media Kit, designed as an authoritative handbook of AIDS facts and issues for journalists, with Jeanette McHugh, M.H.R., and Senator Chris Puplick addressing over 50 journalists.

Nevertheless, our success in this area has been variable. Mainstream press coverage of our campaigns on hospices, on the carer's pension, on the Education Department programs and on condoms and needles/syringes in prisons have generally been constructive. On the other hand sections of the press are still ready to run stories damaging to the gay community, from the "irresponsible lifestyle" variety, of which we are now thankfully seeing less, to the more insidious "radical gay conspiracy" lines.

A revived but still small Media Working Group has had some success with responses to stories in local and suburban newspapers (including a letter in Time Magazine.) Relations with the gay press continue to be good.

ACON and the gay community

In addition to our ongoing AIDS education programs ACON has held a number of well-attended public meetings/forums on issues of concern to the gay community and other interested people. At a public meeting in October an impending crisis in the provision of hospital beds and hospice beds was discussed, with a series of resolutions conveyed to the Minister and the press.

The Carer's Pension meeting in February, organised by the Legal and the Welfare Working Groups, led to a joint ACON/Victorian Aids Council delegation to the Federal Minister to press the case for extending the pension to people who care for people with AIDS. The outcome will not now be known until the 1987/88 Federal government budget. The gay community is especially lucky that the tenacious David Wain was prepared to use his situation as a test case, and ACON was fortunate to have Craig Sahlin, solicitor with the Welfare Rights Centre, to

research and present the case, and also appreciates the efforts of Ms. Jeanette McHugh, M.H.R. for Phillip, for her efforts in raising the issue on the Parliamentary Liaison Group and facilitating the delegation to the Minister.

Just prior to the 2nd National AIDS Conference in October, ACON co-sponsored with AFAO an open public meeting with the Conference's international speakers for those not able to attend the Conference, plagued by threats of prosecution for showing an "explicit" safe sex film. We also held separate meetings for antibody positive men, with Jeff Mandel from San Francisco, and staged an Erotic Safe Sex workshop with the incomparable diva of safe sex, Raymond Jacobs.

In July this year over 250 people attended our AIDS Drugs & Drug Trials public forum. The meeting provided an excellent forum for the explanation of and questions on the complex issues involved, and as well has provided a sound start in our campaign to ensure that sufficient drugs are available for those who wish to begin using them.

On May 25th the ACON Events Working Group, together with the Community Support Network, the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation and Ankali organised the Candlelight Vigil to show care and concern for people with AIDS and to remember our friends who have died. Over 1,000 people participated in this solemn, moving, yet strengthening, parade and vigil.

In June the Events Group also organised a special gay community dinner. Aimed primarily at community and business leaders, the dinner fulfilled the dual functions of thanking them for their support for all the AIDS work they had done over the last three years, and introducing to them a range of new programs ACON plans to implement over the next six months.

ACON has also organised a prominent presence at major gay events, with a very "participative" float at this year's Mardi Gras, a stall at the G.B.A. Fair, condom distribution at the Sleaze Ball and other major parties.

ACON: internal relationships

Foreseeing a rapid expansion in size and staffing, the Committee appointed a team of consultants in August 1986 to review and make recommendations on the roles, possible structures and decision-making processes within ACON over the next five years. Many of the recommendations in their final report (submitted in April) for the internal structure of ACON have been implemented already, as will be detailed in the Executive Director's report. I draw attention to the consultants' emphasis on the location of decision-making being in the working groups and sub-committees of the organisation – consisting of volunteers and staff – with the ACON committee being primarily a policy approval body, with less emphasis on initiating policy.

The consultants' proposals concerning constitutional reform have been referred to a Constitutional Sub-committee. The ACON constitution attempts to provide for both a membership organisation and an affiliate structure, and there are some inevitable structural contradictions. After considerable debate the committee agreed these required a prolonged period of discussion and consultation with the membership and with affiliated organisations: constitutional amendments rushed through at this year's annual general meeting may well prove counter-productive in the long term.

Relations with the major affiliated organisations through 1986 and early 1987 were extremely complicated. Since Greg Tillet's resignation as president in March the Committee has set about recovering the situation. To this end the Executive Director and I met with the executives of CSN and BGF to restore workable and harmonious relations. Out of this meeting emerged a Statement of Agreed Points, covering a number of possible structural reforms and clarifying relationships between ACON and affiliates, particularly in relation to staffing. The statement was signed by all concerned and subsequently ratified by the ACON Committee.

Since that time a far more co-operative and productive relationship has developed with the affiliates. In tangible terms this has been expressed by the ACON Committee's appointment of John Galletly to the Management Committee of the AIDS Trust of Australia, ensuring the co-ordination of BGF and national fund-raising efforts and drawing upon John's enormous experience, now tragically removed from us all. Similarly, rapid action on re-filling the Roster position and acting on the CSN volunteer insurance issue has contributed to more effective relations. I look forward to resolution of any further issues through constructive discussion and consultation.

Ongoing issues

Let me conclude this report with four major issues confronting the gay community over the next 12 months.

The availability of AZT, and other beneficial antiviral drugs when they become available, to those who wish to take them is vital to the welfare and indeed survival of many people with AIDS. Expensive as these drugs may be, they save lives in the short term, and will also save governments money in the long term. The gay community may need to run vigorous public campaigns to ensure their availability. The availability of these drugs, particularly those shown to be beneficial in relatively early stages of infection will also require the development of different types of health education among Ab positive people so they can monitor and manage their own health status more effectively.

Drug trials inherently raise complex ethical and legal issues for participants and organisers. The involvement of community-based representatives in monitoring trials and evaluating results is vital to their success. The ACON Committee asked Lex Watson to represent AFAO and ACON on the AIDS Task Force Clinical Trials Evaluation Committee, and David Lowe to represent it on the N.H. & M.R.C. AZT Trial Committee. Future drug trials must also ensure community representation on overseeing bodies.

Antibody testing will remain an unfortunately contentious issue. NACAIDS has currently initiated a fullscale discussion/review of appropriate policies on the matter. ACON is preparing a comprehensive and detailed submission in response. We are aware that considerable non-consensual testing already occurs in hospitals, and are most concerned at moves by the College of Surgeons to require all surgery patients to be tested. Both these raise the spectre of differential and discriminatory care and treatment of antibody positive patients. ACON has successfully subverted a number of proposals for antibody screening in the workplace, and persuaded NACAIDS to recommend that the government take a lead in resisting the screening of international travellers.

ACON has been playing a leading role in current reconsideration by the N.S.W. Ministerial Advisory Committee of the antibody positivity notification legislation. Prospects on this issue are hopeful. As part of these processes the ACON Committee recently thoroughly reviewed the ACON testing policy: only minor revisions and clarifications were found to be necessary. It is envisaged the wider availability of beneficial drugs may lead to differing emphasis in interpreting the policy for gay men, but the provisions requiring protection of confidentiality and appropriate counselling all remain totally valid.

The third ongoing issue will be the adequate provision of hospital and hospice services. While the opening of a second ward at St. Vincents and of the ward and hospice care units at Prince Henry has temporarily relieved some of the pressures, this will not keep pace with predicted requirements – we still have AIDS patients in Casualty at St. Vincents – even if AZT meets its most optimistic predicted levels of effectiveness. The health system will eventually have to accept AIDS patients into non-specialised wards and units. The development of some medium care facility for people who are too ill to work but do not require hospitalisation will also need to be developed: the ACON Committee has put preliminary proposals to the government, and these will need to be developed and lobbied for over the next twelve months.

The fourth ongoing challenge will be to refine our education programs to reach effectively those still not practising safe sex every time. Research results from overseas and soon from the ACON/Macquarie project should allow us to identify target groups more easily. Developing effective programs is the challenge: we are among world leaders in the area, and must look as much to our own imagination and planning skills as to models from elsewhere.

The second full year of ACON has seen consolidation and expansion. This would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of the hundreds of ACON members and volunteers who have been involved in large and small ways in the many fields we have to cover, nor without the hard-working staff, who work under considerable pressure with far more that could be done than they can possibly do. And finally my thanks to all the committee members who served during this period, who have to shoulder complex, contentious problems, often tedious and sometimes insoluble, in addition to full-time jobs, and often with little recognition or thanks.

This year has seen a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. We must all work to ensure we stride toward that light in unison, and do not allow ourselves to be distracted.

Don Baxter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ACON has been undergoing significant organisational changes during much of 1987. These changes have affected all areas of operation, including the Committee of Council, the ACON Resource Centre, ACON Staff and our Working Groups and Sub-Committees.

The Council is now making good progress towards a more professional model. We are building on the work of previous ACON Committees, Office Bearers and our Affiliated members: work often accomplished in the face of great difficulties, given the large number of issues and problems created by AIDS and, of course, by the usual problems and conflicts faced by new, developing organisations.

A Report of Consultants, appointed by the ACON Committee in late 1986 to examine ACON's organisational structure, has played a key role in moving the organisation to a higher level of professionalism and effectiveness.

The consultants examined all aspects of Council's operation and they have made a number of important recommendations for changes to ACON's organisational structure, including constitutional reform, staffing levels, responsibilities of staff, the role of the Committee and Office bearers, and the role of Working Groups and Sub-committees. Some of these recommendations have been implemented, others will be examined by the ACON Committee and Staff during 1987/88.

One of the most important recommendations adopted by the ACON Committee was to immediately appoint an Executive Director, to take over the principal executive functions of the organisation and represent ACON to governments and to the media (these duties had previously been carried out by an honorary President with the assistance of the other office bearers). The Consultants emphasised in their report that an ever increasing range of duties and responsibilities associated with the growth of ACON now make it impossible for these executive functions to be undertaken by part-time, honorary office bearers.

The Consultants also recommended changes to ACON's staffing levels and structure. These recommendations have been acted on and the Staff have been re-organised into three units — education (headed by the Education Officer), welfare (headed by the Welfare Co-ordinator) and administration (to be headed by an Administration Officer). All units report to the Executive Director who then provides the link between the Staff (who collectively form a Management Committee) and the Committee of Council. This new arrangement is working well and will provide an effective basis for future growth.

The increasing professionalism of the organisation and recent staffing increases have resulted in inevitable changes to the role of the Committee of Council.

With the Executive Director and Staff assuming responsibility for the implementation of policy and day to day management of the organisation, the Committee is now able to more effectively fulfill its role of determining policy, based on the recommendations of the Executive Director, Staff and Working Groups. This situation should permit the 1987/88 Office Bearers and Committee more time to contribute their skills and experience through

work on relevant Working Groups and Sub-committees.

ACON staff levels have doubled during the past twelve months, reflecting the growth of the organisation, of our affiliates and unfortunately, the growth of AIDS itself in New South Wales.

The demands on the ACON Resource Centre have also increased in recent months. The building is quite rapidly filling-up, with Staff now using all available floors. Our meeting rooms and storage facilities are also approaching maximum use.

A more active and vital organisation has also resulted in increasing costs of administration, particularly in the areas of telephone, postage, photocopying, advertising, equipment, printing and staff.

The level of requests from the general public for counselling, information and printed material has also increased dramatically.

An increased public profile is essential if ACON is to have an authoritative voice on vital issues surrounding AIDS. By having a high public profile, we can more effectively represent people affected by AIDS.

ACON's profile both in the gay and general community has increased substantially during 1987. This is a result of initiatives from the ACON working groups, particularly the Education Working Group and the Events Working Group. New staff members and the recently formed Media Working Group have also played a key role in planning and co-ordinating media responses both in the gay press and in the general media.

The work of volunteers is a vital factor in the effectiveness of community organisations. It is pleasing to report a much greater involvement of volunteers in ACON during 1987. This is especially evident through ACON's telephone counselling and information service, ACON's public speaker's bureau and in AIDS education programs and activities organised by ACON. Recent events like the Gay Community Dinner, the Candlelight Vigil, Safe Sex 'Safety Pin' Campaigns and the AFAO Media Kit Launch could not have happened without the contribution of our volunteers. Volunteers also play a very important role in helping with clerical and administrative work in the ACON Resource Centre. Volunteer involvement is the most effective way of involving the community in our work and I would particularly like to thank all those volunteers who have assisted ACON during 1986/87. We will be increasing our efforts to involve volunteers during 1987/88.

ACON received funding from both the Commonwealth and State Governments to assist with our work during 1986/87. Both Governments have recognised the vital role that community-based organisations like ACON play in the fight against AIDS. The continued support of the community and of the Commonwealth and State Governments will be a vital factor in the success of ACON's work during 1987/88.

Our priority during 1987/88 must be to continue to work towards higher levels of professionalism in all areas. By pursuing this objective we will best serve all those affected by AIDS.

I am confident that through the dedication, skills and unity of Council members, the ACON Committee and Staff, and our community, we will achieve these objectives in the next twelve months.

Bill Whittaker.

EDUCATION UNIT

"We in Australia believe that it (AIDS) is the major public health challenge we face. I recognise however that provocative or even effective media campaigns need to be underwritten and sustained by preventative campaigns at the local community level. We can have a very effective public campaign, make full use of the media, but unless it is followed up, unless there is support for community groups in taking the behavioural messages right down to the grass roots level, then many of these campaigns will be ineffective."

Dr. Neal Blewett, Australian Minister for Health at the W.H.O./Australia inter-regional meeting on AIDS, 21-24 July 1987.

The education unit of the AIDS Council of NSW is committed to the highest quality programs designed to stop the spread of the AIDS virus. It is our organisation which in many ways represents the grass roots and community-based response to AIDS.

As the gay community in particular faces up to the ever growing caseload of our friends, colleagues and lovers getting AIDS it is easy to become pessimistic, over-burdened with grief and despair. Most gay men in Sydney are not infected with the AIDS virus, and our community has done a good job in promoting the message that safe sex is pro-gay, healthy and entirely necessary while unsafe sex is anti-gay, unethical and boring.

That is not to say that the job is done. For all of us, ultimately the survival of our community depends on us sticking to safe sex and sexual responsibility. And as a community we have a responsibility to people "coming out" to ensure that they become a part of a culture that is promoting safe sex and sexual responsibility in response to AIDS, and that being gay does not mean you will get AIDS or are in fact not susceptible to AIDS if you do the right thing.

The last year has seen an expansion of the work of the education unit of ACON, particularly since the "Grim Reaper" campaign. One result of this has been the expansion of our work into the "general community". Although our primary focus remains the gay community, demand for speaking engagements, educational material and from phone counselling has meant a larger involvement in general community education. Our aim has been primarily to empower other groups and people to allow them to work in their own communities.

The education unit works on the belief that involving people in educational activities, and having programs that are specifically targeted to certain groups are best devised and run by people from those groups. We welcome involvement from volunteers in our activities which are organised through the Education Working Group of the Council.

Summary of Educational Activities 1986/87

Staffing

- The Education Officer, responsible for policy and program development and implementation. This position was occupied by Graeme Head until February 1987 and is now occupied by Ross Duffin.

- The Information Officer, responsible for distribution of information, responding to the numerous requests we get and for the maintenance and development of an accessible resource collection. This position was created in March 1987 and since that time has been filled by Simon Donohoe.
- The Promotions Officer, responsible for promoting the work of the Council and for the development of peer education projects. This is a six month project funded by the National Advisory Council on AIDS and is filled by Ken Davis.

Information Production

The Council has produced numerous pamphlets and posters over the last year. Our approach is to provide explicit and accurate information, rather than moralising. The pamphlets and posters produced over the last year include:

- Three condom posters—designed for venues and bedroom walls.
- A Safe Sex and AIDS leaflet—an explicit and accurate leaflet on how the AIDS virus is transmitted, designed for all sexually active people and produced in response to numerous enquiries following the Grim Reaper. The response to this leaflet has been excellent and over 25,000 copies have so far been distributed.
- "Healthy Gift" envelopes—envelopes containing condom use guidelines, safe sex guidelines, safety pin cards, condoms, condom stickers, and water-based lubricant.
- STOP AIDS leaflet—a leaflet promoting the ACON peer education project.
- ACON membership leaflet—for new members and volunteers to ACON.
- PSSTI stickers—(Practise Safe Sex Today!)—50,000 of these stickers have been distributed.
- "You'll never forget the feeling of safe sex" poster based on another well known advertisement and featuring an attractive man—due to popular demand these have been reprinted.
- "Cum Inside" pamphlet promoting condom usage developed by the Leisure Generation.
- Condom covers—these popular match box covers containing instructions on how to use condoms have been used extensively in condom promotions.
- An insert into the "Ten Questions and Nine Answers" leaflet produced by NACAIDS.

As well as pamphlets and posters, the Council has been expanding its level of advertisements to address specific one-off issues. The popular "Q and A" advertisement series has been running since last October. This series is jointly produced by ACON and VAC. As well the Council was specifically funded to run a series of advertisements targeted to young people in "youth culture" magazines such as *Stiletto*, *Dolly* and *Xpress*. The advertising series used was based on the slogan "You don't just catch AIDS, you have to let someone give it to you". This has now been used extensively throughout Australia, and resulted in many telephone calls to the Council. As well a number of one-off advertisements have been used in special promotions such as in the first new *Outrage*, in the Mardi Gras guide and in the program for "As Is". The education unit also organises promotional advertising for the ACON phone counselling service and other special events such as one-issue forums and meetings.

The education unit also produces the Council's monthly bar flyer and newsletter *Frontline*, 5000 of which are distributed every month. This is also mailed out to all members and sent to a large list of

gay groups, community groups and health promotion organisations. Information about all AIDS groups and events is printed in *Frontline* and with its expansion in size all members and groups are encouraged to take advantage of this publication. Every attempt is made to bring *Frontline* out on the first week of each month. Consequently the deadline for copy is one week before the end of the month.

Through its information production and distribution ACON is getting more and more demands placed on it for literature. Although we recognise that information alone is not sufficient to cause behaviour change, the next year will again see ACON producing pamphlets and posters designed to promote specific programs, to continually reinforce messages and to target particular problems identified.

Information distribution

As well as producing and distributing its own material, ACON acts as an agency for distribution of the literature of other organisations and governments where we are in broad agreement with its content and philosophy. Literature in this category includes material developed to support the National Education Program such as material on antibody testing, material for "adolescents", the "Health Report To The Nation", material produced by the NSW Department of Health including the community language booklets, material produced by other AIDS organisations such as drug agencies, the Australian Prostitutes Collective, Aboriginal material and material produced by interstate and overseas AIDS Councils.

We receive a large volume of requests for information, processing of which is sufficient to occupy one person full-time. Postage costs of this material is consuming considerable resources, a factor which will have to be taken into account when future National Education Programs are being considered. The education unit is thankful to the many volunteers who have helped with this work and we have recently employed Antonia Mann under the Commonwealth Work Training scheme to assist with this work.

Condom promotion program

A major priority of the education unit has been the promotion of condoms as an effective way of stopping the spread of AIDS. This has involved handing out over 50,000 condoms at gay events and venues over the last year, all with instructions on how to use them, including condom demonstrations as part of our presentations in speaking engagements and training courses for volunteers. We are also active in attempts to get better condom standards and to get better condoms.

We are of course aware that condoms are not the sole answer to AIDS and that there are many ways of having safe sex besides that involving penetrative activities. Condoms only work if used properly and all our condom promotions are associated with guidelines or personal training.

Water-based lubricant program

Although the message about using condoms has got out, the message that water-based lubricant must be used with condoms still has some way to go. ACON has conducted a preliminary survey of knowledge and attitudes to water-based lubricants. Many gay men are still resistant to water-based lubricants because of their price and are also unaware of which products are or are not water-based.

As a result of this ACON has purchased 25,000 sachets of water-based lubricants which it will be using in association with condom promotions, and a future "Q and A" advertisement will address some of the issues relating to water-based lubricants.

Healthy Lifestyle Promotions

The education unit has been involved in the formation of a healthy lifestyles promotion program and this will become an increased priority of the unit over the next year. A separate report on the Healthy Lifestyles Working Group is given elsewhere in the annual report.

Speakers Bureau

More and more demand has been placed on the Council to provide speakers on AIDS to workplaces, tertiary education institutions, ethnic groups, service organisations, occupational groups and schools. In response to this the education unit has established a speakers bureau consisting of over 30 volunteers. A training course has been provided free of charge in public speaking by Lee Andresen and a comprehensive speaker's kit with a variety of resources is being developed.

Since its formation there have been 22 speaking engagements done with another 26 booked. The demand for its services are ever increasing. We regard public speaking and personal presentations as a very effective way to do AIDS education and to address many of the fears and hysteria around AIDS. It is also an effective way to reach men, who have sex with men, who don't identify as being gay.

The demand for speaking engagements has largely been caused by the National Education Program and this represents a significant demand on ACON resources. As a result the unit has recently prepared a submission to NACAIDS for a funded speakers bureau co-ordinator.

The creation of a safe sex culture

One of the most important factors identified in behaviour change is that there is a perception of safe sex being the gay community standard. One of the best ways to do this is to integrate safe sex into the culture of the gay community. Over the last year the Council has been involved in specific promotions at gay community events such as Mardi Gras, Sleaze Ball.

As well the education unit was heavily involved in the organisation for the very successful community dinner held in July. This dinner marked the beginning of a number of campaigns to increase the profile of the Council in the gay community. Bar workers' and entertainers' seminars are being organised and ACON staff are making regular visits to venues.

Bar outreach program

With the development of "Healthy gift" envelopes containing condoms and lubricant the education unit has recruited 20 volunteers to regularly hand out condoms and lubricant in gay venues. Our intention is to have 5 teams who will be in the community one night every fortnight. These volunteers will also be used to publicise other ACON events.

Government Liaison

The Education Officer spends a significant amount of time giving feedback on various government proposals and initiatives. The Council is represented on NACAIDS and on the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee and its subcommittees. Many of the issues they deal with relate to education and policy

advice is given by the education unit.

Other liaison

The education unit is involved in the activities of other related organisations, providing updates on activities and sharing ideas and programs. As well, the Council is regularly asked for advice on various articles that people, including journalists, are writing.

Peer education program

The major priority of the education unit over the next year will be to develop and implement a successful gay men's peer education program. The first such project of the Council, STOP AIDS, has been reviewed and evaluated, and the lessons learnt from this project incorporated into the development of the new project which will probably be called "erotic safe sex", loosely based on a similar program in New York.

A lot of work has been put into developing this project. The development of such a project must take into account local culture and the gay community in Sydney and the project must be evaluated and reviewed as it goes along.

Volunteer Training

The education unit participates in training courses for volunteers run by the Community Support Network. Since volunteers have made a personal commitment to the fight against AIDS and will probably be important providers of information in their personal networks the unit regards this training as very important.

Conclusion

ACON's education unit has expanded substantially in the last five months and this has seen a consequent greater output. The employment of an Information Officer and Promotions Officer and the involvement of increasing numbers of volunteers has been of significant benefit.

However, the challenges still remain – the next year has to be one where the foundation stones are built on. In conclusion, thanks to all the members and volunteers who have assisted throughout the last year and we look forward to continuing association.

Ross Duffin,
Education Officer.

ACON TELEPHONE COUNSELLING & INFORMATION SERVICE

ACON set up a telephone counselling and information service in April 1987. This service was initially funded for a ten week period by the Federal Government to provide backup counselling for the National Education Program. For this period the service operated between the hours of 9am – 10pm and two phone counselling co-ordinators were employed, Suin ni Chrochuir and Susanne Larson. Because of the volume of calls received, and because the Council has always had a substantial volume of counselling calls, the service has been extended until the middle of August on a 10am – 5pm basis.

The phone counselling service provides a number of advantages to the Council. It allows us to use a phone number for referrals on publications. It provides initial volunteer involvement in the Council's activities. It is providing information and feedback on current issues relating to AIDS and on current informational needs.

The philosophy of the service is to provide non-judgemental counselling and information to the numerous calls that are received each week.

The counselling service is part of the ACON education unit. A detailed counselling and referral manual was developed, recruitment of over 30 volunteers occurred, training sessions were organised and the service advertised and promoted.

Particular groups of people who used the service in preference to other agencies were gay and bisexual men and intravenous drug users. Many of the callers requested further written information and detailed statistical and analytical feedback was provided to the Federal Government.

At the time of writing this report, the future of the service is unclear, because future funding is still being negotiated with the NSW Health Department. The Council is hopeful that these negotiations are successful and a largely volunteer run counselling and information service can be integrated into the work of the Council.

Ross Duffin,
Education Officer.

WELFARE UNIT

The Welfare Unit consists of a staff of three, headed by myself (Terry Batterham) as Welfare Co-ordinator, Peter McCarthy as Community Care Trainer, and Chas Stewart as Roster/Volunteer Co-ordinator. The Welfare Unit has only recently had its full complement of staff.

I have made contact with a large number of Welfare agencies. I have offered myself as a resource to some, and for others I have been building better channels of communication so that referrals are speedier, and so that the clients receive the best quality of service.

I have been involved in negotiations with other agencies either attempting to expand their service or extending the service to people with AIDS. This is a slow process whereby one has to re-assure the service providers of the risks of transmission of the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus, if any, listen to the fears of the service providers, and operate as an advocate on the client's behalf.

Peter McCarthy is continuing his function as Community Care Trainer. In the last financial year, he has completed 10 training groups, with 180 graduates, representing 7200 hours of volunteer input before carers are rostered out to clients. CSN training courses have been conducted in Sydney, Wollongong, the St. George area, and Katoomba. Enquiries have been received from Armidale for future training groups.

Chas Stewart commenced with ACON in mid-June. Prior to this, he had been performing rostering duties on a volunteer basis. In the last 12 months, CSN carers have been rostered for a total of 1829 shifts, with a total caring time of 8230 hours.

Terry Batterham,
Welfare Co-ordinator.

EVENTS/FUNDRAISING WORKING GROUP

The Events/Fundraising Working Group was formed in March 1987.

The brief of the group is to co-ordinate ACON community events and to raise funds for education projects. The Events Group therefore works very closely with the Education Working Group in providing social environments where messages, in particular 'safe sex' messages, can be passed on in a non-threatening manner. The group is also working in co-operation with other organisations such as Artists In Direct Support.

The group has organised two events so far in 1987. The first was the Candlelight Rally in May, held in conjunction with vigils around the world. The rally attracted over one thousand people to Hyde Park. The crowd walked in silent procession up Oxford

Street to Green Park in Darlinghurst and remembered those lost.

The second was a gay community dinner in July. The object of the dinner was to launch ACON's community education and outreach program to significant people in the community, and in particular to gay venue owners and workers, to encourage their involvement in the fight against AIDS.

A number of events and functions are planned in coming months. Volunteers to assist in organising a wide variety of events are always needed. If you have skills in this area (or would like to learn some) and you wish to help, please contact the ACON office for details of the next meeting.

Steve Auburn,
Convenor.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES WORKING GROUP

The Healthy Lifestyles Working Group was formed in April 1987 to organise a major campaign to promote healthy lifestyles in Sydney's gay community.

Healthy lifestyles have taken on a new importance for gay men because of AIDS. Firstly, there is a mounting body of evidence of correlation between drugs and alcohol and unsafe sexual practices. The immune system is also adversely affected by unhealthy lifestyles, so a healthy lifestyle is important for all of us. As well, for people with AIDS, alternative therapies incorporating healthy lifestyles are proving to be significant for many in terms of quality of life and general health.

The group is comprised of both health practitioners and interested individuals, who met on a monthly basis to compose and design the first stage of the campaign, an information pamphlet, which will soon be appearing in the gay venues. The purpose of this pamphlet is to give basic information regarding health maintenance and provide a point of reference and referral for people throughout the planned campaign. The pamphlet points out some of the difficulties involved in changing to a healthier lifestyle and offers some suggestions as to overcoming some of these difficulties. It offers contacts for referrals and further advice on matters of stress management, relaxation, nutrition, and support groups.

Over the next few months the group will be concentrating on the development of further resources for this campaign. Such plans include the printing of a poster addressing the issues of drugs & alcohol use and its association with unsafe sex, and the collation and printing of recipes for an anti-candida cook book.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Healthy Lifestyles Working Group, please don't hesitate to contact us through the ACON Resource Centre.

Mac McMahon,
Convenor.

LEGAL WORKING GROUP

In 1986, the ACON Legal Working Group (LWG) refined its objectives and main aims and strategies.

Objectives:

1. To provide ACON and affiliates with the legal services they need as institutions.
2. To provide ACON with assistance in –
 - (a) formulating policy on legal issues
 - (b) forecasting the legal ramifications of governmental and other proposals about infection with and the spread of AIDS.

Main aims and strategies:

1. The furnishing of legal and associated advice and drafting skills.
2. The furnishing of advice to ACON, affiliates, members and the community on legal aspects of life which are affected by AIDS.
3. Provision of contacts and referrals to specialised legal and advocacy skills.
4. Raising AIDS-related legal issues with appropriate bodies (eg, ACON and NACAIDS).
5. Formulation of policy on legal aspects of AIDS (subject to ACON Committee).

Since the AGM on 12 August 1986, the scope of LWG's work has expanded to include select legal work on AIDS as it affects States and Territories other than New South Wales. This is because LWG is the only body in Australia doing regular legal work on AIDS.

Despite this, LWG has been restricted in the work it has been able to do by a lack of resources and time, given to the quantity, novelty and complexity of the work needing to be done. No lawyer in the country is employed to research legal aspects of AIDS. The need for at least one is increasingly evident. LWG is proposing that a researcher be employed by an appropriate body for a period of at least six months to research civil liberties aspects of AIDS laws in Australia, such as the Public Health (Proclaimed Diseases) Amendment Act, 1985 (NSW).

Activities of LWG during 1986-1987 included:-

- monitoring insurance problems and developing policy on insurance and AIDS
- analysing the NSW Proclaimed Diseases legislation
- analysing the Victorian Health Department's discussion paper on infectious diseases legislation
- advising on legal aspects of HIV antibody testing
- trialling on AIDS legal referral service
- drafting a pamphlet on "AIDS and Your Legal Rights"
- monitoring developments in United States AIDS laws, particularly anti-discrimination laws
- advising on Australian anti-discrimination laws
- advising on wills and powers of attorney
- publicising issues relating to police and prisons as they are affected by AIDS, and AIDS law generally
- writing, speaking, lobbying and campaigning to reinstate in s.33 Social Security Act 1947 (Cth) the discretion to deem non-relatives to be "relatives" for the purposes of grant of the carer's pension to people who care full-time for people with AIDS (PWAs)

- developing policy on censorship of safe sex education materials, particularly videos
- developing policy on AIDS and the criminal law
- advising on the establishment and operation of the ACON PWA group's vitamin co-operative
- advising on NSW HIV infection notification requirements
- analysing and developing policy on the NSW Public Health (Skin Penetration) Regulations.

David Buchanan,
Convenor.

MEDIA WORKING GROUP

The Media Working Group was set up in April 1987, to improve the image of ACON to the gay and general community and to assist ACON's working groups and affiliated organisations with the promotion of their work.

The group is also responsible for devising strategies for gaining media coverage of ACON initiatives, policies and comments about AIDS.

The group relies on the assistance of volunteers to help in the drafting of press releases and letters to the editors of newspapers. There is always a great deal of material concerning AIDS to be addressed in the media and the Media Working Group can play an important role in correcting misleading articles and letters about AIDS issues.

A priority for this Working Group is to develop a roster of volunteers with writing skills to work on media responses two or three afternoons a week at the ACON Resource Centre. While some progress has been made towards this objective, the Working Group will be looking for more volunteers to assist with our work in the near future.

Bill Whittaker,
Convenor.

TRADE UNION WORKING PARTY

The Trade Union Working Party's charter defines its purpose as to "provide a forum for co-operation, co-ordination, discussion and information sharing between concerned unionists." This ongoing pooling and sharing of resources and information remains one of the primary aims and benefits of the working party.

In addition the previous 12 months has seen a significant amount of work done within a number of trade unions to ensure the ongoing provision of goods and services whilst protecting the rights of workers. Comprehensive AIDS policies have been adopted by unions at Branch, State and Federal levels with most success being achieved in the Public sector.

Trade unions and the trade union movement continue to play a role in educating the community about AIDS. A number of trade unions have included

AIDS sections in their occupational health and safety delegates training as well as holding in-service courses for their officials and employees. TUTA, the Trade Union Training Authority, has also played a significant role by holding seminars open to all unions on AIDS as an occupational health issue in both Sydney and non-metropolitan areas. These have been well attended and this positive response has encouraged the planning of future seminars.

Trade Union Working Party members continue to work on a number of fronts to address issues relating to AIDS and the workplace and in the provision of goods and services. It is a valuable resource for ACON through making advice available on issues relating to workers' rights and occupational health and safety.

The Trade Union Working Party meets monthly, usually at the Teachers Federation in Sussex Street (in the Lounge first) and is open to anyone interested in or working in trade unions.

Gray Sattler,
Convenor.

WELFARE WORKING GROUP

The Welfare Working Group continued to function in its three main areas of interest this year:

- To act as a resource for welfare organisations working in the area of AIDS
- To advocate for people with AIDS in welfare services
- To act as a peer support network for AIDS welfare workers

It is the policy of the Welfare Working Group that traditional services be encouraged to extend their services to people with AIDS. With this in mind, members of the group worked closely with agencies such as Sydney Home Nursing Service, Home Care and Community Health Centres in order to assist these agencies in their provision of service to people with AIDS.

A shortage of beds for people with AIDS in acute care hospitals and in hospices prompted the group to call a public meeting in November which called for a rapid expansion of services in both these areas. The meeting resulted in the allocation of a further six acute care beds at St. Vincents Hospital and in the setting up of the nine bed hospice at Prince Henry Hospital.

In its role as an advocate for people with AIDS, the group handled many applications from clients having difficulties obtaining the services they required. The appointment of Terry Batterham as Welfare Officer at ACON has made this advocacy more efficient and widespread.

In an attempt to expand services, the group is looking into the areas of day and respite care and provision of medium or convalescent care for people with AIDS. There is little assistance at present for a person caring for someone with AIDS at home and the group is lobbying for expansion of services into these areas. Provision of day and respite care services would ease the burden on the home carer. At present there is a gap in service between the acute care hospital and the hospice. In keeping with the expectation that people with AIDS will

experience longer periods of good health, it would seem that a service which provides space for convalescence is long overdue.

The group meets fortnightly and welcomes input from anyone with expertise in the area of advocacy and service development.

The group will continue to assist in enabling traditional service providers to expand their services to include people with AIDS. It will continue to improve communication between these services and the clients who use them.

Lou McCallum,
Convenor.

ACON / MACQUARIE RESEARCH PROJECT

The Social Aspects of the Prevention of AIDS Project (S.A.P.A) is a joint ACON/Macquarie University School of Behavioural Sciences research project, funded by the state and federal governments. The project consists of three phases: Study A is a large-scale survey of gay men's sexual practices, carefully placed in their social context; Study B will be intensive interviews with a smaller sample, and Study C will be a media content analysis.

Study A has been carried through up to data analysis stage by the untiring and imaginative work of Rigmor Berg. It was not a small task. The 900 item questionnaire was developed through an exhaustive research and trialling period. 27 part-time interviewers, mostly ACON members, were then recruited and trained in administering the interview.

Then began the hard part: recruiting the sample. We hoped to recruit and interview 500-800 people in three months. It took twice as long, but our final sample of 536 was highly satisfactory. It was reassuring to find that the only other non-medical study of this scale in the world, the '800 New York Men Study', encountered exactly the same problem. The Steering Committee of the Project is grateful for the many long hours Rigmor, and also her "recruiting assistant", Simon Donohoe, put into persuading people to participate, often in unlikely places at even more unlikely hours. Without this, the sample would not be nearly as varied, and as useful, as it will prove to be. We are also grateful to the many ACON members who agreed to be interviewed, and who put energy into persuading friends to participate.

The interviews finished in early March, with subsamples in Wollongong, Canberra, Bathurst and the North Coast. Suini Chrochuir then edited the questionnaires for entry on to the Macquarie computer. Editing and data entry for the 536 respondents was completed in early July, and first results should begin flowing back to ACON in early August, and released to the gay community soon after. These will have a significant impact on ACON's education programs.

Meanwhile, Gary Dowsett has been appointed to co-ordinate Study B, with Glenn Bond as part-time assistant. Following analysis of results from Study A the intensive interviews in Study B will proceed.

Don Baxter,
for the S.A.P.A. Project Steering Committee.

BODY POSITIVE

1987 has seen Body Positive grow from strength to strength, turning tragedy into a positive force.

The success of Body Positive's two Bushdances shows a visible presence in our gay community can provide immeasurable support to those who remain locked in fear because of their antibody positive status. This fear being fanned by an irresponsible press, certain sections of the medical profession and even some gay AIDS organisations themselves. Body Positive was originally set up to be a self-help and support group for people who are antibody positive to the AIDS virus.

We feel antibody positive people are the most overlooked group of the AIDS crisis.

Body Positive is a small volunteer group with limited resources, it does its best however to address the problems of antibody positive people.

How do antibody positive people find out about Body Positive?

- Regular advertisements in the gay press.
- Notices at gay venues, clinics, hotlines, etc.
- Listings in resource manuals, newsletters and pamphlets produced by other AIDS related groups and organisations.

Body Positive's aim is to offer social and emotional support, and to refer members to other centres where they can find professional care in areas such as counselling and stress management etc.

Body Positive has a small and dedicated group of workers who appreciate the particular problems and needs of antibody positive people and who provide a focus for sharing their fears, doubts, feelings and ideas.

Body Positive offers a weekly 'drop-in' evening facilitated by its members, where people can talk through any issues that arise or simply to meet other antibody positive people.

Issues that frequently arise from these meetings cover:

- *health problems *drug trials *diet & lifestyle
- *relationships & self-identity *work & accommodation
- *civil liberties *sexual expression *issues of death & dying

Body Positive also has monthly 'luncheons' at members' homes where similar processes take place in a more informal atmosphere. Guest speakers are invited to participate at the weekly meeting and luncheons.

Body Positive offers its members a regular newsletter.

Body Positive has a representative on the ACON Committee and this enables us to have input into their policies with respect to the needs of antibody positive people.

Body Positive recognises the important role it must play if we are to win the battle against AIDS. On some fronts this battle is being won already. We know that antibody positive status is not an automatic death sentence as some members of our society would have us believe. When we see some people get better from full-blown AIDS and others improve the quality of their health and even more when some antibody positive people stand up publicly and proclaim who they are, then we have great reason to believe that what we are doing is the

correct way to behave. Body Positive is such a group of people who have come forward to be counted. Hope is being provided where before there was only despair. Changes are being made where before they said nothing could be done.

That is the challenge we have faced and hope all those 50,000 odd who are estimated to be antibody positive will take up this invitation to fight for their rights, whatever they consider them to be.

We know trends and statistics can be changed. They are being changed and by taking control of those things we can change, we will be able to provide our members with hope for a future.

The future needs of antibody positive people lie in major education programmes in Healthy Lifestyle, stress management, safer sex, and social and emotional support services, as well as a full-time ACON based worker who can make our work more effective.

Mac McMahon.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

The fiscal year 1986-87 has been a turbulent one for Community Support Network and its carers. We have seen many clients and friends come and go. The volunteers have responded very well in emergencies, and in carrying out care for our clients. CSN has cared for 55 clients in the financial year 1986-87. Forty-eight assessments were carried out by the team co-ordinated by the Assessment Co-ordinator.

Rosters

Shifts for year: 1829 Average: 35 Shifts per week
Total Caring hours: 8230 Average: 158 hours per week

Average time per shift: 4.5 hours.

The impact of the above figures is quite staggering, when we consider the projections for the next twelve months. Volunteers will be asked to continue contributing time and energy, to give the necessary support to people with AIDS and their loved ones.

Training Groups

Another 180 carers were trained during the financial year, making a total of well over 300 trained since the commencement of the first training group. Volunteers each spend 40 hours in the training group, before being rostered out to clients.

Incorporation

During 1987, CSN was incorporated under The Associations Incorporation Act, was registered as a Charity, and was granted sales tax exemption, and all donations over \$2.00 were made tax deductible. The benefits of this are to limit liability of the organisation. Our gratitude and thanks go to Richard d'Apice for his untiring effort to secure these for us. The commitment and caring of the CSN volunteers is very gratifying, and the past and present management committees would like to congratulate all our carers on their dedication and support for our clients.

We would also like to thank the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation for its continued support of our work.

Ken Smith,
Chairman.

GAY & LESBIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE OF NSW

The GLCS takes very seriously its obligation to the gay community in AIDS awareness and education. Thus it is standard practice, adopted by all counsellors, to stress safe sex techniques. This is applied to sexually inexperienced callers as well as to relatively routine enquiries, such as venues and location of steam baths and the like. The number of calls specifically related to AIDS only appears to have declined since the establishment and publicising of the Hotline.

It is worth mentioning also that a number of our counsellors are very actively involved in ACON, Ankali and similar groups.

At Board level, relations with ACON have been good during the last twelve months, but GLCS must express its concern at the implications of the proposal, in the interests of "efficiency", to remove its voting rights from the ACON Committee, GLCS.

P.W.A. GROUP

This group was originally started by Michael Glynn. However the group lapsed for some months because Michael was nursing his friend and could not devote any time to organising the group. Towards the end of 1986 an increasing number of P.W.A.'s had started on the anti-candida program. Several of us felt the need for a support group to help us keep to the program.

As a result of this, the P.W.A. group was re-started. The group does not comprise solely of those following the anti-candida program, some are following conventional therapies, other are 'doing their own thing'. Some of our meetings are lively discussions on the relative merits of the different approaches towards treating AIDS.

The group's most spectacular success has been the establishment of the Vitamin and Mineral Co-op with a loan of \$4000.00 supplied by ACON. Originally intended to be only for AIDS sufferers, it was soon realised that the Co-op should include anyone infected by this virus. The prices at the Co-op are about half those in the shops. This represents a considerable saving to those undertaking vitamin and mineral therapy. Present turnover of the Co-op is approximately \$2000.00 per week. The Co-op is largely self-supporting as it is staffed by volunteers for three days a week, however an additional burden has been placed on Norman from ACON who handles the re-ordering of supplies as needed.

A side benefit of the Co-op has been the monthly meetings held between its advocates from both the conventional and alternative medical fields. It was this group which recommended what vitamins and minerals we should initially supply, and as time progresses, small changes and additions have been recommended. The practitioners meet every

month and find the cross-fertilisation of ideas to be most helpful to all parties.

Another small success for the group has been the printing of a monthly newsletter. It reports any advances in treatment and tries to deal with the positive side of AIDS wherever possible. Items designed to save worry and money are printed often – such as details of a fruit and vegetable co-operative which P.W.A.'s can use, and details of a transport offer made by the Central Sydney Transport Community. News of other P.W.A.'s activities and easy recipes are also printed.

The group's present concern is to get more P.W.A.'s involved in the group. The social worker at St. Vincents has sent out around 50 of our newsletters to P.W.A.'s. A note enclosed with the newsletter offers to put them on the mailing list if required.

John Gibbs.

AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc. (ACON)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th June 1987

Last Year			Year to Date	
\$		\$	\$	\$
	Income			
247500	Grants - Government		266726	
7500	Grants - Other		11819	
	Grants - Commonwealth			
19500	Employment Programme		6170	
274500				284715
	Other Income			
880	Membership Fees		3119	
10437	Interest Received		13683	
2624	Donations		19539	
0	Function Revenue		3735	
13941				40056
288441	Total			324771
97	Sales - Vitamin Co-op		13612	
0	Purchases - Vitamin Co-op	16448		
0	Closing Stock - Vitamin Co-op	1154		
0			15294	
(97)	Gross Loss from Trading			1682
	Expenditure			
19617	Projects	4128		
259	Promotional Expenses	9709		
5000	G C S Phone Upgrade	0		
29417	Rent and Associated Costs	36161		
59431	Salaries	144592		
113724			194590	
	Administration Overheads			
0	Audit and Accounting Fees	1728		
0	Architect Fees	4829		
0	Affiliation Fees	125		
384	Bank Charges	818		
586	Conference Expenses	1778		
0	Cleaning	1005		
0	Consultants Fees	4430		
1940	Depreciation	23384		
1705	Electricity	2671		
545	Insurance	4794		
0	Courier	100		
0	Leasing Charges	2600		
477	Legal Costs	327		
2558	Media Advertising	23937		
217	Meeting Expenses	905		
849	Office Expenses	7427		
2238	Postage	7120		
1158	Printing	22979		
27	Reference Material	604		
	Repairs and Maintenance -			
790	Furniture, Fixtures and fittings	920		
0	Repairs and Maintenance -			
	Office Equipment	511		
4524	Printing and Stationery	7982		
4666	Telephone	12790		
1553	Travelling Expenses	3615		
24217			137379	
137941	Expenditure			331969
\$(150597)	Net Deficiency			\$ 8880

Last Year		Year to Date
\$		\$
	Accumulated Fund	
75589	Balance at Beginning of Year	226186
75589		226186
(150597)	Deficiency for the year	8880
<u>\$226186</u>		<u>\$217306</u>
	Represented by:	
	Current Assets	
300	Petty Cash Imprest	300
0	Accrued Income	3968
20472	Cash at Bank ACON Committee	6437
113560	Cash at Bank Government Grant	20810
17578	Cash at Bank CEP Grant	0
0	Stock on Hand – Vitamin Co-op	1154
<u>151910</u>		<u>32669</u>
	Fixed Assets	
9696	Furniture and Fittings at cost	26847
1940	Less Provision for Depreciation	7309
<u>7756</u>		<u>19538</u>
0	Leasehold Improvements at cost	75881
0	Less Provision for Depreciation	15176
<u>0</u>		<u>60705</u>
0	Office Equipment – at Cost	20135
0	Less Provision for Depreciation	2839
<u>0</u>		<u>17296</u>
<u>7756</u>		<u>97539</u>
	Investments	
67000	Interest Bearing Deposits	87433
0	Holiday Pay Provisions	4516
<u>67000</u>		<u>91949</u>
<u>226666</u>		<u>222157</u>
	Current Liabilities	
480	Other Creditors – Membership Fees in Advance	251
<u>480</u>		<u>251</u>
	Non-Current Liabilities	
0	Fully Drawn Advance – Commonwealth Bank – Computer Purchase	4600
<u>0</u>		<u>4600</u>
<u>\$226186</u>		<u>\$217306</u>