



AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc.

**ANNUAL
REPORT
FOR
1989/90**



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COMMITTEE AND STAFF

Committee of Council

Levinia Crooks, President
Rolf Petherbridge, Vice-President
David Buchanan, Secretary
Michael Sheehan, Treasurer

Rigmor Berg
Sue Brumby
Gary Dowsett
Peter Simmons
Jack Wallace
Lex Watson

Robert Ariss
Barry Fitzgerald
(PLWA NSW)
Graeme Flavell
(Community Support Network)
Peter McCarthy
(Bobby Goldsmith Foundation)
Paul Paradigm
John Ulrick
(Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service)

Committee Members 1989/90 no longer sitting

Neil Sanderson
Sáin ní Chrochúir
Andrew Carter
Ross Duffin
Paul Young
Geoffrey Birch
(PLWA NSW)
Eddie Munroe
(Community Services Network)
Lawrence McKay
(Gay & Lesbian Counselling Service)
Bill Whittaker
(Ex Officio)

Staff of Council

(As at August 1990)

Executive Unit

Don Baxter, Executive Director
Paul van Reyk, Executive Assistant/Policy
Writer
Norman Boyle, Secretary to the Executive
Director
Paul Holt, Secretary to the Executive Director

Administration Unit

Kevin Golding, Administration Manager
Marian van de Donk, Personnel Officer
Allen Lee, Finance Officer
Jaymz Harlow, Administration Assistant
Jane Barrett, Receptionist
David Northey, Receptionist

Community Services

Anne Malcolm, Community Services Manager
David Edler, Community Services Officer
Andrew Morgan, HIV Support Officer
Terry Giblett, HIV Support Officer
Fred Oberg, Accommodation Officer
Keith Marshall, Counsellor/Coordinator
Kerry Allwood, Volunteer/Staff Counsellor
Heidi Becker, Clerical Assistant

Community Support Network (CSN)

Gary Smith, Roster Coordinator
Graeme Bray, Training & Recruitment
Coordinator
Barry Webb, Volunteer Recruitment Officer

Education Unit

Ken Davis, Senior Education Officer and
Acting Education Program Manager
Simon Donohoe, Information & Resources
Officer

Colin Allen, Project Officer, AIDS Education for the Deaf Community
 Judy Bonser, Interpreter/Assistant, AIDS Education for the Deaf Community
 Tim Conigrave, Peer Education Officer
 Brent Mackle, Peer Education Officer
 Lindsay Daines, Speakers Bureau Coordinator
 Phillip Keen, Beats Project Officer
 Daniel Maddadu, Beats Project Officer
 Robert Lake, Beats Project Officer
 Michael Lockhart, Rural Outreach Officer
 Jeff Stanton, Rural Outreach Coordinator
 Suin ni Chrochuir, Women and AIDS Project
 Martin Ramage, Venues Liaison Officer
 Matthew Toomey, Venues Liaison Officer
 Jo Alley, Librarian/Research Officer
 Jeremy Nicholas, Secretary to the Education Programs Manager
 Aldo Spina, Clerical Assistant
 Mark McAuley, Clerical Assistant

Hunter Region Branch

Yvonne Gough, Branch Coordinator
 Gail Maffesoni, Educator/Counsellor
 Mark Pearce, Beat Outreach Officer
 Wayne Cook, Beat Outreach Officer
 Andrew Hope, CSN Volunteer Coordinator
 Shelley Cox, Branch Assistant (Relieving)

North Coast Branch

Judy Arpana, Branch Coordinator
 Vicki Hayley, Branch Assistant
 John Westlund, Educator/Counsellor

Illawarra Office

Angel Carrasco, Education & Support Officer
 Uto Klemmer, Beat Outreach Officer

Special Project Staff

Legal Project

John Godwin, Legal Research Officer
 Michael Alexander, Legal Officer (From September 1990)
 David Paterson, Legal Research Officer (From September 1990)

Ross Duffin, HIV Testing Awareness Project
 Peter Steinheuer, National Treatments Information Project Officer
 Arnel Landicho, Ethnic Gay Men Project Officer
 Phillip Bennett, Gay/Bi-Sexual Men Project Officer

Related Organisations

Sex Workers Outreach Program (SWOP)

Geoffrey Fysh, Project Manager
 Diana Allen, Education Officer
 Rachelle Alexander, Acting Education Officer
 Margaret Muiyan, Social Worker
 Fay Reseigno, Acting Administrative Assistant
 Dominique Cowan, Receptionist

People Living With AIDS (NSW)

Don Carter, Administration/Support Officer
 Adrian Ogier, Relieving Administration/Support Officer
 Jill Sergeant, Newsletter Coordinator

Staff who left during 1989/90

Bill Whittaker, Executive Director
 Sean Hurris, Administrative Assistant
 Tom Hatfield, Finance Clerk
 Lloyd Gross, Acting Personnel Officer
 Dean Andrews, Clerical Assistant, Community Services
 Chas Stewart, CSN Roster Coordinator
 Tim Rigg, CSN Training and Recruitment Officer
 Nicolaas van Schalkwyk, Telephone Counsellor
 Barry Fitzgerald, Venues Liaison Officer
 Pam Blacker, Women and AIDS Project Officer
 Amelia Tyler, Acting Women and AIDS Project Officer
 Megan Mkwanaazi, Acting Women and AIDS Project Officer
 Greg Rankine, Telephone Receptionist
 Peter Kerans, Interim National Treatments Information Officer
 David Jones, Newsletter Coordinator, PLWA NSW
 Yolanda Corduff, Education Officer, SWOP

ROLE OF THE AIDS COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

1. Introduction: The AIDS Council of New South Wales (ACON), is a community-based organisation funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments. ACON is Australia's largest AIDS organisation.

The Council's activities include providing HIV/AIDS education to the community; counselling and support services for people affected by AIDS; and representing the interests of people affected by HIV/AIDS.

2. Formation and Membership: The AIDS Council was formed in 1985 at a public meeting, organised by members of Sydney's gay community, to discuss appropriate ways of responding to HIV/AIDS in New South Wales. The meeting subsequently resolved to form the AIDS Council, and adopted a constitution and elected a Committee to manage the affairs of the Council.

The Council represents and provides services for all people affected by AIDS in New South Wales.

A number of community organisations are closely affiliated to the Council. These organisations include the Community Support Network (CSN), which provides volunteer home caring and support for people with AIDS, and the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, a charitable organisation which provides financial assistance to people with AIDS. CSN is managed by a Liaison Committee comprising members nominated by the AIDS Council and by CSN.

ACON and CSN together have around 700 members throughout New South Wales.

Branches of the Council have been established in Newcastle and in Lismore.

3. Management: ACON is incorporated under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act. The Council has a detailed constitution and a management plan to ensure efficient use of resources, clear lines of communication and efficient use of volunteers.

The Council is governed by an elected honorary committee of 12 persons, which determines policy and accepts financial accountability.

The staff of Council carry out day to day administration and implement policy as directed by the Committee of Council.

Staff also manage the operation of CSN, with the Executive Director of ACON also acting as the Executive Director for CSN.

ACON's Committee has a number of working groups and sub-committees to advise it and to develop policy. Membership of working groups and sub-committees is open to anyone willing to contribute to the work of the group.

4. Staff: The AIDS Council has twenty-three full-time staff and a number of other staff employed for fixed-term projects.

The staff are divided into three management units - Education, Community Services, and Administration. The staff are responsible through Unit Managers to the Executive Director, who is in turn responsible to the Committee of Council for all aspects of Council's operation.

5. Education Unit: The Education unit is involved in educating the community about HIV and is particularly involved in preventative education among men who have sex with men, which is a high priority for the Council's work. The Council has been conducting preventative education programs for over four years. The Council's programs are targeted to health professionals and service providers, as well as to the gay and general community.

6. Community Services: The unit co-ordinates services for people affected by AIDS and works closely with health professionals, hospital social workers and other community organisations involved in helping people with AIDS.

7. Administration Unit: This unit provides administrative and clerical support for the other Council units and for the Council Committee and working groups.

8. Volunteer Participation: The Council and its affiliated organisations rely a great deal on the assistance of volunteers. Council actively encourages the involvement of its membership and the community in its activities, particularly in home care and participation in working groups.

9. Conclusion: The AIDS Council's philosophy is to work closely with the State and Commonwealth Governments and with other organisations. The Council and its affiliated organisations provide a very effective model of optimising community involvement in responding to AIDS in New South Wales.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The objectives underlying ACON's work are:

1. To minimise the transmission of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
2. To ensure that provision is made for the adequate, effective and appropriate education, support, care, and treatment of people affected by HIV/AIDS.

ACON aims to achieve these objectives through:

1. Education which promotes behaviours which will result in stopping transmission.
2. Education targeted at people with HIV/AIDS and their carers which encourages and facilitates their involvement in the minimisation of transmission, maintenance of their health, and the development of appropriate support, care, and treatment.
3. Encouraging, promoting or assisting with research into the causes, prevention and treatment of HIV

infection and into the psychosocial consequences of HIV infection and appropriate action to minimise those where they are damaging.

4. Assisting the development of a social context which facilitates rational and reasonable approaches to minimising transmission and to the provision of services to those infected.

5. Advocating for the provision of support, care and treatment for HIV infected people.

6. Directly providing such support, care and treatment where appropriate.

7. Advising and otherwise assisting governments and other bodies on the provision of such support, care and treatment.

8. Developing and maintaining an efficient, appropriate and effective organisational structure for the Council which acknowledges, defines and integrates the roles of members, volunteers and staff in its operation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

I write this report the day after the Commonwealth Government has announced the expansion of the availability of AZT for people with HIV with less than 500 T-cells and through a broader network of medical practitioners.

This comes after nearly twelve months of lobbying and negotiating. It comes too late for many people to reap the full benefit of being able to have access to AZT at an early stage of illness.

The timing and availability of treatments has become a pre-eminent issue for all AIDS organisations in the past year, and ACON has played a key role in raising the issues and supporting the concerns of people with HIV/AIDS. ACON's Clinical/Medical Working Group is at present engaged in developing a comprehensive policy setting our agenda for change. It is an issue that will continue to take up a significant part of ACON's work.

The 4th National Conference on AIDS in Australia was held in early August. Disappointingly, as with last year's report, there is little new in relation to a cure, though there seems to be some movement in the way in which drugs are being administered for greatest benefit. Combination trials and far lower dosages than previously tried seem promising.

The Vth International AIDS Conference was held in San Francisco in June. Immigration and entry restrictions imposed on people with HIV/AIDS by the United States government brought outrage from the international community resulting in a major boycott of the conference. The solidarity shown for the boycott in Australia, and especially in New South Wales was overwhelming. The NSW Minister for Health, Hon Peter Collins stood with us in this, as did significant bureaucrats and researchers.

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy

The process of developing a National HIV/AIDS Strategy, the so-called White Paper, has had a major impact on ACON. Much of the work involved in formulating the policy was put in over the 1989-90 year. We have spent the last year adjusting to the implications of the Strategy, in relation to funding, changed authoritative and consultative bodies, and various policy implications

including immigration, prisons and surgery.

While the Strategy received some criticism, it contains unique features of which we should all be aware, and emphasise when appropriate. The key point is its stress on the tripartite partnership required in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic - the partnership between the affected communities, the medical profession, and government. Its adoption as government policy in 1989 recognises and justifies our role as equal partners in the response to HIV/AIDS. ACON and other community agencies, must remain vigilant in ensuring that the good ideas and policies in the Strategy are implemented quickly.

There remain some problem areas, particularly treatments and trials, prisons and immigration. There is also the very practical issue of whether or not there will be funds forthcoming to allow for implementation of the various strategies. There is also doubt in the minds of many whether the structures developed for the evaluation of funding proposals and subsequent distribution of funds are adequate to address the real needs of forward planning.

As a result of the Strategy, the 1989-90 Commonwealth Budget saw an increase in, and standardisation of AIDS funding to the States. New South Wales, through the AIDS Bureau, was able to significantly increase ACON's budget. A total of nearly 40 submissions were presented to the Bureau and a substantial number were looked on favourably. These now mean ACON is resourced to respond to the epidemic.

Progress, Developments and Challenges Over the Past 12 Months

The Expansion of ACON

Following assessment of funding proposals for 1989-90 the state government recognised the need for ACON to move to larger premises. A building was located in Goulburn St, just off Oxford Street. This move allowed for the Education and Administration units to again be united with our Community services Unit. The Sophia Street building has been re-let and the Riley Street building is now housing the Sex Workers Outreach Project which is a new initiative being administered by the Council.

ACON's work is also expanding in the non-

metropolitan areas. The branches in Lismore and Hunter are developing and growing, we have recently established an office in Wollongong and expect to establish a branch in the mid-North Coast area. We applied for, but have not yet received, funding for an office in the western suburbs. Hopefully we will be able to get an office established in the west by the end of 1990. Relocation of some of the Council's existing projects to the west will significantly reduce the overcrowding experienced in our City office, as well as placing ACON services closer to many of our existing and potential clients.

Community Services

I am very pleased with the development of the Community Services Unit over the period I have been involved with the Council. I believe we offer a range and level of service second to none. I draw members' particular attention to it as many people - other than service users - are not aware of the extent and nature of the services.

The Community Support Network is caring for up to 70 clients per week and with the improvement in support and training offered to its volunteer carers we are seeing a carer retention rate which has gone from about 20% per annum to 80% per annum.

Our HIV support program has developed greatly over the past twelve months and is proving to

be a model program not only for Australia, but internationally as well. Three information nights are run each month which cover various issues of relevance to people living with HIV/AIDS. There are also five or six support groups for people who are HIV positive running at any one time.

We have been able to increase the telephone and face to face counselling services for people affected by HIV/AIDS. A number of social work students have been on placements in the Council. These students have been providing assistance to our clients, as well as learning about HIV/AIDS and acting as a conduit of information back to the respective colleges.

Accommodation is of constant and growing concern and our Accommodation Service and Share Register are two aspects of ACON which have significantly improved the access to housing of people with HIV/AIDS.

Education Services

The Education Unit at the Council has expanded greatly both in the diversity of the programs being conducted and the areas in which we are having an impact.

Gay community education is of primary interest in this Unit. Last year's summer campaign like those before it acting to reinforce Safe Sex behaviour change. Education projects among non-identifying men who have sex with men have also expanded. Our Beats outreach project has increased in size and scope with workers now in the Illawarra, Hunter, Western and City regions of the State. Rural Outreach has also grown and there are plans afoot for the development of a branch on the mid North Coast.

The Youth Peer Education Project has become an ongoing component of the Education Unit and, in conjunction with the HIV support project, this project has been developing support and education for HIV positive young men in addition to its self-esteem and safe sex skills programs. The Ethnic and Deaf projects have now been running for nearly 12 months and are making inroads into two communities which have previously been considered hard to reach. Bisexual men are to be serviced through a new Bisexual project.

The Speakers Bureau is growing constantly and is an excellent avenue for volunteer involvement. This program, like the general information service provided by ACON acts to provide quality HIV/AIDS information and should be commended.

Specific Treatments Information, Legal and Advocacy support and a Library are all new facets of the Education Unit. These new services act to improve the information we are able to provide to



others as well as providing the organisation with the information necessary to develop policy. The recent Step-by-Step campaign was one directed at encouraging people who are infected to keep in touch with medical and treatment services, as well as providing sound information to those considering HIV antibody testing.

Venues, especially those with a high gay patronage have been specifically targeted through the Venue Liaison Project. We now have a full time Women and AIDS Project Officer who is working with women in both preventative and supportive areas. The Council will soon be participating in an project of outreach to gay IV drug users.

Policy and Administrative issues

The addition of a Policy Analyst to the staff of council has allowed us to respond quickly to the ever-increasing demands for policy responses of a high order.

Our growing organisation has needed and received expert administrative assistance from our developing Administration Unit. This has been particularly helpful and necessary as the organisation has developed to incorporate branches and offices outside Sydney, making management of the substantial ACON budget a very complex process. It is pleasing to again draw members' attention to the unqualified auditor's statement.

Community Liaison and Development

The Council continues to work with many community groups and organisations. PLWA (NSW) is housed and supported by ACON as are the National People Living With AIDS Coalition (NPLWAC) and the Quilt Project.

The Council has worked closely with the BGF in reforming their assistance guidelines and has been instrumental in establishing the Crisis Accommodation Group. The Council is pleased to note many of the changes it suggested were implemented by the BGF annual meeting. The Council continues to work with various researchers and gay community groups to promote safe practices and raise community awareness of HIV/AIDS.

ACON is a Community-Based Organisation

The relationship between ACON and the NSW Health Department is one which I think needs some clarification, both for members and for the community at large. It concerns me when people



within the community and even members of the organisation inform me that ACON is part of the NSW Health Department or part of the government bureaucracy.

ACON is a community based organisation. Our doors are open for member and volunteer involvement in all aspects of our work. The Committee is made up of 14 elected, voluntary, representatives and five representatives appointed by affiliated organisations and People Living With AIDS (NSW). Reports from these representatives and the working groups and subcommittees they have been involved in are detailed throughout this annual report.

In the years that ACON has existed there has undeniably, and quite properly, been a shift from community funding of the organisation to the government taking on the financial responsibility for education about, and support of, people with HIV/AIDS. It is through the ongoing work of community members that this shift in both state and federal governments has been achieved.

The AIDS pandemic, like any other health crisis is one which in various ways effects all of the Australian society and as such should not be relegated to community raised support alone.

One of the effects of this funding has been to allow the direct input of community-generated policy and proposals to government decision-making, many now incorporated in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. While government funding may occasionally compromise our ability to be critical of

government policy, in my two years experience as President I can recall very few, if any, instances where this has been the case.

The Contribution of Bill Whittaker, former Executive Director

I would like to pay tribute to the dedicated and determined contribution of Bill Whittaker to ACON, for the four years he was Executive Director. Most people will be either personally or publicly aware of Bill's crucial role. He filled the position of Executive Director until July 1990.

The organisation could not have developed without Bill's contribution. He was able to raise the political profile of ACON to the point where we are now highly regarded as professionals in the areas of policy development, preventative and supportive education and the provision of community services and care.

Bill chose to move from the paid workforce but remain in HIV/AIDS as President of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations. We should all be pleased that his experience and expertise in relation to HIV/AIDS is therefore not lost to our National response.

Bill's contribution was recognised by both the community and government. When Health Minister Mr Peter Collins opened the new ACON Resource Centre at 188 Goulburn Street Darlinghurst in June of this year he paid tribute to Bill, recognising his organisational and personal input to the fight to address HIV/AIDS.

I would like to also personally take this opportunity to thank Bill for his contribution. We were always able to work together in a mutually supportive and productive manner.

Challenges for the Future

ACON has experienced a period of rapid expansion. Our challenge will now be to consolidate the current level of support for our activities and those of others working in AIDS.

Treatment issues will be of vital importance in the next twelve months. We will need to play a vital role in ensuring access and equity in relation to treatments and trials. If our estimates are correct then we are entering a time when more people will be experiencing AIDS related illnesses. It is our challenge to reduce new infections through preventative education strategies, while maintaining and improving the treatment options and our service provision and education to those people who are already infected.



(AN EPS CASEY BY IRON AND SILK)

I have enjoyed my two years as President of ACON. I will not be standing for re-election as President. My association with the organisation has been time I have appreciated. It has been a time of challenges, hard work and great reward.

Levinia Crookes
President

EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1989/90 has been twelve months of dramatic developments for ACON. The cementing in government policy of community organisations' leading role in the response to the epidemic through the National HIV/AIDS Strategy White Paper paved the way for a doubling of ACON's staff and programs through early 1990.

By July 1990 ACON and its branches had all but completed this rapid expansion, including moving to new premises in both Sydney and the Hunter. Simultaneously the increasing numbers of people with HIV/AIDS requiring direct support, and developments in earlier intervention in the course of infection, lead to increased demands for our services, and a re-balancing of program emphases between treatment intervention, transmission prevention, care and support, and advocacy.

The start of the 1990/91 year sees ACON sufficiently well-resourced, finally, to provide adequate programs in most areas required by the epidemic. In taking the long term view of the epidemic it remains a matter of lingering regret that the need for this basic level of infra-structure has taken five years to be realised and funded.

Expansion of Programs

ACON's 1989 Strategic Planning process had resulted in over 40 submissions for program enhancements being placed with N.S.W. AIDS Bureau. By January 1990 we received notification that the Minister for Health, Mr Peter Collins had approved a substantial number of the proposals.

These program enhancements effectively meant an immediate doubling of the size of the organisation from thirty staff to over sixty. A comprehensive staff recruitment plan was formulated and implemented, and by August 1990 only one position remained unfilled.

This recruitment, selection, staff induction and the consequent project planning processes created substantial strains on the organisation - particularly as the entire Sydney office re-located in the midst of it. It is a tribute to the professionalism of the staff, the contribution of the Committee and other members on the selection panels, and the sound planning and management involved, that the entire process has been completed with minimal disruptions to ACON programs.

Details of new and expanded programs can be found in the Unit and Branch sections of this report. In summary, the enhancements allowed us to begin new programs in accommodation for people with HIV/AIDS, issues for women and HIV/AIDS, gay venues outreach, counselling support for volunteers and staff, transport service for people with HIV/AIDS, library and information services, policy development for all HIV/AIDS issues, evaluation of education and other projects, and education and support services in the Hunter, the Illawarra and the North Coast areas.

Expansions of existing programs were achieved in the HIV Support project, rural outreach project, beats project in the Hunter and Illawarra, CSN volunteer recruitment, and youth peer education. Organisational infra-structure positions to resource the entire program included a personnel officer, finance officer, receptionist and four clerical positions.

Additionally, ACON agreed to auspice the Sex Worker Outreach Project (SWOP). While ACON is committed to the self-organisation principle for community-based organisations we were growing, increasingly concerned at the lack of HIV/AIDS prevention and support programs for people working in the sex industry.

Following an approach by the AIDS Bureau, and after consultations with all interested parties in the sex industry, ACON agreed to take on management responsibility for the Sex Worker Outreach project on an interim basis, within strict guidelines laid down in consultation with the Bureau. Our intention is to devolve management responsibility for SWOP to a sex industry workers community organisation as soon as one evolves which has widespread support and confidence of the community and of the funding agency. SWOP currently has six positions funded, and is housed in a separate building to encourage development of a separate identity from ACON.

ACON's program has also expanded in ways additional to state government enhancements. In October 1989 we were pleased to welcome the Deaf AIDS Project, "mainstreamed" to us by the Deaf Society. As its community education principles are very similar to those of ACON, the transfer has been very successful.

After many delays the Ethnic Gay Men's project commenced under Commonwealth funding in October 1989. CAPE (Commonwealth AIDS

Prevention Education) funding was also received for the National Treatments Information program, a Bisexual Men's Project (commenced July 1990), and for "Step-By-Step", the HIV Testing and Health Monitoring Campaign (planning began April 1990). Commonwealth CAWISB grants will allow establishment of a Legal Officer and a Legal Research officer (6 months only) from September 1990.

Internal Management

Such rapid expansion in staff and programs required re-structuring within the organisation to ensure effective program development, coordination and delivery. Increases in responsibility required the up-grading of the Unit Manager positions, and of the Branch Co-ordinator positions.

A middle level of management was introduced with the implementation of a team structure in the Education and Community Services units. Systematic procedures for staff induction and for staff appraisal were introduced.

After being chronically short-staffed in the clerical/secretarial assistance area, ACON is now (almost) adequately resourced in this regard. However, the standard pattern of AIDS program funding agencies of funding "at-the-coalface" projects has meant significant under-resourcing in the management area. Staff employed with primarily project implementation skills are being required to take on middle management responsibilities as the organisation has grown larger. This problem has been exacerbated by less than adequate funding for staff training and development, including management training, and creative solutions in this area are high on ACON's agenda for the next twelve months.

Following the appointment of the Personnel Officer we have been able to embark on a systematic review of terms and conditions for all staff, and begin a review of the appropriate classification levels and systems for the now widely varying role, duties and qualifications of staff within the organisation. We expect to be able to institute appropriate superannuation coverage for staff during 1990/91.

I am pleased to be able to report again a minimal turnover in staff despite the course of the epidemic and the potential for burn-out working in this area. The appointment of a staff and volunteer counsellor proved most opportune, with rapid organisational growth bringing, not unexpectedly, additional stresses.

The annual Strategic Planning Review process was completed successfully in time to generate enhancement proposals for the 1990/91 financial year. While a senior management review was at one stage proposed, it was resolved to conduct this about

STEP BY STEP



New Ways Getting Somewhere!

The first year of the new AIDS Council has been a year of change. In the first half of the year, the Council has been working to establish a new health care system for people with HIV/AIDS. This new system will provide people with HIV/AIDS with the best available medical interventions, including the new AZT treatment. The Council has also been working to establish a new support system for people with HIV/AIDS, including a new support group for people with HIV/AIDS. The Council has also been working to establish a new support system for people with HIV/AIDS, including a new support group for people with HIV/AIDS.

ACON Council

nine months after the new Executive Director had been appointed.

Major Policy and Program Directions

The 1989/90 expansions allowed us to consolidate our comprehensive range of prevention education programs. With the evolution of the epidemic, including the development and increasing availability of improved medical interventions, ACON placed increased emphasis during this year on developing appropriate policies and programs in an attempt to ensure people with HIV/AIDS had access to the best available treatment and support as soon as possible. A range of actions resulted:

* The Treatments Information project was initiated in August, initially funded entirely by the AIDS Councils and AFAO, with the Commonwealth finally agreeing to fund the project the following March. The project aims to provide accurate information, accessible to people with HIV/AIDS, encouraging them to actively monitor their health and consider the issues in participating in treatment trials.

* Following termination of the U.S. AZT trials in August 1989, the Council pursued an active lobbying and media campaign to provide early approval of possible use of AZT among

asymptomatic people with HIV. Approval was finally achieved in August, 1990, six months after its approval in the U.S. It is a matter for speculation as to whether such availability would have been approved even now had it not been for our campaign.

* Our campaign on AZT use led to fundamental questioning of the entire approval process for HIV/AIDS treatment drugs. After representations from AFAO and ACON the new Commonwealth Minister, Mr Brian Howe, announced the establishment of a working party of the Australian National Council on AIDS on Drug Trials and Treatments - a commendable initiative so early in his new portfolio. Its membership includes former ACON Executive Director, Bill Whittaker.

* The Clinical/Medical Working Group of ACON has been developing a major review and policy paper on all issues relating to trials and treatments. We are confident the recommendations from this comprehensive document will form the basis for a wholesale revision of the currently inappropriate structure surrounding drug approvals, and point to constructive measures to encourage more drug trials in Australia.

* Through 1989 ACON devised the Community AIDS Trials Network (CATN) proposal, launched in conjunction with key clinicians and medical practitioners in October 1989. The need for rapid development of community-based trials has been increasingly recognised over recent months, and it is frustrating to report that this excellent blueprint for organising such trials has been stalled for so long. This indecision, and perhaps obstruction, is seriously straining the relationship between the affected communities and the other players in Australia's tripartite response to AIDS: the medical researchers and government officials.

* The "Step-by-Step" campaign has been designed and implemented to encourage gay men who tested HIV positive some time ago to actively monitor their health, and those not yet tested to reconsider doing so. The campaign, unfortunately delayed by the unpredictability of timing of the Commonwealth's 1990 national media campaign, was supported by consultations with all potential service providers, and developed a comprehensive listing of where to be tested safely. We see it as a model for subsequent, larger campaigns.

We would not have felt confident launching these initiatives without adequate back-up available. The extension of the HIV Support project, and the increased availability of counselling resources on our own staff were vital.

Other Policy, Legislative and Media Issues

ACON has maintained its pro-active role in providing public and policy leadership on issues

arising around HIV/AIDS. At the national level we welcomed the adoption of the national HIV/AIDS Strategy, and have developed a number of measures to ensure and assist its implementation. On the other hand ACON was forced to be highly critical of the re-structuring of ANCA, expressing serious concern at the lack of public leadership at the national level, the lack of community representation on the new ANCA executive, and the lack of clinical expertise from NSW.

At the state level, the Executive Director has continued very active membership of the Ministerial advisory committee (now the Committee on AIDS Strategy). A major exercise has been the NSW AIDS Services Planning Study, aimed at defining treatment and care needs for the next five years in NSW. ACON seconded Community Services Manager Anne Malcolm for two months to ensure the Study had direct input from the community level.

ACON took a vigorous public stance and policy advisory role in the 1989 amendments to the Public Health Act - the so-called "Charlene" amendments. While little of our advice was reflected in the subsequent legislation it is pleasing to report that representatives from both ACON and PLWA (NSW) have been included on the CAS Working Party to review the proposed new Public Health Bill, which would replace the Charlene amendments. ACON has already proposed to the Minister for Health and the Attorney-General that the provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act be definitively extended to include people with HIV as part of the legislative package for the new Public Health Bill.

ACON also conducted a vigorous public campaign opposing legislation to compulsorily test all prisoners, and was extremely disappointed not only in the government's position but also that of the Labor opposition. HIV/AIDS policy in the prisons remains an incoherent mish-mash, with condoms not available, needle cleaning materials available only by subterfuge, and peer education program funding drained by the costs of a pointless antibody testing program. The prisons retain their "incubator" potential, saved only by the low rates of HIV infection in the injecting drug user population in NSW, a situation not likely to last indefinitely.

Segregation of HIV-positive prisoners would effectively lead to double punishment for them, and a false sense of security in the non-segregated sections. The Minister for Corrective Services must be encouraged to hold firm on the integration policy; the prospects are not bright, as the gross overcrowding of the gaols will understandably lead to prison officers using HIV/AIDS as an industrial issue.

Compulsory testing of surgery patients continued to be a prominent issue in public discourse through the year. It is to be hoped the "HIV and

Surgery Guidelines" issued by the Minister will substantially remove the henn from the issue. While ACON still has significant reservations about parts of the Guidelines the outcome of this protracted battle is considerably better than could have been anticipated twelve months ago. ACON will attempt to re-focus public attention on the more important and pressing issue of problems in medical service provision to people with HIV/AIDS.

International Work

The boycott of the San Francisco International AIDS Conference somewhat curtailed ACON's direct contribution to international work this year. Nevertheless, significant contributions were made in several areas.

Ethnic Gay Men's project officer Arnel Landicho has been building up an extensive contact and support list of community organisations in the Asian and Pacific region, and the AIDS in Asia Conference in Canberra in August 1990 provided a means of direct contact, and for many, an opportunity to visit ACON itself and gain first-hand experience of our programs.

Bill Whittaker continued to serve on the interim executive of the International Council of AIDS Service Organisations until December 1989, and in May 1990 attended, along with Robert Ariss and Don Carter from PLWA (NSW), the Madrid International Conference for People with HIV/AIDS.

Terry Giblett reviewed a wide range of HIV Support programs in the United States in June, and ACON Committee member, Gary Dowsett, was invited to present a paper at the 2nd International AIDS Education and Information Conference in Yaounde, Cameroon, in February 1990.

It continues to be disturbing that all these people report substantially poorer development of programs than in Australia in most areas. It is important that funding agencies, particularly the Commonwealth recognise the responsibility and the value of Australians taking the benefit of our experience overseas, and bringing back ideas and proposals in areas in which we are not strong. 1990/91 should see an expansion of our role in international work, particularly within the Asian and Pacific region.

ACON in 1990/91

The last twelve months have seen the dramatic expansion of ACON's programs. Our 1990 Strategic Planning process has again generated more than thirty submissions for enhancements for the 1990/91 financial year. Yet I was able to point out to the AIDS Bureau that these reflected a consolidation of the Council's operations. New program areas are at a minimum; this year's submissions are largely for



PUT OUR FEET UP.

Antitoxins have a long history in immunology. The use of the mAb HIV-1g was an early example of **support** for the use of antibodies in vaccine development. The use of antibodies in the treatment of infectious diseases has been an alternative to first-line drugs, which are **support** and may be ineffective against the disease. Notably, the use of antibodies in the treatment of

STEP BY STEP

 $5.0 \times 10^{-10} \text{ s}^{-1}$

... **Small business** ...

continuations of existing pilot projects, expansions of existing projects, and ensuring adequate administrative, management and physical infrastructure is in place to support successful implementation of our program.

Bill Whittaker

ACON has become a highly respected and in some ways, quite powerful organisation. For our community to survive this epidemic such a development has been both desirable and necessary. Bill Whitlaker was among those who saw this need early, and set about ensuring the strong community response required was achieved.

Bill retired from ACON in July 1990. Much of the progress detailed in this annual report represents the culmination of his four years determination, dedication, commitment and skills in drawing together the ideas and energy of the community and translating them into thoroughly thought through policy and program proposals, from which the resources this report documents, flowed.

On behalf of all the staff at ACON I thank him for the benefits his forthright leadership provided the organisation through those crucial four years, and wish all the best in his "retirement".

Don Baxter
Executive Director

ADMINISTRATION SERVICES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Accompanying the sizeable expansion of ACON has been the continued development and augmentation of the services provided by the Administration Services Unit to rest of the organisation. To a very great extent this has ensured that this period of growth and change, in which the organisation doubled in size over six months, has occurred relatively painlessly without the stresses and strains other organisations would have experienced.

Out of this growth has emerged a medium sized organisation with 70 employees located over five offices statewide and with a turnover exceeding five million dollars. Such an organisation demands a range of comprehensive and complex support mechanisms and services which this Unit provides. These services include personnel, payroll, financial, purchasing, vehicle fleet management, computer systems and applications management, equipment and building management, records and file management, as well as general administrative support services. Fortunately the Unit has been able to handle this workload through additional positions of Finance Officer, Personnel Officer and two clerical support positions which were received in January 1990.

Over the year the major activities for the Unit were the relocation of the Sydney Resource Centre, coordination of recruitment campaign and selection process that doubled staff numbers, and the expansion of computer systems.

Relocation of Sydney Resource Centre

As a result of additional government funds for new programs and services, ACON's existing premises became inadequate for the Units that comprise the Sydney Office. With additional funding received in January 1990, ACON was able to consolidate the Sydney Resource Centre onto one site at 188 Goulburn Street, formerly occupied by the NSW Nurse's Association. In order to minimise delays in commencing new programs, it was the responsibility of the Unit to ensure that the relocation was organised and implemented within a month. This included refurbishment and fit-out of new premises, physical relocation from two sites and installation of telecommunications and computer systems.

This relocation has also seen a review and augmentation of accommodation services in particular maintenance issues and building management. For example cleaning and garbage removal contracts were reviewed and reorganised.

Human Resources

The Unit's responsibilities in this area are the physical establishment of positions, staff recruitment, staff development, maintenance of personnel records, payroll, and occupational health and safety.

In February 1990 a full time position of Personnel Officer was established to deal with the work in the Human Resource area. This enabled the organisation to deal with those tasks in a more consistent and professional manner. Immediately the first priority of this position became the coordination of the recruitment and selection process statewide in which over 30 additional staff were recruited by the end of the year. All new employees underwent an induction program. The increase of staff numbers made a further strengthening of administrative systems necessary for the smooth running of all personnel procedures. A Staff Appraisal system has been developed and implemented in conjunction with the Management Committee.

Another major task has been the review of ACON's terms and conditions of employment and associated policies and guidelines, to meet both organisational and employee needs. During the year policies were established in respect to casual and fixed-term employment, payment of higher duties and provision of relief. In June a thorough revision commenced which led to the development of a draft document. This is currently going through a staff consultation process before being adopted.

A start has also been made with the development of staff development and training programs. The major priorities (in addition to project related training) that have been identified are; personal skills development of which the components were determined from staff surveys; management development which became an urgent need with the introduction of additional management levels; and computer applications training.

Other major areas which will be addressed in the coming year are implementation of a superannuation scheme, a reclassification and a salary review of all positions, development of

personnel manual, and development of occupational health and safety guidelines.

Financial Management

The complexity of Council's operations are reflected in the wide spectrum of accounting tasks required. Besides general bookkeeping these vary from project management, job costing, stock control and product sales, to asset and investment management. Council's investment in 1989 in a new accounting system plus the establishment of a Finance Officer provided an appropriate infrastructure to handle the impact of the organisation's growth as reflected in financial and accounting activities.

In fact the volumes at the beginning of the year were sufficient to necessitate a full-time Finance Officer. This position was funded by ACON until government funds became available in January. Even so it is now evident that this alone is insufficient and there is some urgency for an additional position to assume the data entry functions. This would permit the Finance Officer to make a more effective contribution to financial and budget management than at present. This is crucial if ACON is to maintain its sound record in financial control and administration.

Effective financial management is also vital if ACON's programs and services are to remain cost effective and within grant allocations. Not surprisingly cost containment has become a major issue particularly now that the dramatic growth rates experienced over the past few years are expected to plateau. Initiatives so far include budget reporting which provides project managers with actual performance against budget and identification of budget overruns, purchasing through government supplies and taking advantage of government contract prices.

The Finance Sub Committee which oversees management of ACON's finances instituted a significant change in cheque issuing which enables cheque payments to be processed far more quickly. As well it clarified allocation and usage of funds derived from donations and investment of grant moneys, to ensure compliance with funding conditions.

The payroll system was enhanced to facilitate costing of wages directly to projects. In June direct depositing of wages into staff bank accounts was due to come into operation.

Information Systems

ACON has always relied upon computers and peripherals as a cost-effective means of preparing and disseminating information. All branches and

out-posted offices have computers. These are constantly being upgraded so as to ensure that specific program needs are being met.

In particular, the computer network in the Sydney Resource Centre continued to expand over the year to nearly 30 terminals and several printers. This represents a decent sized network which in any other organisation would have a dedicated systems manager. However in ACON these responsibilities such as system maintenance, software maintenance, training, applications development etc, fall on the shoulders of the Administration Manager.

Concomitant with the growth in hardware is expansion in applications required. Whilst word processing is still the major need, there has been a significant growth in other requirements which makes ACON a sophisticated computer user. The range extends from desktop publishing to accounting, payroll, spreadsheet, database, text retrieval and computer management software packages.

Not surprisingly training has been a key issue. Strategies have been constrained by a limited training budget and the expense of external courses. A solution using video based self-learning packages has been found to be a satisfactory compromise being both cost effective and flexible. The trial was conducted for wordprocessing training and will be extended to other major applications.

Fleet Management

With ten vehicles statewide, fleet management has become another significant activity of the Unit. ACON has found leasing a cost effective alternative to outright ownership. Leasing provides value-added services such as maintenance and servicing, vehicle replacement, and driver training and servicing ensures that there is no degradation in the service provided by the program using a vehicle. As well valuable administrative resources are not wasted looking after cars when this could be done more efficiently by the experts: the fleet management company.

From the funding authority's perspective leasing permits funds to be productively utilised, not tied up in expensive depreciating assets. This allows funding to be distributed over the life of the project. This enables funds to spread more equitably over programs rather than tying up funds in once-only capital expenditure items. It also allows a more structured approach to budgeting as costs are predicated for the term of the lease usually for three years which is considered to be the working life of a commercial vehicle.

Fuel cards have been provided for each vehicle. These also assist in minimising costs by taking advantage of wholesale petrol prices which resulted

in an average cost of fifty-eight cents per litre during the year, substantially lower than actual bowser price.

Future Direction

The Unit has a major role in reviewing and developing appropriate structures which will ensure that ACON continues to be the professional organisation for which its reputation bespeaks. In particular the Unit must re-examine its role vis-a-vis centralised services if the number of out-posted offices continues to increase.

Financially it has a major responsibility in monitoring costs. Strategies are already in place for cost containment and these will be refined through improved management reporting with an emphasis on establishing key performance indicators and effective forecasting.

Since ACON has grown in an ad-hoc way there is some necessity for a systematic and comprehensive program of job analysis and evaluation. This may reveal inconsistencies in classifications between positions and also the need to reclassify positions where functions and responsibilities have changed significantly.

Kevin Golding
Administration Manager

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Community Services Unit has continued to develop and expand care and support services in an attempt to address the growing demand for community based care. In developing these services however we have attempted not to duplicate programs that already exist, and to look at developing mechanisms for the co-ordination of community based care with other community services, both HIV specific and mainstream.

The Unit has expanded all existing services and developed new projects such as the Volunteer/Staff Counsellor. Other projects such as the Accommodation Project were funded to address the growing crisis in accommodation needs of PLWAs. The HIV Support Program has been able to manage the increased demand for support and information services through an additional position in the project.

The Unit received an additional four positions in January 1990.

Following this staff increase, the work of the Unit was divided into two teams, Community Support Network and Counselling and Welfare Services. This has helped with management of programs and with supervision of the work being done.

The move to the current premises has made access to services easier for clients. We are seeing many more people who drop in for assistance. It has also enabled closer liaison with ACON's Education Unit and administration and staff support is more easily addressed in the one building.

Community Support Network

In the twelve month period from August 1989 - 1990 the Community Support Network has provided assistance in the home for 172 clients. This assistance has taken the form of 4985 rostered shifts by volunteer carers. These 4985 shifts comprise 23,879 hours of direct hands on care by trained CSN volunteers to people with severe symptomatic HIV infection. Community Support Network has accepted 155 new clients during this twelve month period. For the August period in 1990 CSN has had 68 clients. The figure for the same period in 1989 was 36 clients, indicating an increase of approximately 100% in twelve months.

The increase has been met with a corresponding increase in the number of carers being utilised.

The newly appointed Recruitment/Roster Coordinator has been holding CSN information nights on a monthly basis. These information sessions are designed to inform potential volunteers about CSN and the assistance it provides, allowing them to self-select if they feel they are inappropriate. The information nights are advertised through various outlets and are well attended with an average of thirty people present. Information nights have also been held in the Blue Mountains, Lismore and Hunter areas.

Nine training courses have been held in the 12 month period to August 1990. Four of these courses were based in Sydney, with one in Newcastle, and another in Lismore. One hundred and forty four carers have been trained in that time. Discussions are presently underway with representatives of the Waratah Deaf Group to run a training course for members of the deaf community. Regular monthly courses are also planned for Sydney for the rest of 1990.

Earlier this year ACON appointed a Volunteer/Staff Counsellor, who has been working closely with CSN staff and carers to develop effective, workable systems of support for CSN volunteers.

As well as individual counselling for volunteer carers, the counsellor has been facilitating group debriefing sessions for volunteers whose clients have died; working with existing carer support persons to evaluate support effectiveness; and to develop training and workshops where required.

CSN staff have also made extensive use of the counsellor for both personal support and as a referral point.

The next six months for CSN should see a steady predictable rise in demand on CSN services. CSN's former clients have been predominantly gay men. The last six month period has seen a significant increase in the number of heterosexual clients; women, children and men. CSN training has changed in content to reflect the differing needs of these various clients.

Because of the increased demand for home-based support, CSN is working to construct firm links with other organisations, both specialist and mainstream, in order to avoid overlaps and to maximise service provision to people living with AIDS.

Counselling service

Since the move to new premises and locating the Counsellor position within the Community Services Unit, there has been an increase in the numbers of people seeking counselling and assistance. We are now able to offer an information, referral and short term casework service to clients.

Closer liaison with Albion St. Centre and Hospital units has helped to develop referral procedures and case management strategies which ensure that clients are managed more effectively. We hope that this will continue to strengthen our relationship with these services.

HIV Support Program

The HIV Support Program commenced in 1989. The project is based on a peer support model, aimed at providing support to those infected with HIV, using support group facilitators who are themselves HIV infected.

The program is currently running six support groups a week, with waiting lists now for additional groups. Training for group facilitators was conducted in September 1989 and May 1990. A third training session is planned for September 1990. A group facilitator training manual is being developed with the assistance of a final year social work student and will be available later this year.

The project also conducts a monthly information program over three nights, which deals with information on treatments, drug trials and on monitoring health status. Additional information nights for HIV infected women and children are to be held in August 1990.

During June/July 1990, Terry Giblett, HIV Support Officer, visited similar programs in the US. While this was a useful study tour, he was able to confirm that the direction the project had set itself here was as advanced as any programs being run there.

The project has been constrained by a limited budget for advertising and resource development. Liaison with general practitioners and health providers has been ongoing and referrals to groups and information nights have been increasing.

There is a need to extend the reach of the project to other parts of Sydney and we have received requests to develop similar programs in rural areas.

The project is working closely with the Positive Young Mens group and Positive Womens group through training group facilitators and regular liaison.

Accommodation Project

The Unit has continued to develop services for those in need of accommodation. An accommodation officer position was funded in January 1990 to manage these services.

The Glebe Housing project has maintained a 100% occupancy rate throughout the year. Although the accommodation is for those waiting to be allocated Priority Housing through the Department of Housing, the average length of stay in the projects has increased from three to six months. This is attributable to an increase in the number of HIV infected people seeking Priority Housing in the inner city. Unless more accommodation is provided the situation will become critical.

Two fund raisers were held earlier this year to raise money for the Glebe project. Over \$21000 was raised through Sugar Shack and this has assisted with the refurbishment of the units.

The Share Accommodation register has been actively promoted and utilised in the past twelve months. We are currently dealing with more than 30 inquiries a week regarding share accommodation. The register is largely successful in finding sympathetic accommodation for HIV positive people through advertising in local papers and poster distribution in agencies and social venues.

The Accommodation Crisis Group, an interagency group, continues to meet on a monthly basis at ACON. The group comprises social workers from hospital units, accommodation agencies, drug and alcohol services and representatives of the Department of Housing. The group is currently liaising with the AIDS Trust to procure financial support to establish more accommodation similar to the Glebe flats.

Liaison with Department of Housing has helped to assist clients to obtain a more effective service and to reduce waiting times in some cases. This liaison has also resulted in consultation with the Department over policy issues relating to HIV.

Transport

The P.W.A. Transport service began operating in July 1989. Initially, the service operated four days a week and in January 1990 received increased funding to extend the service to five days a week.

The service covers four main destinations; Royal Prince Alfred, Prince Henry, Prince of Wales and St Vincents Hospitals. Transport is also provided to Albion Street Centre, Dental Hospital and the Day Centre.

Since the coverage of the service is approximately 250 sq kilometres, there are difficulties in meeting the needs of Prince of Wales clinics and providing regular transport to the Day

Centre. Congested traffic conditions, severe delays at peak hours and wet weather have added difficulty to the performance of the service.

The service transports on average 300 clients a month. It is currently operating at capacity at this number of clients. A second bus has been donated to the service which will assist with the provision of the service particularly to Prince of Wales, Prince Henry Hospitals, and to the Day Centre. However funding for an additional driver is necessary for this service to extend its operation.

The transport service has been coordinated by the Central Sydney Community Transport Group. ACON forwards quarterly payments to this group and ACON's minibus is used in the service as the primary vehicle for transporting clients. ACON has a representative on the CSCCTG management

committee. Changes in the service have been made in full consultation with ACON and we are satisfied with the running of this service.

Future Direction

The Unit will continue to consolidate the services being provided. ACON's role in initiating and developing effective interagency cooperation will be emphasised. Liaison with PLWA Coalition, other community based services, Government and non government, will assist in this direction, and will ensure that our services are appropriate to the needs of those infected with HIV.

Anne Malcolm
Community Services Manager.



*Members of CSN staff
in 1990.*

EDUCATION SERVICES REPORT

In the year ending 30 June 1990, ACON's education and information services expanded substantially. The Sydney office education unit now has full and part-time staff complement of 27. We believe that the grassroots level education that ACON provides both to the general public and to groups at higher risk of HIV is one of the success stories of Australia's response to the epidemic.

With this year's expansion, ACON is approaching the range of education programs and resources that are needed to respond to the epidemic. We believe we are moving from the reactive mode of past years, towards a more proactive and planned position.

The education projects have a range of tasks and target audiences:

(not listed in priority order)

1. Consultation with employers, government and community organisations on AIDS policies and AIDS education plans.
2. General public education: schools, community groups and workplaces as sites for preventive education, accurate information about the epidemic, designed to elicit more positive community responses to HIV issues and people with HIV.
3. Education to people who are or will soon be providing services to people with HIV; this includes workers in health, welfare, housing, custodial, youth, women's, disability and ethnic services.
4. Special outreach programs for men who have sex with men but do not identify as gay (eg. men on boats, geographically isolated men, men in primary relationships with women).
4. Gay identifying men who receive safe sex and reinforcement messages in gay venues and gay media.
5. People with HIV who want to know about legal, lifestyle, treatment issues.

The core staff of the education unit consists of education programs manager, senior education officer, information and resources officer, librarian, secretary, resources officer and clerical assistant. Overall the unit is responsible for management, administrative and program support for the project workers. The core staff of the education unit assists in exchanges with relevant researchers, and helps in evaluation and planning of programs. The core staff is responsible for resources development and distribution, and for the bulk of the work in

responding to various enquiries, to requests from other organisations for consultation and for on-going liaison on AIDS education projects.

EDUCATION PROJECTS

The following table shows the scope of current education projects based in the Sydney office. The table reflects an understanding that preventive education has three interlinked tasks:

1. Primary prevention: minimising transmission of HIV through promotion of safe sex and safe needle use.
2. Secondary prevention: promoting diagnostic screening for exposure to HIV, to enable early therapeutic options.
3. Tertiary prevention: promoting therapies and lifestyle changes that may maintain the health of people with HIV and prevent or delay illnesses.

The table also embodies the five action principles of the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, adopted by the World Health Organisation in November 1986:

1. Building healthy public policy: Individuals do not adopt survival strategies or new health behaviours in isolation from the social, cultural, economic and political factors that govern their lives.

AIDS educators and people living with AIDS must push for changes to a range of government and organisational policy areas, eg. involvement in developing the National AIDS Strategy, prisons, high schools, treatment availability, discrimination, availability of clean needles and condoms, laws against heroin, prostitution and homosexuality, testing of pregnant women without informed consent, HIV screening in immigration and travel...

All these areas impact on how well individuals and communities can respond to the challenges posed by the epidemic, and on how quickly people can adopt and maintain safe practices. We cannot engage in any education on HIV without engaging in discussion of these areas.

2. Creating supportive environments: Within the gay community, within the sex industry, within drug using networks, within local communities, schools, and workplaces -- each area of social life should reinforce and facilitate safe practices for HIV and supportive responses to people affected by the epidemic.

3. Strengthening community action: The burdens of response to AIDS have been shouldered by community initiatives in a way that no other illness has evoked. AIDS education can build support for volunteer services such as BGF, CSN, AIDS Trust, Aukali and Karinya, for self-organisational efforts such as PIWA and NLAA, and for activist responses such as ACT UP. In many cases the aim of AIDS education is the fostering of new community groups to take up new areas of concern, or break down the isolation of groups of people at risk of HIV.

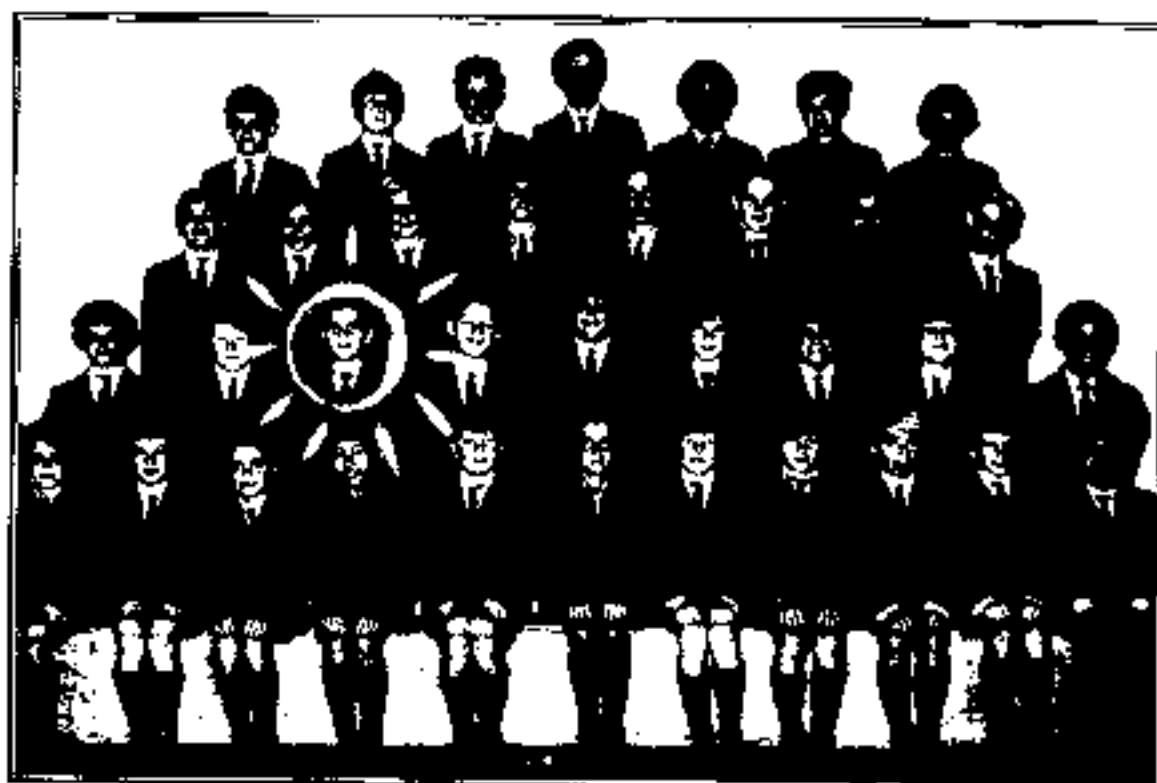
4. Developing personal skills: Information about HIV and safe practices does not by itself lead to the widespread adoption of healthy behaviours. Often people need to learn new personal skills in order to survive. AIDS education involves people learning how to clean needles, how to use condoms without risking breakage, how to negotiate safe sex in casual encounters or within relationships, how to talk about HIV status, how to ask doctors about the details of the therapies being offered, and so on.

5. Reorienting health services: AIDS has required changes to the structure and delivery of many health and welfare services. Many AIDS education projects have components focussing on inspiring and facilitating these changes. This may require innovative approaches or special measures towards equity of access to services. Effective AIDS education programs cannot take place without reference to the overall context of the health industry.

So how do our projects measure up?



Above: one of the Step by Step campaign posters. Below: Promotional material for the 'Fun & Esteem' Project.



SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Speakers Bureau program was established in June 1987 to recruit and train volunteers to answer the large numbers of requests for information talks about AIDS from different groups in the general community. Speakers Bureau accepts invitations from all types of organizations: schools, universities, workplaces, service clubs, churches, community groups, prisons, the health industry, etc. Provided that we can organise a speaker we will go anywhere in metropolitan Sydney (and often beyond, eg, Picton, Wollongong and Gosford).

Since September 1989 three training programs have been conducted for volunteers and staff. These intensive programs usually run for ten weeks and offer training in AIDS information, public speaking techniques and educational strategies. As a result of the training seminars there are now about twenty volunteers who regularly give presentations.

Consultations with school students and teachers have led to the development of new strategies for our general education in schools and we are developing specific programs for use in other community and workplace situations. Sometimes the lack of time allocated to us in various institutions still creates problems for the use of the most effective strategies for transmitting information and initiating attitude changes. However, in many instances the response has changed from single requests for information to in depth discussions of matters such as caring, discrimination and legal and social issues.

In the year ended June 1990, 170 presentations were given by staff and volunteers with a total audience of over 5800. The presentations can be divided as follows:

- 47% were at educational institutions - schools, universities or TAFE colleges.
- 21% were to health workers and trainee health workers.
- 16% were in workplaces.
- 13% were to community groups or service clubs.
- 3% were in prisons.

WOMEN AND AIDS PROJECT

In the past year this project has undergone changes of personnel and status - completing the 6 month pilot phase, moving through 5 months with two women job sharing a temporary position, to the present full time worker in a project with recurrent funding.

The pilot project laid the foundations of work on women's issues within AIDS organisations, and of HIV work within women's services, producing a

comprehensive needs assessment. A poster was produced in conjunction with Corrective Services, targeting women partners of male prisoners. Most importantly, the ACON Women and AIDS Officer worked with an Albion Street Centre counsellor to facilitate the setting up of the now autonomous Positive Women's Group in Sydney.

The two women in the acting post then worked to consolidate the Positive Women's Group, as well as resourcing other projects within ACON. They provided an increasingly needed reference point for women contacting ACON about a range of questions. In particular, they began work with the HIV Support Project in the development of woman specific material.

There was also a submission for CAPE funding of a Positive Women's Resource Package, which was not granted to ACON. This was to have produced a unique resource kit with a video and supporting print materials targeted for use by isolated HEV positive women and their counsellors.

The Women and AIDS Project is now a confirmed feature of ACON's response to the epidemic. Its challenge is to effectively combine prevention education and support services targeting women infected, affected, and at higher risk of HIV infection. The project will produce its own resource materials, work in advocacy and support alongside the Positive Women group, and aim through liaison and consultation, to provide and enhance woman appropriate and specific strategies in HIV/AIDS education.

The project needs to build its relationship with the Women and AIDS Working Group to ensure a firm volunteer/community base. It needs to continue to network on state, national and international levels.

AIDS EDUCATION/ PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY

The programme was initially established by the Deaf Society of NSW in February 1989 with funding from the NSW AIDS Bureau for a period of 18 months. As part of the Deaf Society's overall corporate strategy of mainstreaming existing services, the program was transferred to the ACON in November 1989.

The primary purpose of this program is to educate members of the deaf community and staff working with the deaf people to increase their awareness of HIV/AIDS and safe sex issues. The project makes accessible information and education to deaf people. This has been achieved in the following ways:

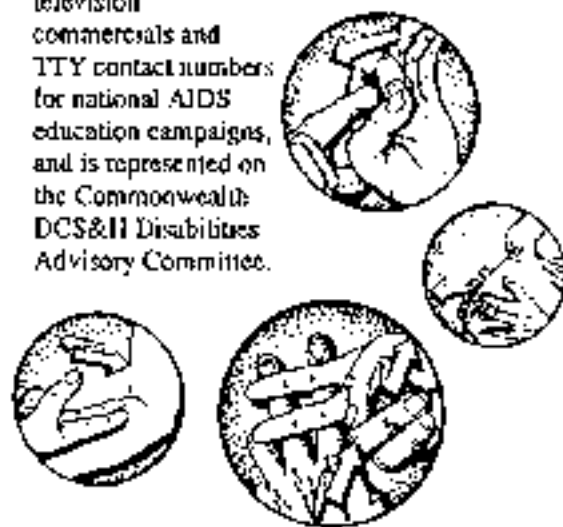
Information resource production: The

project has produced a brochure AIDS/HIV? which specifically targeted the needs of the deaf community by incorporating explicit and graphic information on safe sex and safe needle use in a way easily understood by deaf people. Over 35,000 copies of this brochure have been distributed in the past 16 months. The video, AIDS, not hearing aids., produced by Auslan Art and Health Media in mid-1989 has been distributed to over 110 different individuals and organisations with deaf clientele, both in Australia and overseas. This video has recently been approved by the NSW Department of Education for distribution to high schools with deaf and hearing impaired students. This video will be accompanied by an education kit which is currently being developed.

Workshops: The project offers two different types of workshops. One is a presentation providing general information and awareness of HIV/AIDS issues for members of the deaf community. The other is custom designed around specific needs of groups or workplaces (ie. sign language interpreters, women, youth, health & welfare service providers). Over 40 of these workshops have been conducted since the beginning of the project in both Sydney metropolitan and NSW country areas.

Training: Special Deaf Peer Education and Deaf Speakers Bureau training programs have been started to encourage those interested members in the deaf community to become volunteer group facilitators and/or speakers within their own community, spreading information on HIV/AIDS and safe sex through their own networks by way of sign language. There are now 7 peer leaders involved in this training program.

Advocacy & Access: The project liaises with existing HIV/AIDS service providers on issues of access for the deaf, including provision of TTY (telephone typewriter) access, and of sign language interpreters for antibody testing and counselling. The project has also lobbied for open captions on television commercials and TTY contact numbers for national AIDS education campaigns, and is represented on the Commonwealth DCS&H Disabilities Advisory Committee.



RURAL OUTREACH PROJECT

For the first part of this financial year (til the end of August 1989), this project continued the Commonwealth funded pilot program.

During this time the project produced a television commercial that is still being broadcast as a community service announcement in regional areas. This ad, directed at the wider community in country areas, encouraged people to find out more information about HIV/AIDS whether they had male/female or male/male sex.

The project also developed a series of advertisements which were published in gay and sex magazines. These ads were directed at men who have sex with men in country areas and encouraged them to make contact with the project or local services to find out more and receive free condoms and lubricant.

By the end of August 1989, Commonwealth funds were expended and the project was suspended pending a State government decision on funding. In January 1990 ACON was funded for the continuation of the project with an additional project officer. Project activities were still limited until staff were recruited.

With the recruitment of a second worker, a decision was made to target separate geographic regions with the aim of initiating independent community responses to HIV/AIDS in key areas of NSW. The project is now focussing on two regions: the Central West (Bathurst/Orange), and the mid North Coast, (Coffs Harbour/Port Macquarie).

In the Central West region this project has been making contact with men who have sex with men, gay social groups and relevant health and community workers. As well as providing safe sex information we are trying to identify HIV education and support needs in this region and resource local people to take a role in response to the spread of the epidemic.

BEATS PROJECT

During 1990 the Beats Project completed a major expansion, with 6 beats workers now employed. This represents a tripling of staff. This expansion has enabled an extension of the area within Sydney covered by the project, with work now being done in the Outer West, Inner West, South West, and Southern metropolitan zones. Work has also commenced in the Hunter and Illawarra regions.

During 1989/90 the project officers in Western Sydney made verbal contact with approximately 700 beat users and non-verbal contact with another 700 men. Each interaction is recorded to provide

statistics on who the men at the beats are, what activities they like to engage in, their understanding of HIV and the topics that they want to talk about. Men using the beats are of very diverse backgrounds in terms of age, class, ethnicity and language skills. Every sexual identity and life situation is represented, with very large numbers who do not identify as homosexual or gay. Some interesting developments were noted during the year. There are an increasing number of discussions about HIV antibody testing, often with referrals to testing and other services.

January 1990 saw the completion of an evaluation report on the first 12 months of the project's work, written by Paul van Reyk. Copies are available from ACON.

An important aspect of the project's work in Western Sydney during this year has been a process of negotiation with local councils in Western Sydney to allow the stencilling of HIV preventative messages in council-owned toilets. To date, 9 of the 11 councils approached have consented to our request; a couple of councils even undertook to place and maintain these stencils themselves. Currently stencils have been placed in toilets which are known as beats, although some councils approved their use in all toilets.

Reports on the project were presented at both the NSW HIV/AIDS Educators Conference and the 4th National Australian Conference on AIDS. These reports generated a great deal of interest in the project from other national and international HIV educators and organisations. There has been continuing contact with some of these organisations; the ACON project providing input to the development of beats projects in several cities.

ETHNIC GAY MEN'S PILOT PROJECT

The project did not officially begin until the last week of October, 1989.

November and December 1989 were used to establish initial liaison with different AIDS, gay and ethnic organisations and groups. Likewise, data was also collected on issues related to AIDS and the ethnic communities, particularly data dealing with the targeted group. Liaison was and still is being carried out both on a local, national and international level (eg. co-operation with AIDS agencies in South East Asia, and contact with Asian gay groups in California).

The project started advertising in January using radio, ethnic newspapers, leaflets distributed to medical and testing centres, private and public medical practices, beats, bars, shopping centres, and the many venues where men from the targeted group

congregate. The project has developed a high profile in the relevant ethnic media.

Information workshops were held in March. There were four sessions covering sexual and cultural identification issues, AIDS information and legal issues, and how peer support networks could be developed.

The project initiated in mid 1990 a strong and rapidly growing social and support group called "Asians and Friends". The group meets every week. The first hour is usually used for updates on current issues and information. This time also provides an opportunity to socialise, and break down feelings of isolation. This is seen as a major component of the existence of the group since a majority of the members often do not utilise existing gay venues such as the bars and the saunas. The second half of the session is for scheduled activities, which range from individual and group skills building, to AIDS issues (basic information and safer sex practices, negotiation etc). Sessions are held in the city, but plans to expand the group in Western Sydney are being kept in consideration.

A pamphlet called "How Much Do You Know?" has been drafted. This material is designed to target ethnic men who have sex with other men. It is different from English and community language materials currently in circulation because it is more explicit and is more behaviour specific. It makes use of pictures and illustrations because many of the men who use the beats have problems in reading both their primary spoken language and English. The pamphlet is to be translated initially into five languages: Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog; and perhaps in other community languages in the future. It will be distributed both locally and nationally; it may even be reproduced in the "home" countries.

YOUTH PEER EDUCATION PROJECT - "FUN & ESTEEM"

The Fun and Esteem Project is a community based peer education program designed to make safe sex a realistic and positive aspect of the lives of young gay and bisexual men. It is aimed at any man under twenty six who has sex with men. In the past year the project has:

- * Run thirteen monthly **Start Making Sense** discussion workshops covering issues such as safe sex, sensuality, being attracted to men, relationships and self esteem. The number who participated varied from four to seventeen per workshop with an average of 11. The number of men who have attended the workshop over the last two years is approaching 300.

- * Run weekly **Drop-in** groups in both the

inner city and the western suburbs. The drop-ins have a large social component and include watching relevant videos, guest speakers, discussions and excursions. We also run one-off workshops of special interest to the group. The city group averages 20 people per night and is sometimes as large as 40. The western suburbs drop-in averages about four and rarely gets to above eight. From the number of people who receive our newsletter we believe we maintain regular contact with up to eighty young men at any given time.

- * Run two support group series for young men living with HIV, under the name **Positive Young Men**; a third is commencing mid 1990. The two completed groups were attended by 13 and 8 men respectively.

- * Been involved in much client support (including accommodation, drug and alcohol concerns, sexuality and counselling referrals). The project has liaised with other youth, sexuality and health agencies and has been represented at many community functions.

VENUES LIAISON PROJECT

The aim of the project is to provide an education program that consolidates and extends the gains already made in HIV education in the identified gay community. Working directly with the management and the staff of venues, the project provides updated information and resources that will facilitate the adoption and maintenance of safe sex and safe drug usage practices by the patrons. The project workers distribute material from ACON projects, including multilingual brochures and HIV support posters and leaflets. The project has expanded to include venues of "mixed" clientele and large dance parties.

Commencing in April 1990 the project employed two project workers, Martin Ramage and Matt Toomey (who job share one full-time position). Prior to this Barry Fitzgerald had played an important role in promoting safe sex and safe needle use in gay community venues. After consultation and networking, a detailed venue data base is now in use. This enables documentation of the present stocks of educational resources at each venue, with the possibility of serial collection of statistics over time.

In early May letters explaining the role of the Venue Liaison Project were sent to all venues listed in the 1990 ACON venue directory. Since that time the project has had almost total penetration of and acceptance by the targeted venues. Currently all listed bars, clubs (including those with sex on premises) and accommodation venues have information and resources available for patrons.

The information and resources provided to the venues include condoms, lubricant, Streetwise Comics, safe sex and safe needle use information, and a range of posters and stickers. To date we have provided services to 8 accommodation businesses, 10 bars, 7 clubs, 6 clubs with sex on premises, and 7 other gay businesses, providing them with:

10,000	Pamphlets and stickers
7,520	Condoms
4,640	Lubricant sachets
420	Posters

Venues are visited at least every two weeks with the possibility of more frequent visits available if required. As many as 10 visits to one venue in a month have been recorded.

Currently the project is developing a new "Safe Pak" for distribution in the venues. This includes a condom with lubricant in a match-book style package printed with condom use information and counselling/information referral numbers.

By remaining visible and providing appropriate information accessible in the gay venues, the project has, and will continue to be, an effective resource promoting and reinforcing an HIV "safe sex and safe drug usage culture" throughout the gay community.

1989/90 SUMMER CAMPAIGN

The annual summer campaign continues to be the ACON's major HIV/AIDS awareness and preventative education campaign directed to the Sydney gay community. It ran throughout the summer months and especially concentrated around the time of the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival in February. Despite the high level of understanding and awareness of these issues among gay men, there continues to be a need for constant reinforcement messages to support behaviour change to safe sex and safe needle use as part of the development of and support for a safe sex culture in the gay community.

This year's campaign concentrated on five main issues of concern which were identified through consultation with members of the gay community through focus groups, and with medical practitioners and counsellors with gay clientele.

Evaluation of the 1988-89 summer campaign ("Out Living, Out Loving, Out Lasting") indicated a need for a more visually exciting approach and a move away from standard pamphlet-like print resources. With the valuable help of Adrian Ogier and Paul Preech from the ACON Education Working Group, a series of illustrations relating to the issues of the campaign was developed, to which short explanatory captions were added.

The text associated with each of the illustrations was as follows:

1. Morale Boosting Message:

KEEP IT UP - We're winning against AIDS.

2. Oral Sex:

Can you catch it from oral sex?

It's unlikely. The AIDS virus is not passed on in saliva. The way it can happen is if broken skin comes in contact with infected blood, cum or vaginal fluids. That's why some people avoid getting these in their mouths. Unlike other sexually transmitted diseases, the AIDS virus is not easily passed on through oral sex. But the two cases in San Francisco show it's not impossible either. The carrot is in your hands.

3. Relationships:

The AIDS virus doesn't recognise love.

LOVE is a racing heart, an exquisite submission, a hot musky scent, a now-or-never all-or-nothing mind-blowing toe-curling trip down Fabulous Street. HIV is a virus passed on in infected cum, blood or vaginal fluids. The two are worlds apart. Love can't protect you from the virus. But safe sex does.

4. Withdrawal:

Pulling out before cumming is not as safe as it looks.

You always run the risk of going too far. Besides, the AIDS virus can be passed on in pre-cum. And infected blood can easily enter the tip of the penis. So it's not worth the worry. Always do it in a condom. The blindfold is optional.

5. Drugs & Alcohol:

This excuse doesn't hold water.

Being "soooo out of it" is no excuse for unsafe sex. Never was, never will be. If you like to mix sex with booze or drugs, fair enough. Just make sure you keep your head above water. Or you could be in for more than a hangover.

These five illustrations and messages were exhibited and distributed in a variety of media including:

- * 1990 Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Guide - back & inside back cover (2 ads)
- * *Sydney Star Observer* - colour wrap-around (4 ads - 29 December 1989)
- * *Sydney Star Observer* - 4 x 1/4 page advertisements in 4 consecutive issues
- * *Campaign* - 2 advertisements (January and February issues)
- * *Outrage* - 2 advertisements (January and February issues)



One of the posters from the 'Safe Sex Summer' campaign

- * Postcards distributed to gay venues throughout Sydney
- * 15,000 x KEEP IT UP
- * 1,500 X each of the other illustrations/ issues
- * T-Shirts - 500 each of- KEEP IT UP,
- * This excuse doesn't hold water
- * Pulling out before cumming is not as safe as it looks

ACON has received funding for a 6 month full time worker to design, implement and evaluate future ACON summer campaigns.

STEP BY STEP - "Now We're Getting Somewhere"

The Council was funded by a CAFE grant to run a campaign encouraging appropriate health maintenance behaviour for people who are HIV+ and to encourage a rethinking of the decision of whether or not to have the HIV antibody test.

The development of anti-viral treatments and prophylactic interventions means that on-going

health maintenance is becoming an important issue. Research indicates that many people are not aware of and/or not exercising the choices available to them.

The object of the STEP BY STEP campaign, which featured five posters and advertisements and three brochures, was aimed at informing people who know they are HIV+ of their treatment options and placing the availability of these choices as a factor in the individual decision of whether or not to test.

NATIONAL TREATMENTS INFORMATION PROJECT

The National Treatments Information Project has been operating since July 1989 with initial funding provided by a levy of AFAO members, then through ACON. The Project, based at ACON in Sydney, later received Department of Community Services & Health funding with approval for the position of National Treatments Information Officer being granted on St Valentine's Day, 1990.

The project's functions include the evaluation and documentation of therapies, orthodox experimental, novel and alternative, and to provide regular updates and advice on these to the community, medical profession and governments, as well as working with the AFAO/ACON Clinical/Medical Working Group and an Editorial Group which advises on the content of treatment information publications.

The Treatments Project acts as a clearing house and resource library for treatment information from Australia and overseas and analyses complex medical or technical literature for dissemination in more understandable form to all interested parties, but with a special emphasis on information for people with HIV.

The Treatments Information Officer produces a monthly Treatments News column for the National AIDS Bulletin, columns for PLWA publications and publishes "HIV Briefs", a treatment information bulletin for distribution to people with HIV and others involved in AIDS, including affiliate organisations of AFAO, community organisations, STD clinics, hospitals, medical practices and community health centres.

Six "HIV Briefs" have been produced and distributed:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| issues 1 & 2 | on participating in drug trials |
| issue 3 | on AZT |
| issue 4 | on primary care for people with HIV |
| issue 5 | on Compound Q |
| issue 6 | on common blood tests used in HIV infection |

The Treatments Officer also presents sessions at information nights on treatments issues for people with HIV and others interested. An increasing proportion of these information seminars are interstate or in non capital city areas.

Inevitably the role of the Treatments Project is expanding as more treatments become available and more people access them. A part-time clerical worker will be appointed to the project in the second half of 1990.

Peter Kerans held the position of Treatments Information Officer in the initial period, and through the 12 months covered by this report. Peter Steinheuer began in the position in July 1990.

RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

ACON is increasingly becoming the primary distributor of HIV/AIDS print resources in NSW and nationally, distributing information produced by ACON and other AIDS Councils around Australia, the Centre for Education and Information on Drugs & Alcohol (CEIDA), Aboriginal Health Service, Streetwise Comics, Commonwealth & NSW Health Departments, Community Child Care Co-operative and the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board.

Requests for information come from a wide variety of sources including concerned individuals, schools and campuses, unions and employers, medical practitioners and hospitals, service organisations, churches, social groups, government departments, refugees, prisons and businesses. In addition ACON receives some requests from overseas community-based AIDS organisations.

The demand for printed information over the past 12 months has tripled from that of the previous year. In the 1990 June quarter, 39,564 items were distributed by mail as opposed to approximately 14,000 items for a similar period last year. Student enquiries and those from community organisations have similarly increased over this period. This dramatic expansion of service delivery has been accomplished by only one staff unit, Mark McAuley.

LIBRARY

A full-time qualified librarian was employed for the first time at ACON in March 1990. The initial period was spent rationalising the collection and making it more accessible to library users. A current awareness service was instigated, informing ACON staff of new books and articles of interest.

Demand for library services has increased dramatically from 30 resource requests in the month of March to 120 in June 1990. In addition the librarian responded to an equal number of reference enquiries in June 1990.

A library automation system, Datatrak, will be installed by the end of 1990, allowing for on-line access to details of ACON library holdings. Eventually, it will also be possible to access the library catalogues of the Albion Street centre, CHDA, Family Planning and the Department of Corrective Services via the Datatrak system.

The collection of books, videos, posters, and journals can be used by health workers, people living with HIV, volunteers, ACON members and other members of the public. While library materials are not available for loan, there is a facility for photocopying.

The library specialises in treatments, legal education and policy information in relation to HIV/AIDS.

CONSULTATION

ACON education staff have had confidential consultations with several major employers on the development of AIDS policy and staff education plans. In addition there has been similar consultation with industry groups such as the Restaurants and Catering Association, and with unions, including the Prison Officers'.

ACON staff have participated in liaison and steering committees for external AIDS education projects including the Sex Worker Outreach Project, the Commonwealth television advertisements in mid 1990, the Commonwealth Sexual Practices advertising campaign directed towards gay men planned for late 1990, the Student Initiatives in Community Health Pacific Rim Youth Health Conference scheduled for September 1990, OROW, (a community mental health fellowship who were planning to start groups for people with HIV), the Civil Rehabilitation Committee's Family Support AIDS program, and the Primary Schools AIDS Project based at the Inner City Education Centre.

In addition ACON staff have assisted in AIDS training of staff groups, including police, Badlands residential workers, and ethnic AIDS resource people.

ACON has hosted many visitors from interstate and overseas AIDS organisations, and we have been pleased to spend time explaining our work here and learning from their experience.

VOLUNTEERS

Most of our education projects would be unable to function without the goodwill, involvement, creative ideas and hard work of volunteers.

Unpaid ACON members and interested people from the community help in dozens of ways -- speaking to various audiences about the basics of

HIV, helping with surveys, assisting our rural networking, distributing condoms, lubricant and safe sex/safe needle use info, participating and helping lead the deaf, Asian and youth peer support groups, discussing the design of the summer campaigns, taking part in the Women's Working Group, helping in the library, and so on.

In previous years, volunteers and members have helped shape and implement our educational work, particularly in the gay community, through participation in the ACON Education Working Group. With the growth of the education unit, the role of the Education Working Group has changed, and regular meetings have ceased. Because we not only value but need the input of community members in developing ACON education projects, from the latter half of 1990, we intend to convene quarterly weekend workshops to review the progress of our efforts, discuss research findings, and determine future directions.

WHERE TO NEXT?

Funded positions and projects beginning in the latter half of 1990 include:

- * a part-time evaluation officer
- * a part-time education campaigns planning officer, who will work centrally on the annual summer campaign
- * an educator focussing on the needs of men who have sex with both men and women,
- * an educator/counsellor with SACBE, the Spanish and Latin American AIDS Support Network
- * a part-time educator for the NSW AIDS Bureau Tribes Campaign to reach gay identifying men who inject drugs from time to time.

We have submitted for funding to continue the ethnic, youth peer education and venues projects as well as for the expansion of the library, the deaf project, the Sydney beats team, and of the peer education team so that groups for men over 26 years old can be started.

We have also applied for funding for a project officer to begin an interfaith network on AIDS to encourage productive and innovative responses by different religious communities to the epidemic. We have asked for funds to employ a training officer; to date very few resources have been available for staff development in community sector AIDS organisations. We have also submitted to the Commonwealth for funding for a position to research the preventive education needs of gay identifying drug injectors.

ACON BRANCHES

HUNTER REGION BRANCH

The past twelve months has been an extremely challenging year. Great changes have occurred in the Hunter Area and one of the more widely known and talked about events has been the earthquake of 1989. Unfortunately, the Branch did not come away unscathed, as the office where we were operating from was damaged. This was most distressing and took great courage and togetherness on the part of volunteers, committee members, friends, and staff to deal with its effects.

However, I am pleased to say that in the long term the effect was most advantageous. We have emerged bigger and better and continue to remain one of the first points of contact regarding HIV issues in the community.

Volunteers

Volunteer participation since the earthquake has been unfortunately reduced within the Branch. This was due to the lack of premises for a period of three months following the quake. Prior to the loss of our premises volunteer education was provided monthly and incorporated a number of issues and guest speakers. The volunteer structure has also changed due to an increase of staff, but this by no means diminishes the value placed on volunteers. All staff and committee members wish to thank and acknowledge the tireless efforts of all our volunteers.

Education

The Branch has provided wide and varied education to numerous groups as well as individuals. The education has included high schools, pre-schools (parents), women's refuges, social security agencies, factories and industry.

The Branch has also run workshops for the local gaols. This has been in conjunction with Corrective Services and has included both education and participation on AIDS Action Committees within both Maitland Gaol and Cessnock Corrective Centre. The education was provided for both prisoners and staff of these two institutions. ACON Hunter also sponsored a T-shirt design competition within these gaols, the aim of which was to bring AIDS awareness to a large number of prisoners.

The Branch also provided assistance to BHP Fleet Operations in formulating an HIV/AIDS policy

which was to be implemented throughout other departments within BHP. Assistance with education strategies was given both to BHP Fleet Operations and Eraring Power Station.

A number of people with HIV are accessing local Social Security Services. The responses of Social Security employees prompted a request to ACON for education. This education was to increase awareness so that people with HIV could use Social Security services without fear of discrimination.

Community displays and stalls have also played a part in our education strategies. These have included neighbourhood centres, shopping centres, and community events such as "Surfest", an international surfing competition held annually in Newcastle.

ACON has recently expanded its education program through the employment of two Beats Project Officers for the Hunter. The officers began work in July and have already established a wide network of support and assistance e.g. with local police and councils. They have also, during this period, provided vast amounts of safe sex information to men who visit beats as well as to local venues.

Counselling

The Branch continues to provide counselling on a wide range of issues. The major problems dealt with include transmission in relation to oral sex, condoms, association with sex workers, homophobia, the worried well, discrimination, personal difficulties and emotional issues. ACON has a good referral network for clients who we consider need further assistance.

Community Support Network in the Hunter

CSN is now firmly established and has become an integral and valued service in the Hunter. The Coordinator was appointed to the part time position in April after acting voluntarily in the role for the previous eight months.

The Hunter CSN service has expanded to include transport, day centre support, and emotional support to people living with AIDS, their partners, families and friends.

A second course was held in May this year which saw nineteen new carers added to the Hunter team. We now have 30 available carers who provide home and respite care and assistance both to MacKillop House (a home for PLWA managed by the Sisters of St. Joseph) and Royal Newcastle Hospital.

Extensive liaison and networking is continuing with all the above facilities along with Community Nurses, Home Care Agencies, and other relevant services.

HIV Antibody Testing

Due to the earthquake situation our HIV antibody blood testing and counselling service was postponed until suitable premises were found. The service resumed in July this year and has been operating effectively ever since, every Wednesday morning 9.30 - 12.30.

Community Events

The Branch was proudly represented at this year's Mardi Gras Parade. Even though the weather was unkind to us our enthusiasm and spirit was not lost and we hope our participation is bigger and better next year.

The Quilt Project, as part of the World AIDS Day Tour 1989, visited Newcastle in December. The Branch was honoured to be a part of this memorial event. This spurred many people working within AIDS to create a memorial panel for those we have lost in the Hunter. The Hunter panel was launched at a breakfast held in April and has since been added to the Australian Memorial Quilt Project, it is proudly displayed alongside other memorial panels.

The Newcastle Gay Support Group has been extremely supportive of ACON and its services. ACON continues to be represented during functions, e.g. at the Newcastle Gay Ball, and other events organised by this group. We also provide safe sex material for distribution to patrons of these events.

Future Directions

Gay youth in the Hunter area have often been overlooked in the past in terms of their specific educational, social and community needs. The provision for a peer education program addressing a broad range of issues relevant to our gay youth is currently being developed and is a high priority for future directions.

The Hunter Branch together with Kate Walker, honoured children's author, is in the process of compiling a children's book addressing HIV/AIDS issues in a sensitive and unbiased fashion. Kate has

already approached publishers and we hope to have the book published within the next twelve months.

Recently ACON/Macquarie Project expanded its research into the Hunter. The results of the study will provide valuable future directions for the Hunter in the development and implementation of programs designed for men who have sex with men.

Yvonne Gough
Coordinator
Gail Maffesoni
Educator/Counsellor
Andrew Hope
CSN Volunteer Coordinator

NORTH COAST REGION BRANCH

The North Coast Branch of ACON has had an exciting and busy year with an increase in staff to three full time workers when the Administrative Assistant position was made full time and John Westlund was employed as Educator Counsellor.

The Branch has been developing programs and services to meet the identified needs of the North Coast community. We now offer a medical service which is staffed by a Medical Practitioner two mornings a week. The service offers free confidential testing and treatment of HIV with pre and post test counselling and further counselling available.

Volunteers

The Volunteers Education Training Program has conducted five weekend workshops, over 80 people have completed the course. A one day "Selling Safe Sex" workshop was very popular as volunteers gained confidence to attend ACON information stalls at local markets and shows. Paul Burr, the coordinator of the Program, is acting in an advisory capacity to the AIDS Educator at Murwillumbah to develop a similar program.

Twelve volunteers have been trained as CSN carers, a roster coordinator has been acting in a voluntary capacity, as well a further education and support coordinator and a social/fundraising coordinator for the group.

ACON North Coast Branch works in close liaison with Home Care, the palliative Care Service at St Vincents Hospital Lismore and has a close involvement in an advisory capacity to the recently established Sexual Health Service at the Lismore Base Hospital.

The Women and AIDS Working Group is developing safe sex workshops for women in the area. The Positive Time group meets regularly at members' homes for mutual support, information exchange and social contact. Members of the group have an active participation in all aspects of the branch.

During the year two AIDS Welfare Course students have done their practical work with ACON NCRB. Avigdor Zask compiled a list of services on HIV for the disabled in NSW, and Patti Munroe has been looking at accommodation and housing for those affected by HIV in the local area.

The Branch became a registered Needle and Syringe Exchange outlet in January 1990, the outlet has been accepted by a substantial number of users and works closely with the HIV Intervention Team (NSEP).

John Westlund has been very busy since his appointment as Educator/Counsellor in April. He has met with staff at the local University to overcome resistance to AIDS education and has worked extensively with teachers of year 11 and 12 students to develop education programs. John has conducted seminars for staff of Home Care, Mental Health workers, trainee teachers and trainee nurses and has held meetings with local gay men to develop local educational strategies.

Future Developments

The year has been one of consolidation and establishing ourselves as an organisation. We look forward to the following year and the further development of a Reats Project, a locally produced Summer Campaign, and the ongoing involvement and education of our volunteers and CSN Carers.

As a Branch we acknowledge the loss of the expert guidance of Bill Whittaker as the Executive Director of ACON, but we can be comforted in the knowledge that he has been replaced by Don Baxter.

What we have achieved so far would have been impossible without the hard work of Julie Hornbrook, our Regional Convenor who is resigning from her position on the Management Committee this year. Julie's commitment, wisdom, and steady heart has been invaluable to the establishment of ACON North Coast Regional Branch.

**Judy Arpano
Coordinator**

ILLAWARRA OFFICE

The Illawarra Office of ACON was established in July, 1990. The Illawarra office is located at the Port Kembla Hospital Sexual Health Service, Cowper Street, Warrawong. The office has an Education and Support Officer, and two Beats Outreach Officer positions. One of the Beats positions is vacant as yet and will be re-advertised in the immediate future. At the time of writing this report the Illawarra ACON Office has been in operation for five weeks.

Premises

After negotiations with local community agencies and initially while awaiting funds to secure independent non-institutional based premises, ACON Illawarra was assisted by Port Kembla Sexual Health Service with the provision of office space at their Port Kembla Hospital premises. The Office is still in the process of acquiring furniture, resources, and materials to assist the efficient administration of the Office.

Liaison

The Office has been extremely busy liaising with community based agencies in the area to promote program objectives. To date, Family Planning, Needle Syringe Exchange Program, Sexual Health Education Service, Wollongong Technical College and Wollongong University has been consulted. The Office has been welcomed as a member of the Illawarra Task Force. The Office has regular contact with Wollongong based gay support group "Unity" and the local IVDD group. Agencies representing people from non-English speaking backgrounds are to be targeted in the immediate future.

Education

Consultations with the target population of men who have sex with men have commenced to ensure all Illawarra Office educational programs meet target group needs. The office participated in a Safe Sex stall/display at Wollongong University and has responded to local media misinformation on AIDS.

Volunteers

Illawarra Office has 42 registered CSN volunteers which have not previously been adequately coordinated and resourced. Volunteer consultation has commenced to develop future strategies for the group. There are currently three volunteers actively caring for people living with HIV/AIDS in the community.

Community Support and Responses

The Office has had a very busy and hectic start in the Illawarra. The response to the ACON Office has been positive and eagerly awaited by some local agencies and groups of men who have sex with men in the Illawarra area. The Office has maintained close links with various ACON Sydney projects and looks forward to their continued assistance and support. The Office has developed a good beginning working relationship with other local agencies, in particular the Port Kembla Sexual Health Service who have been extremely supportive.

The Illawarra ACON Office looks forward to a productive first year.

Angel Carrasco
Education and Support Officer

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

WOMEN AND AIDS WORKING GROUP

This group has entered its second year of being an active part of ACON. The group meets on a monthly basis. We recognise there are growing challenges for women - positive women, at risk, as educators, health care workers, parents and as carers. This calls for a determinedly focused effort on what is a naturally broad based agenda. Our activities this year have included:

- * Attending the opposition to the pro-donkey rally in October.
- * Women and AIDS stall at World AIDS Day.
- * Women and AIDS banner and float in the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade in February.
- * Stall at the Mardi Gras Fair Day.
- * Stall at the Women and AIDS Forum.
- * Women and AIDS Banner at the International Womens Day March.
- * A World AIDS Day sub-committee has started planning events for December 1990.
- * Planning for the Women and AIDS Forum to be held on 13th September 1990.
- * Current work focusing on Ante-natal HIV testing.

Sara Lubowitz
Convener

LEGAL WORKING GROUP

ACON's Legal Working Group (LWG) continues to provide a unique contribution to law and policy on AIDS in Australia. In addition to its work within ACON and on New South Wales issues, the LWG has responsibility for much of the law and policy work and projects for the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), and has had an input into legal issues in other States and areas.

The demand for legal services continues to increase significantly, with enquiries from individuals, organisations and government throughout Australia. A total of 282 cases involving requests for specific advice on AIDS related legal problems were dealt with by the Legal Project and LWG in the 12 months to 30 June 1990. Fortunately, some increase in resources has been obtained.

HIV/AIDS and the Law Project

Work continues on the AIDS Legal Manual and the first 12 chapters will be published by the end of 1990. Funding for research has been provided by two Commonwealth funding bodies, CAWISE and CARG, and it is hoped that further funding will be forthcoming for future research. The Manual has largely been the work of John Godwin as Legal Research Officer, with assistance from LWG volunteers and Julie Hamblin and Michel Hryció of the firm Mallesons Stephen Jacques, who have been employed as consultants to the Project. David Patterson will be employed as legal research officer from September 1990.

AIDS and Your Rights

Demand for *AIDS and Your Rights* continues to be high, and an extensively rewritten third edition of this resource will be published late in 1990.

Legal Workshop and the National HIV/AIDS Legal Link

LWG organised the first national AIDS Legal Workshop in March 1990. Funded by a Commonwealth AIDS Research Grant, it was attended by about 100 people from law and law related occupations and was judged by participants as a success. Papers from the Workshop appeared in

the July issue of the National AIDS Bulletin. Participants at the Workshop were encouraged to join the National HIV/AIDS Legal Link, a national network of people involved in HIV/AIDS related legal work launched by LWG at the Workshop. The Link now has over 30 members.

Legal Officer

One of the AIDS White Paper recommendations was for an AFAO Legal Officer to deal with the increasing demand for legal services and formal legal support. AFAO has agreed to place this officer at ACON under the broad direction of the LWG. The Legal Officer, Michael Alexander, starts with ACON in September. As a national position, the demand is expected to be high, but the position will allow for a substantial increase in our ability to take on legal work, as well as contributing to the development of advice and policy activities.

IGCA Legal Working Party

The Commonwealth Government has established an inter-governmental Legal Working Party to implement the legal recommendations of the AIDS White Paper. It has also appointed a Legal Officer, Helen Watchirs, to coordinate this implementation. LWG has established a close working relationship with the LWP and resources collected by the LWG and research done by our Project are being extensively used by the LWP.

Seminars, Research, Policy Advice and Other Work

LWG has made extensive contributions to ACON's submissions to the NSW Government in its deliberations on reform of the Public Health Act, changes to the Prisons Act and Regulations on testing and segregation, and is involved with the Anti-Discrimination Board's AIDS Working Party which is looking at possible changes to the Anti-Discrimination Act to make coverage of AIDS related discrimination more effective.

Members of the LWG have been involved in submissions to the Tasmanian Government on its proposed AIDS law package, including changes to Public Health laws, homosexual law reform, prison regulations and anti-discrimination provisions.

Members of LWG have contributed to developing ACON's testing policy, experimental drugs policy and response to the Streetwatch Report on anti-gay and lesbian violence. David Buchanan gave a paper to the Fourth National AIDS Conference. John Godwin gave a paper to the 2nd Annual HIV/AIDS Educators' Conference.

John Godwin, Bruce Meagher, Will Adler and

others have spoken extensively on AIDS law issues to such groups as the ACON Speakers' Bureau, ACON Deaf Project, Parramatta HIV support group and the NSW Court Support Scheme.

LWG co-ordinated the provision of free legal representation to the seven people arrested in the ACTUP demonstration against travel restrictions outside the US Consulate in Sydney in June. David Buchanan and Anthony Anderson from LWG provided legal representation to two arrestees.

John Godwin and Simon Lake visited prisoners at the AIDS Unit at Long Bay gaol (Malabar Assessment Unit) and opened dialogue between the gaol's AIDS Committee and the LWG on the need to service the legal needs of prisoners with HIV/AIDS.

Lex Watson is a member of the Commonwealth's AIDS and Superannuation Working Group which is developing a Code of Practice on AIDS and Superannuation.

Activities planned for 1990/1991 include a seminar to be run jointly by LWG in conjunction with the AIDS Trust of Australia and the Young Lawyers Group from the Law Society of NSW, a second national AIDS Legal Workshop, and the production of a series of NSW legal information sheets.

Lex Watson,
Convener, Legal Working Group.

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING WORKING GROUP

The Working Group has concentrated its efforts on developing a comprehensive document, providing policies on all issues arising from testing for HIV. Policies have been completed covering counselling, employment-related testing, immigration and tourism, occupational transmission to health care and emergency services workers, partner notification, people who knowingly place others at risk of infection, pregnant women or women intending pregnancy and their partners, prisoners, sentinel screening, sex workers, sexual assault and surgery patients. The project will be completed in September 1990.

The Working Group has provided input to the NSW Committee on AIDS Strategy discussions on Partner Notification, Testing in Prisons and the Testing of Surgery Patients. A representative of the Working Group participated in a workshop organised by the Wellcare Rights Centre on testing of people with an intellectual disability.

Don Baxter
Convener

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND ETHICS WORKING GROUP

This Working Group's main purpose is to examine HIV/AIDS research proposals in the social sciences which seek ACON's endorsement or support. The idea grew from a need to ensure that any research undertaken on AIDS which relies on community support should at least be checked to ensure that it is properly thought out and adequately supervised and managed. This is particularly important as school and university students increasingly want to do small-scale research projects on HIV/AIDS related issues.

The Working Group is made up of ACON members with qualifications and experience in the social sciences, although all sessions are open to any ACON member. The Working Group only meets when there are actual research proposals to consider. In the last twelve months it has considered research proposals from Sydney University students seeking to investigate the support networks and perceived needs of HIV antibody positive people; and a request from Dr Ron Gold of Deakin University, Victoria, for ACON's endorsement of the replication of his *Places, Times, Reasons* study. The Working Group recommended ACON's endorsement of both projects, the latter being subject to certain alterations to the questionnaire.

The Working Group can expect a heavier workload from now on as the national social science effort on HIV/AIDS Social Research. The community sector is expected to have greater input into the national research agenda in the future and the ACON Research and Ethics Working Group looks forward to an interesting year.

Gary Dowsett
Convener

ACON\AFAO MEDICAL\CLINICAL WORKING GROUP

With continuing expansion of both experience in, and options for, medical treatment of HIV infection, the issues covered by this Working Group are becoming more and more relevant to the HIV infected. Treatments and trials have been identified by AFAO and all its member organisations as high priority (reflected in AFAO's funding a half-time clerical assistant to the working group, advertised but not yet appointed).

The major task has been the development of the ACON Policy on Treatments and Trials. Although the Working Group is nominally the AFAO as well as the ACON Working Group input from the other states continues to be virtually non-existent. This is particularly disappointing in matters as important as treatments and trial policy.

Another responsibility of the Working Group is overseeing the AFAO Treatments Information Officer Project. After extremely protracted negotiation this project finally received Commonwealth funding for 18 months with the possibility of a further 18 months. We have been extremely fortunate in being able to appoint Dr. Peter Steinhilber to the position. Peter has extensive experience in general practice with all the HIV risk groups and in public education through print and radio. (Peter was recently awarded one of the AFAO media awards for his AIDS updates as "Dr. Peter" on JJJ.)

Issues identified by the Working Group as high priority in the last year have been (not in order of priority):

- * ensuring the availability of AZT to all HIV+ve's with fewer than 500 T4 cells;
- * encouraging HIV testing of persons at risk and subsequent regular immune status monitoring of HIV+ve's
- * continued reinforcement of the importance of prophylaxis for opportunistic infections, especially PCP;
- * disseminating the rationale for early antiviral therapy for HIV (in association with the appropriate cautions);
- * ensuring the establishment of the Community AIDS Training Network as per the original proposal;
- * ensuring broad access geographically to treatments and trials;
- * ensuring early access to treatments and trials;

The group suffered greatly through the death from HIV of three of its most active members in the

first half of last year. Fortunately some new recruits of high calibre have put it on its feet again. However the group is always on the lookout for new talent (skills required include general bioscientific/biotechnology expertise not exclusively medical).

Rolf Petherbridge
Chairman

THE QUILT PROJECT

Inspired by the American NAMES Project, and based on folk art tradition of quilting and working bees, the Quilt Project is part of an international campaign to memorialise those we have lost in the AIDS epidemic.

The Quilt Project has three main goals:

1. To provide a positive and creative expression for those whose lives have been touched by the epidemic.
2. To illustrate the impact of the AIDS epidemic by showing the humanity behind the statistics.
3. To encourage support for people with AIDS and their loved ones.

The Quilt was launched by Ita Buttrose on World AIDS Day 1988. The Quilt has nearly doubled in size this year, and now has more than 130 panels.

Following World AIDS Day 1989, the Quilt had an extensive tour of NSW regional centres. Plans for a tour of State capitals was severely disrupted by the pilots dispute, however the Quilt did manage to visit Melbourne and Brisbane.

In 1990 the Quilt has travelled to Alice Springs, Darwin, Tasmania, Melbourne and Canberra for the Asian Pacific and Australian National Conferences. In Canberra the Quilt was unfolded in the Great Hall of Parliament House where the Governor General of Australia, Mr Bill Hayden and his wife Dallas, both participated in the unfolding ceremony.

1990 also saw the resignation of Andrew Carter as convenor due to ill health. Andrew personifies the spirit that is the Quilt - that "ordinary" compassionate people do make a difference, that they can be empowered to respond in magnificent ways in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

1990 has also been a time of financial crisis for the Quilt. The Quilt has grown so quickly and the demands for its display have increased correspondingly. The Quilt Project is very grateful for those numerous individuals who have donated so generously, and to the AIDS Trust of Australia for the seeding grant which will enable the Quilt to employ a full time convenor for 6 months.

The Quilt continues to be a working group of ACON, and is grateful to ACON for its administrative support and the encouragement of its members and staff.

In spite of the financial difficulties, membership of the Project is free. A newsletter keeps those contributing panels, and those who have assisted the Project informed of the progress and various display venues of the Quilt.

THE QUILT



AN AIDS MEMORIAL

see it and understand

The Quilt Project continues to be enriched by the beautiful letters which accompany many panels. One recent letter sums up the Project: -

"Quilt making has helped me grieve, helped me appreciate, helped me say goodbye. But I won't forget. Those we hold most dear, live in our hearts forever."

LIBBY WOODHAMS
CONVENOR

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

ACON/MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY AIDS RESEARCH PROJECTS -

The Social Aspects of the Prevention of AIDS, and Class, Homosexuality and AIDS Prevention

The past year has been a busy one for the SAPA Project. We have been progressing with our analysis of the original survey data of gay and bisexual men in NSW and have released another four reports foreshadowed in last year's report to ACON. These reports were: Report No. 4 - *Regional Difference in the Responses of Gay and Bisexual Men to AIDS: The Australian Capital Territory*, Report No. 5 - *Practice and Pleasure: Sexuality in a Sample of Gay and Bisexual Men* (our most ambitious report so far), Report No. 6 - *Unsafe Anal Sexual Practice Among Homosexual and Bisexual Men*, and the most significant from the point of view of the gay community, Report No. 7 - *The Importance of Gay Community to the Prevention of HIV Infection*.

This last paper represents a significant break with research overseas which has so far failed to account for the impact of gay community action in the face of the HIV epidemic. We found that attachment to a gay community takes many forms - sexual, social, and political/cultural - and that attachment to gay communities is significantly linked with behaviour change toward safe sex. This reinforces earlier findings that gay community safe sex information is the most likely to be reported as the key source of information for gay men.

Further work on dissemination of SAPA's findings occurred through the technical reports, mostly written for use by ACON's education staff. These reports number ten to date, the latest being written for the ACON Testing Education campaign. The SAPA Coordinator, Gary Dowsett, continues to give workshops for ACON's education staff and makes the occasional visit to VAC as well.

Future work for SAPA includes the publication of the last report *Bisexuals*, and a SAPA follow-up study. This smaller survey will check on the sustaining of safe sex among the original SAPA sample and has been funded by ACON and Macquarie University. It is expected to begin in October.

In 1989/90, a second SAPA study was funded by the Commonwealth AIDS Research Grants (CARG) Committee to undertake an action/research study of men who have sex with men, but who do not necessarily identify with the gay community. This research project seeks to understand the way in which these men cope with the epidemic, e.g. how they manage an HIV antibody positive status; or care for those who are ill; how they seek to avoid infection if they are HIV antibody negative; how they negotiate their sex lives; and keep up-to-date with HIV/AIDS information.

This project is nicknamed CHAP. Mark Davis, formerly the Peer Educator with the Queensland AIDS Council, joined the team in December 1989 as a research assistant and with Gary Dowsett has been undertaking research in the western suburbs of Sydney and in Newcastle. In the latter, Gary and Mark were treated to the generous hospitality and assistance of the members of ACON Hunter Region Branch and their visit coincided with the annual Newcastle Gay Ball. The show was fabulous and Mark and Gary decided that all research should be like this from now on.

As part of SAPA and CHAP's work with ACON, Gary and Mark have joined the Bears' Project Steering Committee, Mark is working with the Youth Peer Education Project, and Gary has been a member of the Testing Education Project's Steering Committee. This has proved a useful way of linking the research projects with ACON's educational programs. Gary has also joined the Steering Committee of the next Commonwealth AIDS education campaign focused on gay and bisexual men.

October 1989 saw Gary Dowsett in Yaounde, Cameroon, delivering an address at the opening Plenary session of the WHO Second International Symposium of AIDS Information and Education. The paper outlined the success of gay community strategies in Australia in fighting the epidemic and that paper is to be published later this year in a book jointly released by WHO and the Dutch Royal Tropical Institute. There are some travel tales of this trip worth asking about. One thing is clear: Australian gay communities can teach many others a lot about AIDS education.

This year has also seen much work by the Macquarie researchers on the process of establishing the new National Centre for HIV/AIDS Social Research. The multi-campus Centre will provide

much-needed coordination to the national social research effort. Its Director, Beverly Raphael, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Queensland, will coordinate programs of research in Queensland, at Macquarie University and the University of NSW, and in other states. Associate Professor Susan Kippax will lead the Macquarie team in their work for the National Centre.

The SAPA Project and other Macquarie University staff working on heterosexuality and AIDS have been busy successfully publishing work in international and national academic journals this year, a necessary step to ensure continued funding for research. Overseas interest in the SAPA Project has grown as a result. Indeed, the project has come in for some unexpected but welcome praise. At the Fourth National Conference on AIDS in Canberra this year, the SAPA Project was given an AIDS Trust of Australia Award "in recognition of the enormous contribution the study has made in the field of HIV/AIDS research".

Gary Dowsett
Project Coordinator

The SAPA Research Team:

Steering Committee - Bob Connell and Sue Kippax (Macquarie University), Don Baxter (ACON), and Lex Watson (University of Sydney).

Project Coordinator - Gary Dowsett; Consultant Statistician - June Crawford; Research Assistant - Pam Rodden.

CHAP Research Assistant - Mark Davis.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS (NSW)

The last 12 months have seen a consolidation of PLWA activities, not only here in NSW, but nationally. The broader establishment and maturation of PLWA groups around the country has culminated, after a lengthy process of community consultation, with the setting up of the National PLWA Coalition. PLWA (NSW) played a major role in this process. The impact such groups are having on both state and national AIDS agendas was evident at the 4th National AIDS Conference in August 1990, where PLWAs from around the country presented significant papers on issues such as HIV education, care and support, discrimination and the law, and treatment development. In NSW, PLWA has continued to pursue its role as an advocacy, referral and education providing organization for and by people with HIV infection.

Talkabout has, in the last year, established itself as the most important, innovative and widely read newsletter for people with HIV and AIDS in the country. 2,000 copies of each bimonthly issue are now produced and distributed throughout NSW and Australia. We now have many subscribers overseas also. The purchase of desktop publishing equipment, with funding from the AIDS Bureau, has greatly streamlined *Talkabout* production.

Treatment access and development has taken on a special priority for us. Late in 1989 PLWA (NSW) lobbied ACON to take a more aggressive position with regard to testing and health monitoring, resulting in a shift in ACON's, and subsequently AFAO's, testing policy. ACON's Testing Campaign, launched in mid 1990, saw the fruition of this work.

To facilitate information flow and debate to the community on treatment access and development, PLWA (NSW) in conjunction with ACON, hosted a forum on Passive Immunotherapy late in 1989, and more recently a forum on treatment trials. The result of these efforts was an improved understanding of such issues in the community, in part stimulating the formation of ACT UP Sydney. This independent group is a vital part of our overall lobby efforts on this issue.

PLWA (NSW) also assists AFAO's Treatment Information Officer with the production of the HIV Briefs.

Other advocacy efforts have seen an improvement in privacy at St Vincent's Immunology B clinic, support of the boycott of the Vth International Conference on AIDS, and more recently, stepped up efforts by the Anti Discrimination Board to process AIDS related complaints.

PLWA (NSW) has established itself as a vital

link in the consultation process on all issues of relevance to people infected and affected by HIV. In the last year, for example, we have participated in the AIDS Bureau's Service Planning study and OP's forum, and the CDCSH's national SYDO TV campaign. Representation has been secured on the NSW Committee on AIDS Strategy Advisory Panel and its Working Party on the new Public Health Bill. Also, through the National People Living With AIDS Coalition (NPLWAC), a voice for PLWAs is now guaranteed on AFAO and ANCA.

Robert Ariss
Convener

THE SEX WORKERS OUTREACH PROJECT (SWOP)

Introduction

In late 1989, the AIDS Bureau of the NSW Department of Health funded an HIV/AIDS education and support service in the sex industry, under the auspices of the AIDS Council of NSW. A team of six people has been employed and the service commenced full operation in March 1990, out of the old CSN premises at 391 Riley Street.

As this is a new service, the initial months have been spent in consultation with the sex industry, developing strategies to meet the aims and objectives of the project.

An administrative base has been established, and the 391 premises are now a functioning resource centre for workers in the sex industry.

Management

The AIDS Bureau specifically set out the terms of reference for the operation of a Steering Committee responsible for lending direction to the project. The Executive Director of ACON chairs the Committee, and it includes representation from Sexual Health Centres, AIDS Education, Prostitute Rights and Sex Worker representative organisations, and SWOP itself. This committee is currently meeting monthly.

Outreach

The SWOP team has been involved in developing a strategic plan for implementing outreach efforts in the NSW sex industry as a major focus of our HIV/AIDS education and support work. The industry has been divided into definable sub-groups, and direct consultation with sex workers in the areas has occurred to determine areas and degrees of possible risk activity.

Overall, the Education Officers are attempting to regularly and consistently visit most establishments for and sites of commercial sex in NSW, while also specifically targeting certain sub-groups and individuals. We have geographically zoned metropolitan Sydney and the rest of NSW, and are systematically visiting sex workers in their workplace.

Due to the lack of human resources in the education area of the project, progress is slow, and many gaps in service are beginning to appear. We are already concerned with the need to maintain the consistency of SWOP's high profile in the industry, and the lack of resources for development and maintenance of services complementary to the outreach focus.

In-House Services

SWOP has employed a Community Worker/Counsellor who has been working extensively with other services in contact with sex workers, and has been developing a SWOP response to prostitutes who have needs other than general education and support. Indications are that as the project gears up, the Counsellor/Community Workers duties will be extensively involved in counselling work.

The premises already operate as a resource centre, with individuals and groups of sex workers dropping in for a variety of reasons. We are developing our in-house education and support service delivery so as to specifically target sub-groups such as new, young, and NESB workers who have distinct education and support needs.

Education Resources Campaign

From initial discussions concerning the lack of education resource material dealing with safe commercial sex, and the need to develop material that specifically targeted areas of the industry where there is a perceived risk of HIV transmission, SWOP has developed a strategy to mount an initial resourceing campaign in the sex industry in NSW.

The campaign involves two pamphlets, one targeting new and young workers while being relevant for NESB prostitutes, the other directed towards clients of prostitutes; two audio tapes, one specifically for low literacy sex workers and NESB workers who also have low literacy, the other for low literacy and NESB management and owners of

establishments; and a series of six posters aimed at clients of sex workers (two for clients of male prostitutes and four for clients of female prostitutes).

These resources will hopefully begin to be available in late September, 1990.

Projection

We have made a very ambitious start at SWOP, and are facing many obstacles due to financial and conditional funding restraints and the limitations of our human resources.

SWOP wants to move towards the development of a high profile in the sex industry, one that involves good rapport and trust. We are particularly concerned that a viable community organisation of sex workers develops which will gain the confidence of government funding decision-makers, so that ACON's auspicing role can be devolved.

In the future, SWOP wants to operate workshops for new workers based on occupational health and safety issues, run a support group for past and present sex workers living with HIV/AIDS, and develop a training package for other services and agencies who also try to meet some of the needs of prostitutes.

Hopefully, the project will begin to address some of the more complicated educational and support needs of Sex Workers in NSW.

Geoffrey Fysh
Project Manager



SWOP

N.S.W. RELATIONS AND INITIATIVES

ACON continues to enjoy an effective working relationship with the N.S.W. Dept. of Health through the AIDS Bureau, and with other State government departments, government agencies and organisations and groups working in the area of HIV/AIDS.

The devolution of HIV/AIDS planning and funding decisions to Area and Regional Health Services will require increased liaison and interaction with many of the Boards of these Services.

ACON is working towards widening its role in facilitating inter-agency co-operation, a process which will become increasingly important as more HIV/AIDS services are "mainstreamed". The Community Services Unit has already developed an effective accommodation inter-agency, and is investigating the development of a model for case management. The Education Unit will also be moving to initiate or assist the development of inter-agency functions.

Visit and Opening of Building by Minister for Health, the Hon. Peter Collins

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Peter Collins, formally opened the 188 Gentlbum Street premises, on June 29, 1990. In addition to paying tribute to the work of ACON and of other community-based organisations in HIV/AIDS, Mr Collins also expressed his personal appreciation of the contribution of the retiring Executive Director, Bill Whittaker.

Mr Collins also toured the building and spoke to many of the staff about their work.

AIDS Bureau

ACON has continued to work closely with the AIDS Bureau through the year. Bureau staff have been members of Steering Committees for various ACON projects. Liaison has been close and mutually beneficial on sensitive issues such as the Charlene incident and the establishment of SWOP. Our consistent view has been that the strategies adopted by the Bureau and the appropriate mix of the skills and experience of Bureau staff members set a model for the rest of the country.

N.S.W. Committee on AIDS Strategy

In 1989 the former Ministerial Advisory Committee and Sub-committees were stream-lined into the smaller Committee on AIDS Strategy (CAS), supplemented with a Panel of Advisers. Bill Whittaker continued to serve on the CAS, and eight ACON Committee members and staff were named as advisers.

ACON has written to the Minister urging the inclusion of an openly identifying person with HIV/AIDS on the CAS.

The CAS has been very effective in giving policy leadership and planning direction within N.S.W. It meets six weekly, and establishes various limited term working parties. Bill Whittaker served on several, including that on HIV and Surgery. John Godwin and Don Baxter serve on the Working Party on the new Public Health Bill.

NSW State AIDS Services Planning Study

This study is vital in assessing and planning the treatment and care service needs over the next five years for people with HIV/AIDS. ACON seconded Community Services Manager, Anne Malcolm, to work with the Services Planning Team for two months.

1990 HIV Educator's Conference

The AIDS Bureau organised the second annual HIV Educator's Conference in June, 1990. Ken Davis, Gary Dowsett and Barry Fitzgerald served on the Planning Advisory Committee. Don Baxter presented a plenary paper, and eight different workshops were facilitated by ACON staff.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Over the past year ACON has been involved in a number of important activities at the national level.

Visit by the New Minister for Community Services & Health, Mr Brian Howe

On 6 July 1990 Mr Brian Howe, the new Minister for Community Services and Health, visited the ACON Offices at 188 Goulburn Street. Mr Howe toured the building, meeting many of the staff. A small delegation then discussed in detail issues of primary concern: treatments and trials, availability of AZT, commitment to and funding for the National AIDS program.

Australian National Council on AIDS (ANCA)

ANCA is the Commonwealth Health Minister's chief advisory body. Don Baxter continued his membership of ANCA. The new Minister, Mr Howe, re-structured the membership, and included two new members from sister community organisations, Julie Bates from New South Wales Users & AIDS Association, and Dennis Altman from the Victorian AIDS Council.

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)

ACON continued to play a leading role in the national peak community organisation, AFAO. Bill Whittaker and Levisia Crooks variously served as Vice-president of AFAO. ACON's current members on the AFAO National Committee are Rolf Petherbridge and Don Baxter, with Don serving on the AFAO Executive. Bill Whittaker has "retired" to the Presidency of AFAO.

ACON continues to play the major role in policy development within AFAO, with joint working parties developing policies on treatments and trials, on testing, and on accommodation.

National People Living With AIDS Coalition (NPLWAC)

NPLWAC was formed in 1989 to provide an autonomous organisation for people with HIV/AIDS. While ACON has no formal structural relationship with NPLWAC, close liaison is maintained through

the PLWA (NSW) representatives on the NPLWAC Committee. ACON also provides office space for the NPLWAC staff.

AIDS Trust of Australia

The Trust is a national charitable trust, founded by the Governor-General in 1987. Bill Whittaker continues to serve as an AFAO nominated trustee, and recently ACON Vice-President Rolf Petherbridge was also elected as a Trustee.

1989/90 has seen increased fundraising by the Trust, primarily through theatrical and operatic events. \$40,000 has been provided for the Community AIDS Trials Network, \$14,000 for the Living Well III Conference, \$15,000 for the Quilt Project, and \$25,000 for medical research through the 1989 Newman Awards. 1990/91 will see the Trust in a position to further assist education, care and research projects.

AIDS and Superannuation Working Group

In 1989 the Commonwealth government convened an AIDS and Superannuation Working Group to compile a Code of Practice for the industry and the superannuation funds. Membership includes the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA), the Life Insurance Federation of Australia (LIFA), Commonwealth government representatives, representatives from the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), community representatives and others. Lex Watson, a member of ACON's Committee of Council, is one of the community representatives.

The Working Group has produced a draft Code which has been agreed to by all members on all but one point. There remains disagreement about whether exclusion clauses for AIDS related claims are acceptable. Otherwise there is agreement about eligibility for retirement benefits, provisions about confidentiality and other matters.

It is not clear how or whether one major disagreement can be resolved. The draft, complete or otherwise, is expected to be released before the end of 1990.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 1990

	NOTES	\$	1990 \$	1989 \$
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at Bank	2	30,628		8,725
Cash on Hand		3,050		1,900
Cash on Deposit	3	803,208		527,188
Deposits - Utilities		8,373		7,573
Accounts Receivable	4	178,358		46,874
Stock on Hand		3,415		3,501
Prepaid Expenses		1,763		10,396
Accrued Income		34,647		20,805
Others		0		207
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS			1,051,462	627,169
NON CURRENT ASSETS				
Fixed Assets				
Furniture and Fixtures		20,116		56,668
Accumulated Depreciation		<u>7,866</u>		<u>21,498</u>
			12,250	35,170
Office Equipment		272,340		158,025
Accumulated Depreciation		<u>93,132</u>		<u>51,204</u>
			179,208	106,821
Library			0	5,232
Leasehold Improvements		3,228		116,280
Accumulated Amortization		<u>2,298</u>		<u>71,689</u>
			930	44,591
Equipment Lease - Cost		0		12,957
Accumulated Depreciation		0		<u>2,591</u>
			0	<u>10,366</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS			192,386	202,150
TOTAL ASSETS			1,253,850	829,319
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Accrued Expenses		83,783		20,120
Bank Overdraft		0		25,091
Lease Liabilities	5	3,212		5,869
Grants in Advance	6	14,250		0
Unexpended Grants	7	784,309		363,781
Trade Creditors		<u>48,732</u>		<u>53,409</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES			934,266	471,270
NET ASSETS			\$319,584	\$352,049

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 1990 (CONTINUED)

	1990	1989
	\$	\$
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward	352,048	325,724
(Deficit)/Surplus for Period	<u>(32,459)</u>	<u>25,319</u>
	\$319,584	\$352,043

AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1990

	Notes	1990	1989
		\$	\$
INCOME			
Grants Received	9	2,857,996	1,427,141
Grants Unexpended	7	<u>(764,309)</u>	<u>(363,781)</u>
		2,093,687	1,063,360
Donations		55,733	24,978
Interest Received		101,493	6,7857
Other Funds		1,151	0
Membership Fees		2,882	3,450
Fundraising Events		894	3,780
Sales of Vitrines		47,672	54,605
Other Income		6,513	5,305
Rent from House Project		4,253	0
TOTAL INCOME:		<u>220,591</u>	<u>169,375</u>
		2,504,278	1,232,735
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Accountancy		0	65
Audit Fees	10	9,755	5,500
Bad Debts		120	0
Bank Charges		1,605	1,861
Board & Council Expenses		320	11,824
Building Security		3,261	8
Casual Retail Staff		7,349	42,877
Cleaning and Garbage Removal		12,457	4,225
Computer and Office Supplies		101,080	12,770
Courier		12,077	2,923
Conferences/Courses Organised		7,152	12,537
Depreciation and Amortisation		52,988	94,490
Educational Materials		34,522	42,454
Electricity		19,861	5,346
Facsimile Services		2,770	2,134
Fundraising Costs		0	1,753
General Expenses		6,755	2,013
Incidental Purchases		16,989	12,683
Insurances		14,131	5,430
Interest Paid		0	237
Leasing Costs		458	513
Legal Costs		9,405	1,187
Losses on Disposal of Assets	11	80,430	6,156
Services to Other Organisations		0	8,027
Motor Vehicle Expenses		62,661	13,552
Postage		25,677	13,546

	NOTES	1990	1989
	\$	\$	\$
Posters	5,028		3,300
Printing and Stationery	57,960		27,562
Programs and Services	66,399		54,833
Publicity and Promotion	77,398		66,383
Purchases - Vitamins	44,406		59,996
Radio Pagor & Communications Costs	9,241		5,122
Rent	200,480		67,459
Repairs and Maintenance	31,795		5,689
Recruitment Costs	24,034		5,661
Specialist Consultants	1,000		0
Staff Development & Training	4,107		1,053
Telephone	32,206		18,939
Travel	28,619		43,343
Wages	<u>1,166,242</u>		<u>541,682</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>2,336,737</u>	<u>1,205,416</u>
Net (Deficit) / Surplus		<u>(\$32,459)</u>	<u>\$26,318</u>

AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1990

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting standards issued by the Australian Accounting Bodies and with the disclosure requirements of Schedule 7 of the Companies (NSW) Code with the exceptions where noted.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis and on the basis of historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(b) Depreciation

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.

(c) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are included at cost or at independent valuation and are depreciated over the estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Only assets of substance and of material value have been capitalised and subject to depreciation.

(d) Accounts Receivable - Grants

The Council prepares accounts on an accrual basis, therefore all funds to be committed for the financial year have been recorded as income for that year.

NOTE 2 - CASH AT BANK

	1990	1989
	\$	\$
Commonwealth Bank - Sydney	14,901	0
Westpac Banking Corporation - Sydney	3,180	0
Commonwealth Bank - North Coast	2,641	6,374
- Newcastle	9,906	0
Westpac Banking Corporation - Newcastle	0	2,351
	<u>\$30,628</u>	<u>\$8,725</u>

NOTE 3 - CASH ON DEPOSIT

Australian European Finance Corporation	803,208	\$21,358
National Mutual Royal Bank	0	5,830
	<u>\$803,208</u>	<u>\$27,188</u>

NOTE 4 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES

Committed Grants	<u>\$176,358</u>	<u>\$46,874</u>
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NOTE 5 - LEASE LIABILITY

The Lease liability comprises the acquisition of a telephone system.

Lease commitments:	1990	1989
	\$	\$
1. Not later than one year	3,312	5,886
2. Later than one year and not later than two years	<u>NTL</u>	<u>NTL</u>
	<u>\$3,312</u>	<u>\$5,886</u>

NOTE 6 - OTHER CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

During the period the AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc. entered into Rental Agreements for the use of several motor vehicles. The contractual capital commitments of these vehicles are as follows:

	1990	1989
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	63,093	\$29,760
Later than one year and not later than two years	60,193	\$23,314
Later than two years and not later than five years	<u>32,737</u>	<u>20,911</u>
Total Future Commitment	\$156,019	74,485
ADD: Amount expended to date	<u>48,844</u>	<u>12,537</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL COMMITMENT	<u>\$204,874</u>	<u>\$87,022</u>

NOTE 7 - UNEXPENDED GRANTS

Unexpended grants represent the total of grants unexpended during the period. The balance of these grants will be carried forward in the next period when the relevant expenses can then be properly matched to the period in which they are incurred.

Grants are as follows:	1990	1989
	\$	\$
NSW Government Grants		
Administrative Services	33,921	
Salaries & Related Costs	118,650	
Counselling & Support Services	6,345	37,075
PLWA Transport Service	19,503	33,440
Accommodation		
Pilot Project	26,184	
CSN Support Services	16,263	
Beats Outreach	15,187	36,405

	1990	1989
	\$	\$
Deaf Community AIDS Education	46,917	
Education Programs	3,537	
Youth Peer Education Pilot	44,517	
Evaluation & Campaign Program	9,112	
Vicque Liaison Pilot Program	23,058	
Rural Outreach	49,777	
Speakers Bureau	2,005	
Women & AIDS Program	18,162	4,552
Hunter Branch Programs	27,462	22,137
Education & Support - Illawarra	6,000	
North Coast Branch Programs	7,562	16,843
Sex Worker's Outreach	105,905	
Other Programs	0	129,653
	<u>\$80,977</u>	<u>280,106</u>

Federal Government Grants

Department of Community Services & Health

Ethnic Gay Men's Pilot Project	19,214	42,000
AIDS & the Law in Australia	13,552	0
AIDS Law & Ethics Workshop	893	0
	<u>33,659</u>	<u>42,000</u>

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations

National Treatments & Information	85,892	
Bisexual Education	34,402	4,519
HIV Antibody Testing Campaign	39,868	
Legal Rights Booklet	10,411	13,722
Other Programs	0	23,435
	<u>170,573</u>	<u>41,676</u>

TOTAL OF COMMITTED BUT UNEXPENDED GRANTS RECEIVED

NOTE 8 - GRANTS IN ADVANCE

Grants in advance represents grant received during the year not yet committed.

	1990	1989
	\$	\$
Department of Community Services and Health		
Gay & Bisexual Men's Education Workshop	<u>\$14,250</u>	<u>NIL</u>

NOTE 9 - GRANTS RECEIVED

State Government	2,510,252	1,179,940
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	1990	1989
	\$	\$
Federal Government	84,160	57,610
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Inc.	<u>273,584</u>	<u>189,591</u>
	<u>\$2,867,996</u>	<u>\$1,427,141</u>

NOTE 10 - AUDITORS REMUNERATION

Amounts received, or due and receivable by the Auditor for:

Auditing the main and project accounts of AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc.	9,555	5,500
Other Accounting Services	<u>200</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$9,755</u>	<u>\$5,500</u>

NOTE 11 - LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

During the year the Council reviewed the fixed asset register, and scrapped all assets with original costs of \$500 or less, as recommended by the auditors.

NOTE 12 - STATEMENT OF SOURCE & APPLICATION OF FUNDS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1990

	\$	\$
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
Funds from Operations:		
Operating deficit for year.		(32,459)

AIDS: Items not involving flow of funds during year.

Depreciation & Amortisation	52,988	
Disposal of Assets	80,430	
Provision for Annual Leave	26,437	
Provision for Sick Leave	26,925	
		<u>186,780</u>
TOTAL FUNDS FROM OPERATIONS		154,321

INCREASES IN CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accrued Expenses	1,275	
Unexpended Grants	420,528	
Grants in Advance	18,250	
		<u>436,053</u>

DECREASES IN CURRENT ASSETS

Stock on Hand	86	
Prepaid Expenses	8,613	
Other Current Assets	<u>207</u>	
		<u>8,906</u>
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS		\$599,280

APPLICATION OF FUNDS

Increase in Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	21,903	
Cash on Hand	1,150	
Cash on Deposit	276,020	
Accounts Receivable	129,484	
Deposits	<u>900</u>	

	1990	1989
	\$	\$
Accrued Income	<u>13,862</u>	443,199
INCREASE IN NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment		123,656
DECREASE IN CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Bank Overdraft	25,091	
Lease Liability	2,657	
Trade Creditors	<u>4,677</u>	
		32,425
TOTAL APPLICATIONS OF FUNDS		<u>859,380</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AIDS COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

I have audited the Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc. for the year ended 30 June 1990.

In my opinion the accounts of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc. are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc. as at 30 June 1990. The accounting records of the organisation for the year ended on that date have been kept in accordance with the provisions of the Associated Incorporations Act.

Level 1, 125 York Street, Sydney

Dated: *29th August 1990.*

Raymond Kazzi

RAYMOND KAZZI B.Ec CPA
Registered under the Companies
Code.



AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc.

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