

David Stone

ACON President 1998 - 2000

1) What impact did ACON have on the lives of GLBT people and people affected by HIV/AIDS during your time as president/CEO?

Throughout its history, ACON has striven to improve the lives of the LGBT community and those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. I was privileged to be president of ACON around the turn of the millennium - a time of significant shifts in how our communities were responding to the epidemic, and a time of great change for ACON as it developed a greater role in the wider health issues of the LGBT community.

2) What were the greatest challenges that ACON had to face during your time as president/CEO?

Change is a great challenge to any organisation - responding to the changes in the shape of the epidemic and changes in its communities was ACON's greatest challenge, in my view, at the time. Improved therapies meant significant improvements in the health and wellbeing of many living with HIV, but also brought new challenges around engaging our communities in education campaigns, and different support needs for some in our communities.

3) What were ACON's greatest achievements during your time as president/CEO?

Looking back after nearly 10 years living in London, for me, it was the people of ACON who I felt were its greatest achievement - volunteers, clients, staff, board members - an amazing community of groups and individuals who have, in many senses, led the world in terms of a community response to the epidemic.

4) What was it like working at ACON during your time as president/CEO?

Exciting, challenging, engaging, maddening, fun, exhausting - but always packed with delight. I learnt so much from my time on the ACON board - including some skills that have been really useful since.

5) What is your favourite 'ACON moment'?

MAG meetings; getting around NSW to visit all the ACON offices; giving evidence before the NSW upper house; being interviewed in bed in pyjamas for Fair Day; dragging up for a fund-raiser; selling ribbons for World AIDS Day - too many favourites to pick just one! But if I had to, I always enjoyed volunteering at Hand in Hand - literally hundreds of people came together to help put on a fantastic night each year to raise valuable funds for ACON's work - particularly for work for which ACON didn't have to account to Government. My mum and dad helped on bag search at the gate in the early hours of a Sunday morning - that said so much about what ACON was about.