ANNUAL REPORT
2014/15

HERE FOR HEALTH FOR 30 YEARS
DEDICATION
For 30 years, we’ve been here to help people in our community take control of their health.

During this landmark year for our organisation, we remember and honour the thousands of people who have died from an AIDS-related illness as well as the people and loved ones who cared for them.

We pay tribute to the courage and determination of the tens of thousands of people in NSW and the tens of millions around the world who live with HIV and the many challenges they have lived through and continue to face.

And we thank the hundreds of thousands of people who have contributed to, participated in or supported our work over the years to reduce HIV transmission, support people with HIV and improve the health of LGBTI people.

This Annual Report is dedicated to them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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This year was a landmark year for ACON as we marked 30 years of caring for our community, whether it be in relation to HIV prevention, supporting people living with HIV or helping improve the health and safety of LGBTI people.

In many ways, ACON’s story is the story of our community over the last 30 years - an incredible journey full of sadness and suffering but also marked by compassion, joy and, most importantly, love, in all its glorious forms.

ACON was created by gay men, lesbians and their friends in Sydney in 1985 in the early years of the HIV/AIDS crisis. At the time, sorrow and grief were engulfing our community, with the virus consuming the lives of thousands of people – our lovers, partners, family and friends.

Through ACON and other organisations, our community banded together to help fight the spread of HIV and to provide care, support and advocacy for people living with HIV and dying from AIDS. During this time, ACON’s staff, volunteers, members and supporters pioneered a new approach to community health that continues today and which is a proud part of our heritage.

Since then, ACON has evolved to become an essential part of NSW’s health sector, close to 600 staff and volunteers working across NSW to deliver a range of services and activities throughout the state.

Today ACON plays an integral role not only in the Australian response to the HIV epidemic, but also in delivering better health outcomes for hundreds of thousands of LGBTI people in areas such as sexual health, mental health, alcohol and drugs, community care, ageing, homophobia and transphobic violence, domestic and family violence, and workplace and social inclusion.

We do this by providing a comprehensive range of evidence based programs and services as well as collaborating with all levels of government to ensure our work is supported by effective policy settings.

As detailed in the pages of this report, this year we achieved many important outcomes across all our work areas, especially in our efforts to end HIV transmission in NSW by 2020 by getting gay men to test more, treat early and stay safe. We’re well on the way to achieving this goal with more gay men testing for HIV than ever before, more people with HIV on treatment and the majority of gay men using condoms most of the time.

To help meet our goal of ending HIV transmission, over the next 12 months we’ll continue to promote innovative education campaigns as well as work to get gay men access to the latest HIV testing, treatment and prevention technologies, such as PrEP and home-based testing. In fact, we believe PrEP is a very important addition in our efforts to end HIV. It’s helping revolutionise HIV prevention in our sister city San Francisco, and when it’s approved for use here it will play a vital role in the success of our HIV prevention efforts in NSW.

Advances in HIV treatments also mean the health outcomes of people with HIV will continue to improve in the years to come, so we’ll continue to adapt our services to provide the most useful support and assistance that we can.

And in terms of our LGBTI health focus, we’ll see a lot of organisational growth and development in the future, as governments at all levels increasingly recognise the distinct health needs of LGBTI people and communities. This will mean ongoing funding for evidence-based programs and services to address issues such as sexual health, mental health, family and domestic violence and issues of alcohol and drugs, particularly tobacco. Australia’s ageing population will also present specific challenges for older LGBTI people and their families, so ACON will be seeking and investing resources to ensure these issues are addressed.

Government recognition of LGBTI health issues has also helped foster a wider interest among employers about making their services and workplaces inclusive and supportive of LGBTI people. We believe the training and consultancy division we established this year is a valuable asset for our organisation and we anticipate strong growth in this area over the next decade.

Finally, the digital revolution will continue to influence how we deliver all of our services, whether they be related to HIV prevention, HIV support or LGBTI health. Communication technologies look a lot different today than they did 10 years ago and they’ll advance more rapidly over the next 10 years. So while our commitment to engaging with our community will remain steadfast, the way we do it will certainly change with more online engagement through increasingly sophisticated digital platforms.

Whatever issues we confront in the years ahead – be they medical, social, political, or technological - we’re confident that they’ll be addressed with the values of courage, empathy, diversity, equality, adaptability, partnership and community which – we’re confident that they’ll be addressed with the values of courage, empathy, diversity, equality, adaptability, partnership and community which will have guided the work of ACON through the last 30 years.

Of course we could not have accomplished anywhere near what we have without the support of thousands of people and organisations which have helped us be here for our community. So we thank our staff, board members, volunteers and supporters, for their time, effort, expertise and support over the last 30 years. We particularly thank successive NSW governments, NSW Health, Positive Life NSW, researchers and clinicians for their remarkable and committed collaboration with ACON. And finally we thank the many people who make up our diverse LGBTI community for caring for each other and working to make our community healthy and strong.
ABOUT US

We’re a New South Wales based health promotion organisation specialising in HIV prevention, HIV support and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) health.

Established in 1985 as the AIDS Council of NSW, we’re here to end HIV transmission among gay and homosexually active men, and promote the lifelong health of LGBTI people and people with HIV.

Our head office is in Sydney, we have offices in key regional locations and we provide services throughout NSW.

We’re primarily funded by the NSW Government through the NSW Ministry of Health and our work forms an integral part of the NSW Government’s HIV Strategy.

Who We’re Here For:
- Gay men with HIV
- Gay and bisexual men
- Lesbian and same-sex attracted women
- Transgender people
- Intersex people

We also have dedicated services for:
- Young gay men
- Sexually adventurous men and women
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Asian gay men
- People who use drugs

And through our Training & Consulting Division we work with:
- Employers
- Service providers
- Community organisations

2014/15 SNAPSHOT
- 86 staff full time equivalent throughout the year
- 500 volunteers donating 20,000 hours or $500,000 of service value
- 230,000 condom packs assembled and distributed throughout NSW
- 3500 HIV tests performed at ACON supported services across NSW
- 495,000 units of sterile injecting equipment distributed through our Sydney, Hunter and Northern Rivers offices
- 340,000 website visitors
- 17,000 client interactions through our HIV and LGBTI support services
- 8,500 event participants at events produced or supported by us
- 13,000 research participants in studies conducted or supported by us

30 YEAR SNAPSHOT
- 9 million condoms
- 36,000 litres of lube
- 10 million units of clean injecting equipment
- 600,000 client interactions through our HIV and LGBTI support services
**HERE FOR 30 YEARS**

“ACON had a modest but passionate beginning, as a group of gay men coming together in support of their friends and loved ones who were sick and dying from AIDS.

From those early days, Sydney rapidly emerged as the epicentre of Australia’s HIV epidemic.

Although the tools we had available at the time to fight the epidemic were largely limited to behavioural prevention strategies, the partnerships forged between affected communities, the NSW Government, clinicians and researchers, had a profound effect on the course of HIV and AIDS in Australia.

From those small beginnings, ACON worked hard in caring for those with an AIDS related illness and advocating for system changes on their behalf.

Over the past 30 years, ACON’s voice has consistently been strong, inclusive, and collaborative.

Through sheer determination, it has helped shape national policy, influenced laws reform, fought against stigma and discrimination, and supported HIV clinical trials and treatment access.

ACON is a community-based organisation, which means its work is done in its community, by its community, for its community.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>The AIDS Action Committee is formed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>The AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) is formed by community members concerned about the HIV/AIDS crisis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994/95</td>
<td>AIDS-related deaths in NSW peak with up to 400 people dying from AIDS-related illnesses similar to 500 being diagnosed with HIV each year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Development of anti-retroviral treatments stops people dying from AIDS and changes HIV to a chronic manageable illness. ACON and other agencies develop new services to support people to live long-term with HIV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>We expand to become an LGBTI health organisation with a focus on HIV prevention and HIV support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>We officially change our name from the AIDS Council of NSW to just ACON to reflect our increasing focus on LGBT Health.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>We launch our ENDING HIV education initiative and start setting up our own rapid testing centres across NSW. We officially start responding to intersex issues, becoming an LGBTI health organisation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>We open our first permanent community based HIV testing facility.</td>
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**KEY HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**HIV Partnership**

Our greatest achievement is being a key part of the grand coalition of people, groups, communities, clinicians, institutions and governments here in NSW which has, what has been recognised as, one of the most effective responses to HIV and AIDS anywhere in the world and which has, in practical terms, achieved stability in local HIV transmission rates for almost 20 years.

**Community Led Response To HIV**

From the onset of the HIV crisis, we played a key role in mobilising and embedding affected communities into the response, a pioneering approach to addressing a public health crisis. Our models of peer based education are great examples of this approach, as were the care and support that ACON staff and volunteers provided to the sick and the dying during the devastating early years of the epidemic.

**Innovative Health Promotion**

Our education campaigns throughout the years have helped change the way that people in our community engage with health issues, especially those related to their sexual health. The success of our approach has been through reflecting the lived experience of LGBTI people and people with HIV, and delivering information in a positive, evidence based and non-judgemental way.

**LGBTI Health**

15 years ago, HIV was pretty much the only health issue affecting our community that attracted any government or mainstream interest. Today our community is increasingly receiving specialised and informed support in relation to mental health, alcohol and drugs, safety and inclusion, and ageing. This is a remarkable achievement, particularly within the context of the prejudice and discrimination our community has traditionally experienced. However we still have a long way to go in getting the full range of health services appropriate for the needs of our community.
Here for HIV Prevention

Advances in HIV testing and treatments mean we can end HIV transmission in NSW by 2020, but only if gay men – the population in NSW most at risk of HIV transmission – test more, treat early and stay safe.

We’re here to help them do this by:
- Developing, producing and promoting education campaigns
- Operating rapid HIV and STI testing facilities
- Delivering gay health workshops
- Providing a range of support services
- Distributing hundreds of thousands of free condoms every year throughout NSW

Giant Condom

Our most high profile activity of the year was the installation of a massive 18m tall pink condom which covered the heritage-listed Hyde Park Obelisk for a week in the lead up to World AIDS Day to promote the health benefits of ‘staying safe’. The installation was the second instalment of our I'M ON condom reinforcement campaign and generated huge media locally, nationally and internationally, plus it was viewed by millions of people around the world on social media. In addition to the towering condom, safe sex ambassadors were on hand offering passers-by free condoms as well as information about the health benefits of using condoms. For the three weeks prior to the installation’s erection, we promoted our I'M ON campaign on the streets of Sydney and across LGBTI, mainstream and social media.

q[TEST] Oxford St

February saw the launch of our new q[TEST] facility on Oxford St, the state’s first permanent community operated HIV testing facility. Located at 167 Oxford St, the new centre offers free rapid HIV testing and STI screening services six days a week and is operated in partnership with the Sydney Sexual Health Centre and with the support of the NSW Ministry of Health, Albion Centre, and St Vincent’s NSW State Reference Laboratory. Together with our other q[TEST] facilities in Surry Hills, Newtown and Kings Cross, as well as our other peer led rapid HIV testing sites across NSW, we have provided over 5000 rapid HIV tests over the last two years, with well over 1300 tests being conducted at the new q[TEST] Oxford St site since the launch.

Treat Early Campaign

Developed in consultation with researchers and clinicians, our Treat Early campaign was launched during Mardi Gras in February to promote the health benefits of the latest HIV medicines as well as their capacity to reduce the amount of HIV in a person’s body to an undetectable level, significantly reducing the likelihood of the virus being transmitted. The campaign was promoted across community, mainstream and social media and promotional merchandise was distributed at key community venues and events. We also presented a series of community forums throughout the state to allow people to engage with treatment experts. Hundreds of people attended the forums which were conducted in Sydney, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, Byron Bay and Albury in partnership with Positive Life NSW.

2014 NSW HIV Data

Data released this year by the NSW Ministry of Health showed that 346 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in NSW in 2014, a 5% decrease on 2013, and a 15% decrease on 2012. Gay and homosexually active men accounted for 272 diagnoses or 79% of the total number of cases, the same as in 2013 but a 2% decrease on 2012. Testing rates continued to increase both overall in NSW and among high risk populations. There were 469,584 HIV serology tests performed in NSW in 2014, a 4% increase on 2013 and an 11% increase on 2012. Data from public sexual health and HIV clinics indicated that 89% of people with HIV who attended these services were on antiretroviral therapy. Of people newly diagnosed with HIV infection, 55% had commenced treatment within six months of diagnosis.

Other Achievements

We delivered over 3600 HIV tests through our network of q[TEST] facilities.

We supported NSW HIV Testing Week with the EASY AS Tour, a series of community concerts across NSW. Audience members helped spread the testing message using #endinghiv.

We developed and produced HIV testing campaigns specifically targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Asian gay men in inner city Sydney and Western Sydney.

We continued our partnership with Australia’s #1 web series The Horizon in which the producers place messages related to safe sex, HIV testing and treatment.

We delivered 34 peer run workshops across NSW on HIV, safe sex and risk reduction.

We reached over 180,000 community members with information about HIV and risk reduction through digital platforms.

We delivered over 232,000 safe sex packs (condoms and lube) to pubs, clubs, clinics and sex on premises venues across NSW.

We conducted over 300 HIV prevention and awareness outreach sessions across NSW.

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The I'M ON giant condom installation on the Hyde Park Obelisk.

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Launched in early 2013, ENDING HIV was an award winning community education and mobilisation initiative produced by us to educate gay men – the population group in NSW most at risk from HIV – about what they can do to help end the epidemic in NSW.

In basic terms, the initiative aimed to get gay men to test for HIV (test more), start treatment if they’re HIV positive (treat early) and use condoms during casual sex (stay safe). While each message has been promoted through specific campaigns over the last two years, a framework connects the messages to form a clear, concise and inspirational call to action.

The initiative has been promoted through print, online, social media, cinema and outdoor advertising as well as via community forums and event promotions in Sydney and in key regional locations.

Following its successful implementation in NSW, the campaign was adopted by other HIV organisations throughout Australia. It was also used by the NSW Ministry of Health as the umbrella brand for the NSW HIV Strategy and to help educate doctors and other health care providers in NSW about their role in ending HIV.

This year marked the end of the first iteration of the initiative with a new version scheduled to launch on World AIDS Day in December 2018. So how effective was Ending HIV 1.0? To find out, we commissioned Initiative with a new version launched on the campaign to analyse survey data we had collected over the last two years.

Evaluation
Overall, regardless of which element of the evaluation is considered, our ENDING HIV initiative has been a success.

Overwhelmingly, key stakeholders were highly complimentary about its development, rollout and impact. Independent research shows messaging has had strong cut-through with gay men in NSW with up to 82% recall – an unprecedented high for a targeted HIV education campaign. Even more importantly, there were significant improvements in health literacy among the target audience with increases in knowledge in line with campaign messaging.

Finally, this positive shift in knowledge translated into behaviour change, especially with more testing, critically important to the task of ending the HIV epidemic.

Prompted recall of each campaign phase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campaign Phase</th>
<th>Prompted Recall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENDING HIV</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'M ON EASY AS</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREAT</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREAT</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The national Centre for Social Research in Health confirmed that these key improvements over time were statistically significant, indicating that these effects were independent of the changes in age, HIV status and sexual identity.

Campaign Impact
Over the life of the ENDING HIV initiative, five individual campaigns were produced and promoted. The five evaluation surveys clearly showed that the campaign has had strong cut-through with gay men in NSW with 82% recall of the last campaign phase. Throughout the campaign, recall ranged from 66% to 82%. In GfK’s view, it’s a very high level of recall for a campaign of this type, especially given its limited budget. Campaign executions aligned with key events also showed higher reach.

Importantly, there was significant improvement in knowledge and perceptions in line with campaign messaging, in particular to these three statements (when compared to pre-campaign figures):

- 19% increase: Early HIV treatment is better for your health and can help protect your sex partners
- 23% increase: Everything has changed, we can now dramatically reduce HIV transmission
- 36% increase: HIV transmission significantly reduce the risk of passing on HIV

The National Centre for Social Research in Health confirmed that these key improvements over time were statistically significant, indicating that these effects were independent of the changes in age, HIV status and sexual identity.

Behaviour Changes
Annual data released by the NSW Ministry of Health earlier this year showed that 76 per cent of gay men in Sydney had an HIV test in the last 12 months, the highest figure since this data started being collected in 1996. These figures also correlate with the Ministry’s 2015 first quarter HIV data which shows that HIV testing rates in NSW have increased every year over the last four years both overall and among high risk populations, and that 90% of people with HIV attending public sexual health and HIV clinics are on treatment.

However, while the bulk of gay men in NSW continue to always use condoms, research from the University of NSW shows the number of men having unprotected sex is gradually increasing, with 36% of respondents to the most recent Sydney Gay Periodic Survey reporting incidents of condomless anal intercourse with casual partners. While this shows we need to continually engage gay men around condom use with innovative messaging, it also supports the case for making PrEP widely available as soon as possible, as we know that condomless anal intercourse remains the main transmission route for HIV among gay men.

Website & Social Media Analysis
Over the last two years, the Ending HIV website and social media feeds have become key platforms for engaging gay men with information about HIV prevention and living with HIV.

- 240,000 website visits
- 400,000 page views
- 14,000 Facebook fans
HERE FOR HIV SUPPORT

Over 12,000 people in NSW live with HIV. We’re here to help people with HIV take control of their health, as well as the health of their partners, by providing up to date information as well as a range of programs and services including:

- Workshops and support groups
- One on one peer support
- Counselling
- Care coordination
- Home based care
- HIV health retreats
- Meal services
- Vitamin service

Helping People Newly Diagnosed With HIV

Despite the success of contemporary HIV treatments, dealing with the consequences of an HIV diagnosis can range from unsettling to traumatic. One of our key services for people newly diagnosed with HIV is our Genesis program, a series of weekend workshops delivered throughout the year for gay men who have been diagnosed with HIV within the last two years. It’s a peer-based workshop which means it’s run by other gay men with HIV who can relate to the experience of a new diagnosis. Genesis aims to provide participants with practical help and knowledge to manage their HIV diagnosis, gain confidence, build resilience and make informed decisions around the various issues that may confront them after a HIV diagnosis. Genesis also provides participants with an opportunity to meet other gays in the same situation in a safe, confidential and supportive environment. Throughout the year we delivered five Genesis workshops in partnership with Positive Life NSW which were attended by over 50 participants.

Our counsellors provided over 530 occasions of service to people with HIV. Over 120 of these involved people who were diagnosed with HIV in the last two years.

Helping People With HIV Live At Home

There’s no place like home, but people who are seriously affected by HIV can have difficulty with everyday domestic tasks, making living at home a problem. Through our Community Support Network (CSN), our team of trained volunteers provide practical assistance to help people with HIV live as independently as possible in their own homes. Services include basic cleaning, grocery shopping, doing the laundry, meal preparation, light gardening, and transport to and from medical appointments. This year over 70 volunteers provided over 1100 occasions of care to over 110 clients, and delivered close to 600 transport services.

Helping People With Complex Needs

Sometimes people with HIV experience other health, personal or social issues which can impact on their capacity to look after themselves and others. These needs may include mental health issues, alcohol and/or drug use, housing stress, family/domicile violence, or financial/legal matters. Through our Care Coordination Service, clients with multiple and/or complex needs get teamed up with allied health professionals who can help them access relevant healthcare and support services, as well as increase their ability to manage their care and treatment. Our care coordinators work with clients over three months to develop a care plan and provide support to help clients achieve their goals and meet their needs. This year we provided over 1,725 occasions of care coordination for clients with HIV.

We helped launch the Positive Leadership Development Institute of Australia in partnership with 22 member organisations.

We provided 100 meal based social services for people with HIV in the ACON Café in Surry Hills in Sydney.

In partnership with The Institute of Many we delivered 6 social events for people with HIV.

We provided one-on-one peer support for over 55 people with HIV. Peer support is for those who want to speak to someone with experience of living with HIV.

Through our Vitamin Service we provided over 30 clients with low cost access to high quality vitamins and nutritional supplements.

We produced a range of retreats for people with HIV: the Ngalawi Djardi Health Retreat for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the Northern Rivers Retreat for Gay Men with HIV for gay men living in regional and rural NSW, and Treatments By The Sea, a one day workshop on the Far North Coast about HIV medicines and treatments. These events provided key health promotion information and support for over 60 participants.

Participants in a photographic initiative for our Young Gay Men’s Project John (left) and Sox (credit: George Popov).
**HERE FOR SEXUAL HEALTH**

We’re here to help LGBTI people take control of their sexual health by providing information and a range of support services including:

- Screening for sexually transmissible infections (STIs) through our a[TEST] facilities
- Sex, health and relationship workshops
- Free condoms and safe sex resources
- Dedicated services for young gay men, sexually adventurous men, lesbians and same sex attracted women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Asian gay men

**Women**

CLAUDE is our primary vehicle for promoting sexual health information to lesbians and same sex attracted women, particularly sexually adventurous women whose practices put them at higher risk of all STIs and blood borne viruses. This year we attended 35 community events and formed partnerships with a wide range of organisations such as Max Black, Bikes on Bikes and the Femme Guild to promote our sex-positive and safe sex messages

We also continued to develop the CLAUDE website (iloveclaude.com) which showcases sex-positive art by women in our community and provides safe sex information and resources to women all over NSW.

**Sexually Adventurous Men**

Sexually adventurous men (SAM) are a high risk group for STIs such as syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhoea as well as HIV. We target this population through our HowHard initiative which includes culturally appropriate digital communications and social events. The HowHard website covers relevant health topics including HIV risk reduction strategies as well as where to test for HIV and STIs, harm reduction strategies for men who use drugs, information for HIV positive men and links to additional resources. A Facebook page complements the website with an active online community engaged in topics like treatment, testing, and PEP/PREP which are packaged appropriately for the SAM audience. This year we also engaged with SAM through the Inked Kenny photography project which sourced models for images that we promote on the HowHard website.

**Young Gay Men**

We work with young gay men under 26 years of age to help them better understand how they can reduce the risk of contracting HIV and other STIs. We engage them through peer facilitated workshops, digital communications and social events. This year, we also delivered an innovative community engagement and HIV health promotion project through our Tell Your Story initiative.

Through workshops at the Powerhouse Museum’s Thinkspace, participants created a series of digital stories about the impact of HIV on the lives of themselves and their friends. The project involved young gay men at every stage of its design, development and implementation and furthered our understanding how digital storytelling methods can be used for HIV health promotion.

**OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

We delivered 29 peer run workshops for gay men across NSW on sexual health, dating and relationships. These workshops included Getting Together, Arse Class, Better Sex and Looking for Mr Right.

We delivered 10 peer run workshops for young gay men in Sydney on sexual health, dating and relationships. These workshops included Start Making Sense, Adult Themes, Getting It Online and Cruising 101.

Through our HowHard initiative we distributed over 1650 play packs to sexually adventurous men. Play packs contain condoms, lube, gloves, cock rings and sexual health information.

We engaged with LGBTI Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by producing the First Australians float in the 2014 Mardi Gras parade. We also helped produce the Gadigal Information Service’s Mardi Gras season Klub Koori and the Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative’s Mardi Gras season show.

We delivered 10 peer run workshops for young gay men in Sydney on sexual health, dating and relationships. These workshops included Getting Together, Arse Class, Better Sex and Looking for Mr Right.

We conducted 11 monthly education workshops for Asian gay men as well as a community forum for Asian gay men during Mardi Gras focusing on culture, sexuality and HIV.

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Sexually adventurous men (SAM) are a high risk group for STIs such as syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhoea as well as HIV. We target this population through our HowHard initiative which includes culturally appropriate digital communications and social events. The HowHard website covers relevant health topics including HIV risk reduction strategies as well as where to test for HIV and STIs, harm reduction strategies for men who use drugs, information for HIV positive men and links to additional resources. A Facebook page complements the website with an active online community engaged in topics like treatment, testing, and PEP/PREP which are packaged appropriately for the SAM audience. This year we also engaged with SAM through the Inked Kenny photography project which sourced models for images that we promote on the HowHard website.

**Young Gay Men**

We work with young gay men under 26 years of age to help them better understand how they can reduce the risk of contracting HIV and other STIs. We engage them through peer facilitated workshops, digital communications and social events. This year, we also delivered an innovative community engagement and HIV health promotion project through our Tell Your Story initiative.

Through workshops at the Powerhouse Museum’s Thinkspace, participants created a series of digital stories about the impact of HIV on the lives of themselves and their friends. The project involved young gay men at every stage of its design, development and implementation and furthered our understanding how digital storytelling methods can be used for HIV health promotion.
HERE FOR LGBTI HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH
While many LGBTI people live happy, healthy and productive lives, there are a range of preventable mental health issues – such as anxiety, depression and suicidality – which affect a disproportionate number of people in the LGBTI community compared to the general population. We’re here to help LGBTI people and people with HIV take control of their mental health by providing information, a range of counselling services and a care coordination program for people with complex needs.

Service Realignment
This year we focussed on reprioritizing our mental health services to better respond to the needs of clients presenting to our services. Over the last few years, the demand for our counselling services has reduced while the demand for our care coordination services has increased. Care coordination involves allied health professionals helping clients with multiple and/or complex needs to access relevant healthcare services and to increase their ability to manage their care and treatment. We have now doubled our capacity to work with these clients, while our counselling services now focus primarily on supporting people experiencing issues related to HIV.

Working With Mental Health Professionals
This year we worked with the Mental Health Professional’s Network to re-establish the association’s LGBTI network, which aims to increase awareness and understanding among mental health professionals of the specific experiences of LGBTI people and communities.

AGEING
We’re here to offer support, companionship and advice for older members of the LGBTI community by providing health information and a range of programs and services.

Community Visitor Scheme
While loneliness and isolation can affect anyone’s mental health, the impact can be more severe for older people. This year we launched a Community Visitor Scheme which helps reduce the social isolation that can be experienced by older LGBTI people by providing the company and friendship of volunteer visitors. Our trained volunteers make regular one on one home visits where they chat over a cuppa, listen to music, watch a movie or participate in a hobby, game or other activity. The service operates in Sydney as well as the Hunter, Nepean, Illawarra and Central Coast regions.

National Treasures
Like older people in the general population, older LGBTI people often report feeling invisible or overlooked which can contribute to social isolation and a lack of self esteem. This year we teamed up with Sydney photographer Richard Hedger to create National Treasures, an exhibition of intimate portraits of LGBTI elders. “My intention is to challenge and break down stereotypical preconceptions of the LGBTI community,” Richard says. In a culture typically associated with representations of youth, the exhibition celebrated the lives of elderly people in our community. “This project gave me the opportunity to meet and intimately portray a group of wonderful people who have lived rich and interesting lives and also happen to be ‘gay’.” The subjects have diverse backgrounds – activist, minister, actor, nurse, lecturer, artist – but share a history of witnessing, enduring, and contributing to greater social change.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Through our HIV Counselling Service, we provided over 530 occasions of service to people with, at risk of, affected by or testing for HIV.

Our Substance Support Counselling Service helped over 60 LGBTI people and people with HIV seeking support in relation to their use of alcohol and other drugs.

We produced 12 healthy ageing factsheets for our LOVE Project website (Living Older Visibly and Engaged).

We delivered nine community development and health promotion events for older LGBTI people attended by 700 people across NSW.
HERE FOR LGBTI HEALTH

ALCOHOL & DRUGS
We’re here to help to reduce the harms associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs by providing a range of resources and support services. We work with our clients in a supportive and non-judgmental way, whether their interest is to be more informed about drug use, be able to use in a safer manner or to get support to reduce or stop use. We also work with service providers to help them better support the needs of LGBTI people and people with HIV.

Crystal Meth
Methamphetamine use is a significant health problem in our community, with meth use among gay men and lesbians up to five and three times respectively higher than the general population. This year we participated in a range of initiatives to address this issue including the development of stimulating campaigns, an online resource funded by the City of Sydney, to help LGBTI people better understand how meth can affect their physical and mental health, as well as how to access LGBTI friendly support services. We also partnered with St Vincent’s Hospital to offer free health check-ups for people who use stimulants such as methamphetamine, cocaine and ecstasy. And we hosted a community forum to engage with our community about meth use and to develop a community response.

Women & Smoking
Lesbian, bisexual and queer (LGBTQ) women have some of the highest smoking rates in our community. This year we received a grant from the Cancer Institute NSW to address the significant research gap around LGBTQ women’s smoking and tobacco reduction patterns and behaviours. In collaboration with the University of Sydney, we conducted crucial research on LGBTQ women’s smoking, through an Australia-wide online survey, as well as in depth focus groups in Sydney and the Northern Rivers region. Findings from this research will help inform Australia’s first ever LGBTQ women targeted tobacco intervention campaign. The research findings and the campaign will be launched early 2016.

COMMUNITY SAFETY
We’re here to help LGBTI people who have experienced homophobic violence, transphobic violence, or domestic and family violence by providing information and a range of programs and support services.

DFV Strategy
Violence in the home, whether between partners or family members, is as much an issue for LGBTQ people as it is in the general community. The levels and types of violence in same sex relationships is similar to those experienced among heterosexuals, and LGBTQ people are often at greater risk than heterosexual people from abuse, harassment and violence from family members such as parents, siblings and children. This year we developed a comprehensive strategy to guide our work in relation to domestic and family violence (DFV). The plan aims to ensure that our work over the next three years is evidence based, outcome focussed, and coordinated with our government and community partners. It also details how we will use our strengths in health promotion and social marketing to reduce DFV, increase awareness and reporting, and ensure that LGBTI people experiencing violence have access to appropriate services and support. The strategy was recently launched by NSW Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pru Goward.

Fair Play
Following its successful launch during Mardi Gras 2014, this year we collaborated again with Mardi Gras and the Inner City Legal Service to implement the Fair Play initiative to help partypgoers understand their legal rights at community events during the Mardi Gras festival. Fair Play volunteers were on hand at Harbour Party and the Mardi Gras Party to provide information on rights and legal assistance, offer emotional support and monitor police operations.

Other Achievements

We provided 15 community events with the services of the ACON Rovers. Rovers are teams of volunteers who attend events to help partygoers experiencing problems due to alcohol and drug use. ACON Rovers provided over 500 hours of service, interacting with more than 1,750 partypgoers and assisting more than 165 people.

We advocated for justice for Sydney’s gay hate homicides during the late 1980s and early 1990s, compiling a dossier consisting of profiles of men who were believed to be murdered on the basis of their sexuality during this period. This was done in partnership with other community organisations and community historians.

We continued to operate our Safe Place program, which involves over 350 participating venues, demonstrating support for the LGBTI community through colourful Safe Place signage.

We funded 10 community initiatives and supported a range of other activities across NSW that promoted the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia during May.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Through our Needle and Syringes Program we supplied over 946,000 units of sterile injection equipment to injecting drug users in Sydney as well as the Hunter and Northern Rivers regions.

We delivered 4 Snakes and Ladders AOD workforce development workshops to improve service provider knowledge and skills around LGBTI mental health and drug use.

We funded 10 community initiatives and supported a range of other activities across NSW that promoted the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia during May.
**INCLUSION**

We’re here to help make the places where our community members live, work, study and play more inclusive of LGBTI people and people with HIV. Through our support services, training programs and strategic partnerships, we work with a range of organisations and agencies to help ensure that LGBTI people and people with HIV feel included and supported.

**Workplace Inclusion**

Established in 2009, our Pride in Diversity initiative is Australia’s first and only workplace program designed specifically to assist Australian employers with the inclusion of LGBTI employees. As a member-based program, Pride in Diversity works closely with HR, diversity professionals and LGBTI workplace networks in all aspects of LGBTI inclusion within all sectors of the Australian workforce. This year we welcomed our 100th member, increasing our membership by almost 40% on the previous year. We also now have over 9000 employees participating in the employee survey that forms part of our Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI), our annual benchmarking tool for LGBTI workplace inclusion. At our annual AWEI awards luncheon, PwC was named Australia’s Employer of the Year for 2015, the first time an employer has picked up the coveted title twice.

**Training & Consulting**

This year we launched ACON Training and Consulting, a new service aimed at helping organisations create and deliver more inclusive workplaces and services. Based on our experience of delivering LGBTI inclusivity training to the aged care sector and of operating our Pride In Diversity program, we identified an opportunity to broaden the scope of these initiatives and offer national training and consulting services to organisations of any size spanning government, healthcare and service providers, large employers, small businesses, and sporting, cultural and community groups. Over the year we developed and delivered a suite of training packages as well as assisted organisations to prepare for the new national LGBTI inclusion accreditation, the Rainbow Tick. We also participated in a number of workshops, spoke at various national conferences, and shared our expertise with both mainstream and LGBTI health promotion services.

**OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

- We produced and distributed the Australian National LGBTI Recruitment Guide to members and universities across Australia.
- We produced the annual 2-day Pride in Practice conference, Australia’s only dedicated LGBTI workplace inclusion conference.
- We continued to deliver training for people working in the aged care sector as part of the Federal Government funded LGBTI Aged Care Training Silver Rainbow Project.
- In a world first, and in partnership with Organisation Intersex International Australia, we published the Employers Guide to Intersex Inclusion.
We’re here to work with legislators, policy makers, researchers and service providers to help them understand and address the needs of LGBTI people and people with HIV.

PrEP
This year we advocated strongly around pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), an issue for which there is a great deal of enthusiasm in our communities and support from our partners. PrEP is a daily pill that HIV negative people can take to prevent HIV infection. To realise the impact of PrEP in contributing to ending HIV, there are many policy hurdles to overcome. We have engaged with regulators, bureaucrats, politicians and the manufacturer, calling for them to ensure timely and affordable availability of PrEP to anyone in our communities who would benefit. We have supported PRELUDE, a PrEP demonstration project with 300 participants. We continue to explore alternative access schemes that can bring PrEP to scale and achieve a massive impact on rates of new HIV infection. We have also looked to the future, engaging in the review of the regulation of medicines and medical devices in Australia so that future technologies are approved in a more timely way.

Position Statements
At the AIDS 2014 conference in Melbourne in July we released six position statements on a range of issues that underpin our strategy for ending HIV transmission in NSW by 2020. The six topics covered were undetectable viral load and transmission, safe sex, HIV self-testing, testing options, treating HIV early, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). These position statements were distributed to a range of international conference delegates as well as our local HIV partners including government, researchers, clinicians and community organisations.

NSW Election
In partnership with the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and Positive Life NSW, we devised and implemented a successful advocacy strategy for this year’s NSW state election. Our advocacy resulted in commitments to removing the co-payment for HIV medications, the development of an LGBTI health and wellbeing strategy, a home based dry-blood spot testing service and a commitment to the ongoing decriminalisation of sex work in NSW. The newly re-elected Government also committed to continue the directions of the NSW HIV Strategy and to protect HIV funding.

Research
Through our engagement with research and academic partners, we have been central to efforts in Australia to better understand how to end HIV transmission, care for those with HIV and support LGBTI health. We represent our communities on research teams and advisory committees and our research ethics review committee ensures that the research we engage in and support is of value and does not harm our communities.

This year we presented at many research forums on the results of our work, including at the 2014 International AIDS conference in Melbourne. Many of the innovations that are emerging in HIV prevention, such as home testing and PrEP, have been made available to our communities through research studies. We will continue to work with our research partners to advocate for increased access to these emerging technologies so that we can continue to improve the health of our communities.

We provided advice to 18 HIV or LGBTI related research projects, and provided promotional and/or recruitment assistance to a further 13 research projects. In addition, we represented ACON and our communities on a range of research advisory committees. At present we sit on 12 committees.

We supported laws that allow for historical homosexual offences in NSW to be extinguished.

We established the NSW PrEP Advocacy Working Group, bringing together community and clinicians to support PrEP implementation.

We coordinated the 2015 Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey, which gathers information about gay men’s sexual practice, drug use and healthcare.

We made submissions to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Inquiry into Methamphetamine and the Prime Minister’s National Ice Taskforce.

We made submissions to the Australian Human Rights Commission’s consultation on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Intersex Rights.

We made a submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee inquiry into domestic violence in Australia.

We made a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration’s proposed performance requirements for tests to detect the presence of HIV.

We signed onto the International LGBTI Association statement to the UN Human Rights Council on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

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We supported laws that allow for historical homosexual offences in NSW to be extinguished.
**We’re here to bring our community together by providing opportunities for people to get involved, connect, contribute and celebrate.**

Volunteers
We have hundreds of volunteers across NSW who play a crucial role in helping us run programs and services that improve the health and wellbeing of our community. Our volunteers work in many roles across the organisation including on our board, delivering safe sex education programs, packing safe sex packs, providing care and support services, helping us run community events and raising much needed funds. ACON has been built on the commitment and actions of volunteers and we cannot overstate the important role they play in helping us achieve our goals. Every year we thank them with a special event in Sydney during National Volunteers Week in May. This year’s event was attended by over 150 volunteers and supporters.

**Honour Awards**
The Honour Awards is an annual event produced by us which recognises outstanding achievements within or contributions to NSW’s LGBTI community. In addition to celebrating community service, the awards are a gala fundraising event for ACON and LGBTI charity Aurora. This year nine people were presented with their awards at a ceremony in the Ivy Ballroom in Sydney attended by over 350 people. Cheryl ‘Webby’ Webster received the Community Hero Award while the former staff and patients of Ward 17 South at St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney were honoured with the ACON President’s Award. $350,000 was raised for community initiatives supported by ACON and Aurora.

**World AIDS Day**
World AIDS Day (Dec 1) provides us with a valuable opportunity to honour people who have died from an AIDS related illness, educate people about how we can end HIV transmission in NSW by 2020 and raise money for programs and services that are vital to ending HIV. This year our World AIDS Day related activities included our statewide Ending HIV Red Ribbon Appeal, theatre and venue collections, and a series of special benefit events and memorial ceremonies throughout NSW. New initiatives included: Paint The Park Red, a special event organised by our Pride In Diversity corporate partners in the Darling Park precinct in Sydney; RED HOTDOWNS UNDER, a model search celebrating red headed men; the Sydney premieres of Transmission, a documentary about 30 years of HIV; and a stakeholder engagement dinner in the President’s Dining Room at NSW Parliament House. We thank the Legislative Council President The Hon Don Harwin MLC for generously donating the use of his dining room.

**Mardi Gras**
The annual Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival provides us with a unique opportunity to promote key health messages and engage with community members through a range of activities. At this year’s Fair Day we focussed on promoting our Treat Early campaign and connected with the sands of people through our stalls as well asoving promotional teams. Our entry in the parade allowed us to promote ACON and our work to the hundreds of thousands of people who watch the event on the street and on TV. This year our float focused on commemorating our 30 year anniversary which was interpreted with a pearl theme, pearls being the gemstone for a 30 year anniversary. 30 dancers and over 160 marchers donned pearl necklaces and paraded beneath giant inflated white pears emblazoned with key health messages.

**Holding The Man**
Holding The Man, the much loved memoir of former ACON health promotion officer Timothy Conigrave, was this year made into a film. On the basis of the ACON connection, we teamed up with the producers and distributor of the film to become an official community partner of the production to honour Tim’s work as a community health advocate and to help promote the film’s message of acceptance and inclusion of LGBTI people and people with HIV. In addition to helping promote the film, we hosted special gala fundraising screenings in Sydney and Byron Bay prior to the film’s general release in August 2015. These screenings were attended by over 1000 people and raised over $20,000 for our HIV prevention and support services. We thank producer Kylie du Fresne and executive producer Cameron Huang for supporting ACON in this way.

**Other Achievements**
- We provided health promotion services at a range of regional festivals including the Tamworth Country Music Festival, the Rainbow Festival in Newcastle, Tropical Fruits in Lismore and CoastOut in Coffs Harbour.
- We provided office accommodation, meeting spaces and small grants for a range of health, sporting and cultural organisations which work in our community.
- We changed our bingo fundraiser Bingay to a monthly format with special themes for each event. Over 700 people attended throughout the year.
- We produced a memorial event in partnership with Positive Life NSW to mark the International Candlelight Memorial Day in May. Over 80 people attended the event.

**Watermark**
In addition to our core services, ACON is also at the centre of community campaigns and projects that aim to raise awareness and reduce stigma associated with HIV and other sexually transmissible infections (STI). We have an active engagement with cultural organisations which work in our community.

We produced a range of events in Western Sydney with a health promotion and community development focus, including the annual Parramatta Pride Picnic, a queer film festival in Parramatta and activities for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. These events attracted over 1000 attendees.

We delivered two community engagement events for the 2015 Mardi Gras youth festival, the ProCenY dance and performance party, and a history walk around Darlinghurst. 170 young men attended these events.

We provided a range of events in the Ivy Ballroom in Sydney attended by over 350 people. Cheryl ‘Webby’ Webster received the Community Hero Award while the former staff and patients of Ward 17 South at St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney were honoured with the ACON President’s Award. $350,000 was raised for community initiatives supported by ACON and Aurora.

**Here for Community Engagement**
Here for Organisational Development

We’re here to build ACON’s operational capacity, effectiveness and profile. We do this through marketing and communications, planning, evaluation and knowledge management, fundraising, and our finance, human resources and information technology services.

Brand Refresh
Our corporate communication assets – our logo, visual identity and website – are an integral part of engaging people with our work, and this year we hit the refresh button in order to paint a much more contemporary picture of what we’re here for. With a new tagline of ‘Here For Health’, the makeover is designed to highlight ACON’s leading role in relation to HIV prevention, HIV support and LGBTI health in NSW. The brand refresh also includes a colourful new logo that combines a cross (representing ‘here’) and a plus (representing ‘health’). The new website reflects current trends in digital communication with streamlined content, simple navigation and new social media functionality, allowing users to engage more easily with ACON and the communities we serve. Users can also look forward to improved synergy with ACON’s other websites such as ENDING HIV and Pride In Diversity. In addition to increasing community engagement, we believe our new approach will also enable us to compete more effectively in the growing field of LGBTI training and consulting, which involves helping organisations better support their LGBTI employees, clients and members.

Client and Community Relationship Management
Digital technologies have changed the way that organisations communicate and engage with their constituents. This year we began a process of updating the systems and practices we use to manage our relationships with our clients and community members. In May we began using Nation Builder, an online community organising platform that is proving very successful in helping us manage our events as well as our communications with volunteers, supporters, donors and stakeholders. We are also in the final stages of developing a new client database using Penelope, case management software that has been developed specifically for health and social service providers. The new system will allow us to engage much more efficiently and effectively with our clients through improved data management and communication functionality.

Campaigns Database
To mark our 30th anniversary, we felt it would be useful for our staff and community partners to have online access to our extensive archive of HIV related educational resources. This year we began the development of the ACON Campaigns Database which will feature all of ACON’s HIV and LGBTI health social marketing campaigns, including campaigns developed in partnership with government, other sector organisations, and community groups, since ACON was established in 1985. The database is a digital information and education resource dedicated to promoting 30 years of health promotion work targeting gay men and broader LGBTI communities in NSW and Australia. In addition to its important historical value, we hope the new database will help inform and inspire contemporary practitioners in the HIV and LGBTI health sectors.

Other Achievements
We received our triennial accreditation from the Quality Improvement Council. We exceeded 6 of the 18 standards including: governance, knowledge management; ensuring cultural safety and appropriateness in service delivery; incorporation and contribution to good practice; community and professional capacity building; and risk assessment and management.

Our marketing and public relations activities generated over $25 million of Advertising Value Equivalency, which is calculated using the advertising and readership value of editorial generated throughout the year. More than 450 stories were published in community media and over 400 stories were published in mainstream media.

We recorded our best results ever in our staff satisfaction survey. 81% reported positive engagement with the organisation while 88% reported job satisfaction. Staff responses were above average across all scores when benchmarked against sector and industry averages.

We managed ACON’s suite of digital communication platforms including 14 websites (340,000 visitors), 13 Facebook pages (92,000 likes), 5 Twitter feeds (over 6000 followers) and 6 photo/video channels (190,000 views).

Planning, monitoring and evaluation practices remained essential areas of work. ACON’s performance framework includes the evaluation of projects and programs at output, quality and impact levels to allow constant improvement of service delivery and maximum effectiveness of resource allocation.

We developed and produced the 20th Big Days In, ACON’s annual two-day staff learning and development seminar.

We implemented a new online performance management system based on near real time feedback and both general and job specific competencies to enhance staff experience of the performance feedback and appraisal cycle.

To mark our 30th anniversary, we felt it would be useful for our staff and community partners to have online access to our extensive archive of HIV related educational resources. This year we began the development of the ACON Campaigns Database which will feature all of ACON’s HIV and LGBTI health social marketing campaigns, including campaigns developed in partnership with government, other sector organisations, and community groups, since ACON was established in 1985. The database is a digital information and education resource dedicated to promoting 30 years of health promotion work targeting gay men and broader LGBTI communities in NSW and Australia. In addition to its important historical value, we hope the new database will help inform and inspire contemporary practitioners in the HIV and LGBTI health sectors.
This year we sadly farewelled a dear colleague and friend, Alan Brotherton.

Alan was one of Australia’s leading HIV, LGBTI health and social justice advocates and a much valued ACON staff member.

Through his dedicated service over more than 30 years, Alan made a significant contribution to improving the lives of LGBTI people and people affected by HIV here in Australia and throughout the world.

In response to the onset of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s, Alan was instrumental in helping establish organisations that gave voice to people affected by HIV, including People Living With HIV/AIDS NSW and Australia’s National Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS. He then went on to work in leadership roles at ACON, the Victorian AIDS Council, the South Australian AIDS Council, the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and the NSW Ministry of Health.

Alan also worked overseas for several years in senior positions for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and the International AIDS Society before returning to ACON several years ago as Director of Policy, Strategy and Research.

His contribution to the health and wellbeing of people affected by HIV and LGBTI people – in particular lesbians and same sex attracted women – has been immeasurable. We have all benefitted from Alan’s uncompromising principles and integrity, his passion, his fierce intelligence and intellect, his wonderful sense of humour and his unique and illuminating view of the world.

Alan was a truly remarkable person and he will be greatly missed by us all here at ACON, as well as more broadly across the HIV and health sectors in NSW, Australia and internationally.
The majority of our income was derived from a core grant from NSW Health of approximately $9.9 million. Other grants accounted for a further $1.67 million. This year we also successfully expanded our income portfolio with the inclusion of professional services fees and merchandise sales as well as maintaining our traditional income generating areas such as events and fundraising, tenancy rentals, facilities hire, investments, Pride in Diversity, workplace inclusion initiatives and securing new grants.

Our core grant from NSW Health was spent on programs and services which directly reduce HIV transmission and which provide care and support for people with HIV. As a community-based organisation, we’re mindful that we need to be accountable for every dollar we spend. Each year, we spend over $10 million, or about 80% of our operating budget, on directly providing programs and services for our clients and communities. This proportion is consistent with similar-sized organisations within the NGO sector.

These financial statements are the consolidated financial statements of the consolidated entity consisting of ACON Health Limited and its subsidiary, AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated. The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency.

ACON Health Limited is a public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

Its registered office and principal place of business is:

12-14 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia

A description of the nature of the consolidated entity’s operations and its principal activities is included in the directors’ report on pages 2 to 9 which is not part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 9 September 2015. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

Auditor
Grant Thornton

DIRECTORS REPORT

The directors present their report on the consolidated entity (referred to hereafter as the group) consisting of ACON Health Limited and its controlled entity, the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated, for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Directors

The following persons were directors of ACON Health Limited during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report:
Andrew Purchas, Joshua Hatten, Benjamin Bavinton, Leigh O’Dwyer Craig Gear, Mark Orr Danny O’Donnell, Nicola Parkhill, Helen Conway, Richard Lee, Jason Bradshaw, Robert Stirling, Julie Mooney-Somers, Senthorun Raj, John de Witt, Steven Berveling.

The following persons were directors from the beginning of the financial year until the date of their resignation:
Jason Bradshaw – resigned 10 September 2015
Helen Conway – resigned 29 May 2015

The following persons were appointed as directors on the dates stated and continue in office at the date of this report:
Steven Berveling – appointed as director under Clause 11.4 of the Constitution, on 12 October 2014

ACON DIRECTORS

Mark Orr, President, BSc, (Hons), MPh, Grad Dip ACG, Grad Dip Spec Ed, Grad Cert App-Fin and Inv, GAICD, AGIA
Mark is a senior manager in a mental health not-for-profit organisation. He is a registered psychologist and has a long history of working with people with disabilities in the government and community sectors. Mark is a past director and Co-chair of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Ltd.

Andrew Purchas, Vice President, BSc, LLB
Andrew has over 15 years of experience as a senior executive in legal and financial services as a senior associate with Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Chief Security Officer for Westpac Banking Corporation. He is currently Project Director with National Information Communication Technology Australia.

Joshua Hatten, Treasurer (Appointed Treasurer 12 November 2013), BSc(Soc.Sci), LLB (Hons), MSc, GAICD
Josh is currently serving as a senior policy advisor in the NSW Government overseeing the corporate services portfolio of one of the State’s biggest Departments. He is a Director of Domain Credit Union and serves on the Audit Committee. He specialises in law, communications, governance and politics.

Steven Berveling, SJD, BSc, LLB
Steven is a barrister specialising in town planning and environmental law. He has been HIV+ since May 1996, and lives life to the full. He is an avid competitive cyclist, and President of the Sydney Cycling Club. He recently organised the first HIV+ team of racers to compete in the Race Across America.

Steven speaks regularly to a range of groups about living with HIV.

Nicolas Parkhill, CEO, BSc, JP
Nicolas Parkhill has been the CEO of ACON for six years. He has over 20 years’ experience in the public and community health sectors. Prior to this role Nicolas headed up both the health promotion and operational divisions of ACON and worked in a variety of senior management and policy development roles for NSW Health and the NSW Cabinet Office, ming with a specific focus on alcohol and other drugs. He also has a background in social marketing campaign management and public relations.

Julie Mooney-Somers, BSc, GradCertEditor, PhD
Julie is a Senior Lecturer in the centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine at the University of Sydney, and Director of the Qualitative Health Research postgraduate coursework program. Her research focuses on sexual health, usually in marginalised communities. Julie has been the joint coordinator of the Sydney Women and Sexual Health (SWASH) survey since 2004.

John de Witt, MSc, PhD
John de Witt is professor and director of the Centre for Social Research in Health at the University of New South Wales, and has been doing behavioural and social research on HIV, STI and sexual health for over 25 years. His research aims to uncover the factors that shape our behaviours and he is passionate about the translation of research findings into new policies, programs and services.

Senthorun Raj, BSc, (Hons), LLB (Hons)
Senthorun is an advocate and researcher with a passion for human rights, popular culture, and politics. Currently a Churchill Fellow he is completing his PhD at the Sydney Law School. Sent is also a writer for The Guardian and The Times. He has published numerous articles on topics relating to refugees, sexuality, social justice, law reform, and public policy. He has previously worked as the Senior Policy Advisor for the NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.

Richard Lee, BCom, Marketing
Richard is the director of Brandview, a brand strategy and marketing consultancy that has shaped the positioning and stories of well-known brands in Australia and around the world. Core skills are research & analytics, brand positioning strategy, brand story frameworks, marketing and communication strategy, cultural change strategy and creative idea generation.

Ben Bavinton, BSc, MPH
Ben Bavinton currently works at the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales on the Opposites Attrakt Study, a cohort study of HIV treatment and its effect on HIV transmission in gay male serodiscordant relationships. Both in Australia and internationally, he has worked in HIV prevention for over ten years in the areas of community education, policy, capacity development, and research.
Daryl O'Donnell, BA, GradCertPublicSectMgmt, MAISF
Daryl has over 20 years’ experience working in HIV community, research and public sector roles. During the 1990s he worked with AIDS Councils in Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria and was later the National President of the Australia Federation of AIDS Organisations. From 1999 to 2013, he worked for the NSW Government where he was responsible for statewide HIV policy and program development. He has also led on many national HIV policy dialogues and programs initiatives. Daryl is now the Executive Director of the NSW Mental Health Commission.

Robert Stirling, MA
Robert Stirling is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA), the peak body for the non-government alcohol and other drugs sector in NSW. He is responsible for areas such as sector reform and development, policy and planning, capacity building, and research. In addition, he is registered Justice of Peace in NSW.

Craig Geor, B.Nurs, MNurs (Critical Care) (Retired as Director 8 July 2015)
Craig has extensive experience in health service management and health consulting. He is now the principal director of a health consulting firm focusing on primary care, NGOs, mental health, alcohol and Aboriginal health. Flowing from his background in nursing he is passionate about connecting and improving the health system for all Australians.

HeLEN ovenby (Retired as Staff Appointed Director 29 May 2015), MBA
Helen was the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at ACON, and the staff appointed Officer on the Board. Helen’s focus in evaluation is ensuring that organisations operate as effectively and efficiently as possible. She has experience across a range of industries, including the arts, tourism, e-commerce and agriculture, and recently obtained her MBA from Macquarie University.

Jason Brodhurst, Treasurer (Retired 10 September 2015), BA, Dip Bus(Frontline Mgt), Cert IV Proj Mgt, AMM
Jason has over 20 years’ experience in the banking, finance, retail, telecommunications, media and government sectors and currently is Head of Customer Experience with a major Australian retailer. Jason has a solid track record of community involvement ranging from mentoring university students through to volunteering with ACON and other not-for-profit organisations.

Leigh O’Dwyer, B.Bus(Dip Comm)
Leigh works in the construction industry providing corporate communication services including media relations management. In previous roles across the mining and infrastructure sectors, Leigh has led social impact assessments and community consultation programs in urban, regional and remote areas. She has a background in education and training and has previously volunteered on the Tweed/Grafton management committee.

Meetings of directors
The number of meetings of the company’s board of directors during the year, and the number of meetings attended by each director were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board member</th>
<th>Meetings Held</th>
<th>Meetings Attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Purchas</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Bosinton</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Geor</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daryl O’Donnell</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Conway</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Brodhurst</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Moore-Somers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Wit</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Hatten</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leigh O’Dwyer</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Orr</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicola Parkin</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lee</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Stirling</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senthuran Raj</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Beveiling</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
Nicola Parkin was on approved Leave of Absence for the September and October board meetings.
Karen Price was Acting CEO (from 18 August 2014 to 13 October 2014) for the September and October board meetings.

Ending HIV transmission among gay men and other homosexually active men by:

Principal Activities And Objectives

Promoting the health throughout life of the LGBTI people and people with HIV by:

Promoting HIV Care and Support services including: Counselling, Enhanced Primary Care Community Support Network and Newly Diagnosed Support.

Reviewing our current care and support programs to ensure they continue to meet the needs of people with HIV.

Increasing our focus on immediate post diagnosis care and support to prevent infection rates and improve the health outcomes for newly diagnosed.

Enhancing our intake and case management processes to ensure person centred, tailored responses.

Ensuring our treatments advice and adherence support capacity to educate people with HIV about the benefits of earlier and increased treatment uptake.

Developing programs to address the health areas that have the most negative health impact on people living with HIV, e.g Enhanced Primary Care.

Addressing substance use co-morbidities through counselling from the substance use service, Needle Syringe Programs, harm minimization support and referrals to drug and alcohol treatment services.

Addressing the health disparities experienced by the LGBTI community and to reduce the impacts of negative health determinants including:

• Alcohol and Other Drugs
• Mental Health and Wellbeing
• Smoking
• Homophobic and Transphobic Violence
• Healthy Ageing and Older People
• Domestic and Family Violence

Continuing to strengthen organisational capacity and sustainability by:

Ensuring our infrastructure and systems enable staff to effectively deliver programs and services to rural and remote NSW.

Investigating and implementing new partnerships, for service models and social enterprise approaches to diversify our funding base.

Exploring opportunities to grow discretionary revenue through fundraising, new grants and fees for service.

Continuing to invest in building our data collection, analysis evaluation and knowledge management capacity.

Building the research capacity of our staff through seeding grants and partnerships with academic institutions.

Continuing to build our presence, capacity and effectiveness in the digital space to increasing our reach and impact.

Advocating and Promoting Social Inclusion by:

• Producing LGBT employees within Australian workplaces targeted initiatives via education and benchmarking and through the Pride in Diversity Program.

• Establishing Partnerships with government, other NGOs, health care providers, researchers and affected communities.

• Ensuring all direct LGBTI services are sensitive to the needs of and available to all of our communities.

• Enabling all of our training packages for service providers are inclusive of our populations.

• Ensuring our advocacy work in the areas of discrimination and human rights are inclusive of the needs and views of all our communities and is conducted in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

• Developing strategies, in collaboration with key partners to maximise inclusiveness and reach of promotion strategies.

• Developing ‘population specific’ communication strategies to ensure our programs are visible to all of the communities they are intended to reach, including LGBTI, people living with HIV and those affected by HIV.

Performance measures (key performance indicators)

• A decrease in HIV infections among gay men and other MSM in NSW.

• An increase in reported levels of health and wellbeing by people with HIV.

• A reduction in the number of people in our communities who experience negative health and other outcomes as a result drug and alcohol use.

• An increase in reported levels of health and wellbeing by women in our communities.

• An increase in reported levels of health and wellbeing by older people in our communities.

• An increase in ACON’s involvement with LGBTI health and HIV/AIDS policy and programs delivery at the local, national and international levels.

• Increase the capacity of ACON to effectively use and manage its resources

Review of operations

Operations for the year ended 30 June 2015 resulted in a net surplus of $452,524 (2014: surplus of $212,247). The current year result includes grants received in advance of $1,474,376, recognised as income (30 June 2014: $1,259,108) which is committed to projects in the 2015/16 financial year. Therefore, the surplus for the year is $324,266.

Application of funds

The net surplus obtained from fundraising activities was applied to the purposes of ACON Health Limited as described under ‘principal activities’ above.

Winding Up

Each Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of ACON Health, if it is wound up while they are a Member, or within one year afterwards, an amount equal to the deficit on the carrying amount of their subscription at the date of winding up the debts and liabilities of ACON Health exceed its assets.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2015 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the:

• 1. Group’s operations in future financial years;

• 2. Results of those operations in future financial years;

• 3. Group’s state of affairs in future financial years.

 Likely developments and unexpected results of operations

Information on likely developments in the operations of the Group and the expected results of operations have not been included in this Directors’ Report because the Directors believe it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Group.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board.

Mark Orr, President
Johathon Hatten, Treasurer

Dated at Sydney this 9th September 2015.
### Consolidated Statement Of Profit Or Loss And Other Comprehensive Income For The Year Ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Notes</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Department of Health</td>
<td>9,895,800</td>
<td>10,655,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Department of Community Services</td>
<td>26,579</td>
<td>180,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Health Districts</td>
<td>315,205</td>
<td>371,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other grants</td>
<td>1,334,866</td>
<td>1,076,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
<td>11,734,456</td>
<td>12,584,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising</strong></td>
<td>797,022</td>
<td>699,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest received/receivable</strong></td>
<td>274,381</td>
<td>190,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>5,084</td>
<td>1,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for service</td>
<td>429,602</td>
<td>370,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent received</td>
<td>281,395</td>
<td>305,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of vitamins</td>
<td>7,799</td>
<td>17,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of materials</td>
<td>38,043</td>
<td>51,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>426,426</td>
<td>185,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue from operations</strong></td>
<td>13,797,772</td>
<td>14,019,169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; associated costs</td>
<td>7,296,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program materials and services</td>
<td>704,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent and rates</td>
<td>1,842,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation - plant &amp; equipment</td>
<td>437,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation – lease incentive</td>
<td>560,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building maintenance</td>
<td>370,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>245,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and representation</td>
<td>323,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations given</td>
<td>512,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising costs</td>
<td>928,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and activities</td>
<td>330,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative costs</td>
<td>932,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of goods sold</td>
<td>22,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair value loss on financial assets</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>13,740,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Surplus/Deficit for the year | 57,284 | 252,345 |

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

### Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>4,473,368</td>
<td>4,075,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>266,679</td>
<td>52,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>4,742,899</td>
<td>4,127,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Financial Assets</td>
<td>2,304,391</td>
<td>2,342,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>3,304,391</td>
<td>2,342,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>8,047,290</td>
<td>6,460,428</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Current Liabilities** | | |
| Trade and other payables | 823,268 | 760,338 |
| Employee entitlements | 1,124,890 | 1,236,496 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | 2,948,158 | 1,996,834 |

| **Non-current Liabilities** | | |
| Deferred lease liability | 990,792 | 990,792 |
| **Total Non-current Liabilities** | 990,792 | 990,792 |
| **Total Liabilities** | 3,929,648 | 3,987,626 |

| **Net Assets** | 4,117,642 | 2,472,802 |

| Stakeholders’ Funds | | |
| Retained surplus at the end of the year | 4,378,374 | 4,217,404 |
| Funds Reserve | 482,056 | 240,000 |
| Retention reserve | 31,820 | 31,820 |
| **Total Accumulated Funds** | 4,892,210 | 4,543,224 |

The above Consolidated Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stakeholders’ Funds for the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retained surplus</th>
<th>Revaluation reserve</th>
<th>Funds Reserve</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year ended 30 June 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total stakeholder funds at the beginning of the financial year</td>
<td>4,298,939</td>
<td>31,820</td>
<td>4,330,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to funds reserve</td>
<td>(240,000)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(240,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive income for the year</td>
<td>273,165</td>
<td></td>
<td>273,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total stakeholder funds at the end of the financial year</td>
<td>4,271,404</td>
<td>31,820</td>
<td>4,543,224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retained surplus</th>
<th>Revaluation reserve</th>
<th>Funds Reserve</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year ended 30 June 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total stakeholder funds at the beginning of the financial year</td>
<td>4,271,404</td>
<td>31,820</td>
<td>4,543,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to funds reserve</td>
<td>(242,016)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(242,016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive income for the year</td>
<td>453,284</td>
<td></td>
<td>453,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total transfer to Sex Workers Outreach Inc</td>
<td>(108,299)</td>
<td>(108,299)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total stakeholder funds at the end of the financial year</td>
<td>4,378,373</td>
<td>482,019</td>
<td>4,860,392</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
<th>2014 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from customers, granting bodies &amp; fundraising (inclusive of goods &amp; services tax)</td>
<td>13,583,391</td>
<td>13,828,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of goods &amp; services tax)</td>
<td>(13,094,940)</td>
<td>(13,010,680)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>234,381</td>
<td>190,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash inflow from operating activities</td>
<td>702,832</td>
<td>1,089,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from investing activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments for property, plant &amp; equipment</td>
<td>(351,427)</td>
<td>(366,407)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments for UBS Investment</td>
<td></td>
<td>(1,000,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash outflow from investing activities</td>
<td>(351,427)</td>
<td>(1,366,407)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (decrease)/increase in cash held</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>(526,418)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>4,075,963</td>
<td>4,507,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at the end of the year</td>
<td>4,426,963</td>
<td>4,075,963</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stakeholders’ Funds Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss within other expenses. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible, in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account.

I. Inventories
Inventories are represented by vitamin stock and are stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value on the basis of first in first out.

J. Investments and Other Financial Assets
Classification
The group classifies its financial assets in the following categories: loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition.

i) Loans and receivables
Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting period which are classified as non-current assets.

ii) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are financial assets held for trading. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term. Derivatives are classified as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Assets in this category are classified as current assets if they are expected to be settled within 12 months; otherwise they are classified as non-current.

Measurement
At initial recognition, the Group measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in profit or loss.

Loans and receivables are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Impairment
The Group assesses at the end of each reporting period whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred only if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a "loss event") and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

i) Assets carried at amortised cost
For loans and receivables, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset’s carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial asset’s original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of an asset is reduced and the amount of the loss is recognised in profit or loss. If, at a subsequent date, it becomes probable that the future cash flows will exceed the carrying amount, the carrying amount is restored (less any impairment loss recognised in previous periods). The interest rate used for the calculation of the present value of future cash flows is the original effective interest rate of the financial asset. The present value of future cash flows is calculated using the historical effective interest rate.

ii) Assets carried at fair value
All fair value financial assets (other than financial assets at fair value through profit or loss) are reviewed at each reporting date for indicators of impairment. Where an indicator of impairment is present, a loss event has occurred and it is probable that the financial asset will recover less than its carrying amount at a future date, an impairment loss is recognised.

The recoverable amount is the higher of the fair value less costs to sell and the value in use of the asset. For financial assets, the recoverable amount is the higher of the fair value less costs to sell and the present value of the expected future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the original effective interest rate of the asset. The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the profit or loss account and the asset is written down to its recoverable amount.

Assets impaired at the end of the reporting period are reassessed at each reporting date to determine whether the impairment loss recognised is still required. The reassessment of the impairment loss is recognised in the profit or loss.

K. Plant & Equipment
Plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset’s carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when there is objective evidence that it will result in future economic benefits that are reliably measurable.

The assets’ residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset’s carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset’s carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount (note (f)).

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in profit or loss. When revised assets are sold, it is group policy to transfer any amounts included in other reserves in respect of those assets to retained earnings.

Leasehold Improvements
The cost of fit out of ACON’s head office leased at 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, has been capitalised to leasehold improvement and is being amortised over the lease term of 10 years.

The cost of alterations to the Hunter branch on premises leased at 129 Maland Road, Baulkham Hills has been capitalised to Leasehold Improvements and is being amortised over the lease term of 10 years.

L. Trade and Other Creditors
These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the group prior to the end of the financial year which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

M. Employees’ Entitlements
Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave
Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

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

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

Superannuation
Contributions are made by the group to several employee superannuation funds of choice and are recognised as expenses as they become payable.

N. Goods and Services Tax (GST)
Receivables, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

O. Parent Entity Financial Information
The financial information for the parent entity, ACON Health Limited, disclosed in note 18 has been prepared on the same basis as the consolidated financial statements.

2. Critical Accounting Estimates and Assumptions
The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss
The fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is referenced to quoted market prices and assessed for changes in value at the end of each reporting period. Refer to note 7 for further information over the financial assets.

3. Income Tax
ACON Health Limited is a Health Promotion Charity and the AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated is a Public Benevolent Institution. As such, both are exempt from paying income tax.

4. Current Assets – Cash and cash equivalents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on hand</td>
<td>5,020</td>
<td>5,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td>3,755,963</td>
<td>3,738,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheque account – operations</td>
<td>4,293,952</td>
<td>4,172,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>151,246</td>
<td>152,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,425,350</td>
<td>4,076,183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Current Assets – receivables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade receivables</td>
<td>251,960</td>
<td>52,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued income</td>
<td>4,655</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>256,615</td>
<td>52,566</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As at 30 June 2015, no receivables were considered impaired [30 June 2014: $nil]. The amount of the provision for doubtful debts was $nil [20 June 2014: $nil].

6. Current Assets – Inventories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finished goods (vitamins) at cost</td>
<td>4,790</td>
<td>7,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,790</td>
<td>7,536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Non-Current Assets – financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UBS Investment</td>
<td>942,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In May 2015, the Group invested $1,000,000 in “UBS Callable Goals - Series 25 A03” which is an investment linked to a basket of Australian Bank Shares (ANZ, CBA, NAB and WBC). The investment pays 8% interest per annum on a quarterly basis and has a maximum term of 3 years. A call feature is available quarterly one year after the initial investment date.

The Group will not receive any capital gain should the share prices increase but will bear the risk of capital loss if any of the banks’ share price drops by more than 30% on the maturity date.

The market value as at 30 June is $942,000.
8. Non-Current Asset – Plant & Equipment and Lease Incentive
Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of plant and equipment and lease incentives at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Furniture &amp; Fittings</th>
<th>Office &amp; IT equipment</th>
<th>Library Works or art</th>
<th>Leasehold improvements</th>
<th>Leased Incentives</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At 30 June 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost or fair value</td>
<td>874,808</td>
<td>1,061,261</td>
<td>146,650</td>
<td>977,691</td>
<td>4,195,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net book value</td>
<td>333,571</td>
<td>223,023</td>
<td>146,650</td>
<td>977,691</td>
<td>2,059,703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year ended 30 June 2015

| Opening net book value | 333,571               | 223,023             | 146,650               | 977,691          | 2,059,703 |
| Additions             | 176,351               | (32,982)            | (127,982)             | (135,855)        | (514,209) |
| Depreciation/amortisation charge | (714,988)  |                       |                      |                  | (2,800,605) |
| Closing net book value | 159,820               | 187,225             | 146,650               | 772,176          | 2,106,162 |

At 30 June 2016

| Cost or fair value   | 874,808               | 1,343,147           | 146,650               | 1,236,496         | 4,906,767 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (79,285)             | (946,222)            | (944,046)             | (946,701)         | (3,835,405) |
| Net book value       | 159,820               | 187,225             | 146,650               | 772,176          | 2,106,162 |

9. Current liabilities – trade and other payables

| Goods & Services Tax payable | 333,571               | 223,023             | 146,650               | 977,691          | 2,059,703 |
| Trade creditors            | 1,061,261             | 1,061,261           | 1,061,261             | 1,061,261        | 1,061,261 |
| Accrued expenses           | 149,777               | 223,023             | 146,650               | 977,691          | 2,059,703 |
| Total                     | 982,268               | 760,276             | 760,276               | 760,276          | 760,276 |

10. Current Liabilities – Employees Entitlements

Employee entitlements – annual leave | 21,920,820            | 1,236,496           | 1,236,496             | 1,236,496        | 1,236,496 |
Number of employees at reporting date (full time equivalent) | 98                   | 98                  | 98                     | 98               | 98         |

11. Non-current Liabilities – Deferred lease liability

V/F Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills | 840,291               | 993,791             | 993,791               | 993,791          | 993,791 |

12. Remuneration of Members of the Board

Members of the Board, including the CEO and staff representatives, serve on the Board of the group in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration for this service to the group. An employee of the group serving on the board receives normal salary and employment benefits commensurate with their position as an employee.

13. Related party transactions

The following transactions occurred with related parties:

Income from Sex Workers Outreach Project Inc (SWOP) for overhead allocations | 182,148 |

During the year ACON Health Limited provided administration and back office support to Sex Workers Outreach Project Inc. The payments were made on normal commercial terms and conditions.

Transfer of accumulated stakeholder funds to SWOP | 108,299 |

Prior to 1 July 2015, SWOP was a project within ACON Health Limited. The transfer was for the accumulation of previous year surpluses from projects specific to SWOP.

14. Economic Dependency

The major source of funding for the group is an annual grant from the NSW Ministry of Health. The NSW Ministry of Health has agreed to maintain current funding levels in the 2015/2016 financial year.

15. Charitable Fundraising Act 1991

ACON Health Limited was issued with an authority to fundraise by the Office of Charities to fundraise for the period 7 May 2012 to 3 May 2017. Information and declarations to be furnished under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 is in relation to fundraising activities undertaken by ACON Health Limited.

a) Details of aggregate gross income and total expenses of fundraising activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross proceeds from fundraising:</td>
<td>118,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal</td>
<td>118,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other including Donations, Events &amp; Sponsorship</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total gross income from fundraising</td>
<td>118,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less total costs of fundraising</td>
<td>792,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal</td>
<td>66,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>223,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total costs of fundraising</td>
<td>290,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals</td>
<td>506,764</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

c) Comparative Ratios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of costs to gross proceeds</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of net surplus to gross proceeds</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of total costs of fundraising services to total Organisation expenditure</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of total cost of fundraising services to total Organisation income</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This ratio includes all fundraising activities – appeals and events.

In the view of the Board, all expenses incurred by the ACON Health Limited contribute to the delivery of its programs and services.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

16. Commitments for Expenditure

Lease Commitments

The group leases the head office building under a non-cancellable operating lease expiring within 7 years. Excess building space is sub-let to third parties under operating leases.

Non-cancellable Operating Leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within one year</td>
<td>1,925,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than one year but not later than 5 years</td>
<td>6,450,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later than 5 years</td>
<td>979,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,316,783</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. Retained Surplus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained surplus at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>2,199,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to funds reserve</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to SWOP</td>
<td>(208,099)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current year surplus</td>
<td>182,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained surplus at the end of the year</td>
<td>2,271,044</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Included in the retained surplus at 30 June 2015 is an amount of $1,147,318 (2014: $1,239,018), which is restricted in its use. This relates to grants received not yet expended for the purpose for which they were intended.
The individual financial statements for the parent entity show the following aggregate amounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$7,358,699</td>
<td>$7,181,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$7,358,699</td>
<td>$7,181,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>2,011,149</td>
<td>1,998,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>2,011,149</td>
<td>1,998,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained surplus</td>
<td>$4,582,850</td>
<td>$4,534,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating surplus for the year</td>
<td>$456,491</td>
<td>$211,803</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) Contingent liabilities of the parent entity

The parent entity did not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2015 (30 June 2014: nil).

b) Directors’ declaration

The directors of the company declare that in accordance with a resolution of the board, and is signed for and on behalf of the board by:

Mark Orr  Andrew Purchas
President Vice President

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

Mark Orr  Andrew Purchas
President Vice President

Dated at Sydney this 9th Day of September 2015.

judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

In making these risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company’s preparation of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.

The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

The financial report and retained earnings have been properly kept in accordance with:

a) Section 101(2) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 ("the Act") and
b) Section 101(4) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2008 ("the Regulations") and Section 1(d) of the Regulations for the year ended 30 June 2015, and

c) the funds received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted for the year ended 30 June 2015 have been properly accounted for in accordance with the above mentioned sections of the Act and the Regulations.

The auditor’s responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on his or her audit.

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The audit of a company includes the examination of the financial statements of the company and the related disclosures.

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FROM HERE TO ETERNITY...

The people who have been part of ACON’s story over the last 30 years have made a difference that will last forever, and their legacy will live on in the spirit of our community.

We urge those who follow to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and, as they make their own unique contributions, to be inspired by the values that have guided ACON’s work from the very beginning:

COURAGE
EMPATHY
DIVERSITY
ADAPTABILITY
EQUALITY
PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY