

# 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

Words by: Michael Badorrek and Andrew Hamadanian

Graphic design by: Emily Spencer

Printed by: NextPrint

Paper Stock: Envirocare 100% recycled paper

CONTENTS

2  
PRESIDENT/CEO  
MESSAGE



8  
HIV PREVENTION



14  
SEXUAL HEALTH



20  
INCLUSION



26  
ORGANISATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

4  
ABOUT ACON



10  
ENDING HIV



16  
MENTAL HEALTH/AGEING



22  
ADVOCACY



28  
ALAN  
BROTHERTON

6  
30 YEARS



12  
HIV SUPPORT



18  
ALCOHOL & DRUGS/  
COMMUNITY SAFETY



24  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT



30  
FINANCIALS



# PRESIDENT & CEO MESSAGE

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, homophobic 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 now 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 the use 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 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

Detail of Keep It Up a 1987 ACON safe sex campagn.

7

"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 law 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, for its community, by members of its community.

This simple but powerful model is what has and will continue to underpin the effectiveness of ACON's work.

Dedicated staff, amazing volunteers, and innovative campaigns – these are just a few of the factors which have contributed to ACON's success.

Although this is a time to reflect on the challenges of this journey, and to remember those we have lost along the way, it is also a time where ACON can stand proud in the recognition of so many great achievements."

- This is an extract from a speech delivered by NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner at ACON's 30 year anniversary reception at NSW Parliament House on 18 August 2015, 30 years to the day that ACON was incorporated as an association.

## 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 achieved, 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.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACON

**1983**  
The AIDS Action Committee is formed.

**1987**  
Launch of the first National AIDS Strategy.

**1996**  
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.

**1985**  
The AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) is formed by community members concerned about the HIV/AIDS crisis.

**1994/95**  
AIDS-related deaths in NSW peak with up to 400 people dying from AIDS related illnesses and up to 500 being diagnosed with HIV each year.

**2000**  
We expand to become an LGBT health organisation while maintaining a core focus on HIV prevention and HIV support.

**2007**  
We officially change our name from the AIDS Council of NSW to just ACON to highlight our increasing focus on LGBT health. We set up our current organisational structure, ACON Health Limited in 2009.

**2013**  
On the back of advances in HIV testing and treatment, the NSW Government launches a strategy to end HIV transmission in NSW by 2020.

**2013**  
We launch our *ENDING HIV* education initiative and start setting up our a[TEST] rapid testing centres across NSW. We officially start responding to intersex issues, becoming an LGBTI health organisation.

**2014**  
We open a[TEST] Oxford St in Darlinghurst in Sydney, NSW's first permanent community based HIV testing facility.



# 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.

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

We delivered over **3500** HIV tests through our network of a[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 delivered **34** peer run workshops across NSW on HIV, safe sex and risk reduction.

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

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 reached over **157,000** community members with information about HIV and risk reduction through digital platforms.

## a[TEST] Oxford St

February saw the launch of our new a[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 a[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 a[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 2% 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 465,584 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.



# HERE FOR ENDING HIV

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 2015. So how effective was Ending HIV 1.0? To find out, we commissioned GfK Australia to analyse survey data we had collected over the last two years.

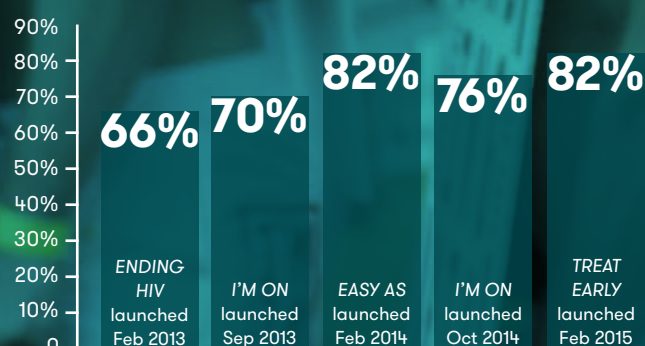
## Evaluation

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

Overwhelmingly, key stakeholders were highly complementary 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:



## 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 reach 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 treatments 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 anal 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 guys 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 40 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.

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

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.

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

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, Dykes on Bikes and the Femme Guild to promote our sex-positive and safe sex messages. We also continued to develop the **CLAUDE** website ([iloveclau.com](http://iloveclau.com)) which showcases sex-positive art by women in our community and provides safe sex information and resources to women all over NSW.

Through our **CLAUDE** initiative, we distributed **3200** safe sex packs and **900** play packs to lesbians and same sex attracted women. Play packs can contain condoms, lube, gloves, sterile injecting equipment and sexual health information.

We continued to work with the Sexually Transmissible Infections in Gay Men Action Group (STIGMA) to reduce and prevent STIs among gay men in NSW.

We engaged with LGBTI Aboriginal and Torres Strait 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.

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

We delivered **24** 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 conducted **11** monthly education workshops for Asian gay men as well as a community forum for Asian gay men during Mardi Gras focussing on culture, sexuality and HIV.



# 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 reorienting 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 understating among mental health professionals of the specific experiences of LGBTI people and communities.

Our LGBTI Counselling Service supported over **65** people. This is a fee based service delivered by specially trained volunteer counsellors. Our regional counselling service, which supports LGBTI people and people with HIV, provided services to over **145** people.

## 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.

Through our Care Coordination Service, we provided over **1,725** occasions of care coordination for clients with HIV.

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

Portrait of Peter (left) and Bon from photographer Richard Hedger's National Treasures exhibition.

## 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.



# 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-judgemental 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 higher respectively than the general population. This year we participated in a range of initiatives to address this issue including the development of stimcheck.org.au, 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 (LBQ) 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 LBQ women's smoking and tobacco reduction patterns and behaviours. In collaboration with the University of Sydney, we conducted crucial research on LBQ 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 LBQ 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 LGBTI 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 LGBTI 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 partygoers 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.

We provided **15** community events with the services of the ACON Rovers. Rovers are teams of volunteers who attend events to help people experiencing problems due to alcohol and drug use. ACON Rovers provided over **500** hours of service, interacting with more than **1,750** partygoers and assisting more than **140** 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.

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Through our Needle and Syringe Program we supplied over **495,000** units of sterile injecting 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 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.



# HERE FOR INCLUSION

## 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*.



# HERE FOR ADVOCACY

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

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

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

We submitted 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.





# HERE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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 and organisations were selected as winners from a diverse field of 140 nominations and 29 finalists, and 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. \$50,000 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 HOT:DOWN UNDER, a model search celebrating red headed men; the Sydney premiere 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 thousands of people through our stalls as well as roving 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 focussed 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 150 marchers donned pearl necklaces and paraded beneath giant inflated white balls 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.

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 ProGenY dance and performance party, and a history walk around Darlinghurst. **170** young men attended these events.

We provided office accommodation, meeting spaces and small grants for a range of health, sporting and cultural organisations which work in our community.

## 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 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.

We changed our bingo fundraiser *Bingay* to a monthly format with special themes for each event. Over **700** people attended throughout the year.



# 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

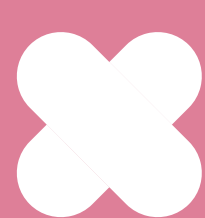
streamlined content, simple navigation and new social media functionality, allowing users to engage more easily with ACON and the communities we serve. Users can also look forward to improved synergy with ACON's other websites such as *ENDING HIV* and *Pride In Diversity*. In addition to increasing community 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

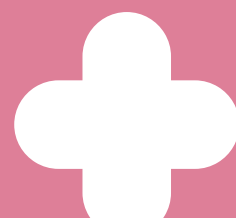
Digital technologies have changed the way that organisations communicate and engage with their constituents. This year we began a process of updating the systems and practices we use to manage our relationships with our clients and community members. In May we began using Nation Builder, an online community 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

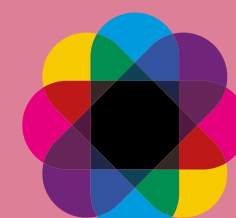
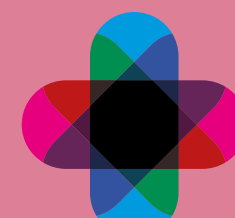
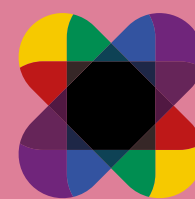
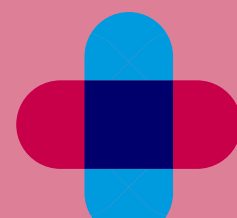
To mark our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we felt it would be useful for our staff and community partners to have online access to our extensive archive of HIV related educational resources. This year we began the development of the ACON Campaigns Database which will feature all of ACON's HIV and LGBTI 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.



HERE



HEALTH



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.

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.

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.

## 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.

We managed ACON's suite of digital communication platforms including 14 websites (**340,000** visitors), 13 Facebook pages (**42,000** likes), 5 Twitter feeds (over **6000** followers) and 5 photo/video channels (**190,000** views).

We developed and produced the 2014 Big Days In, ACON's annual two-day staff learning and development seminar.



# ALAN BROTHERTON

July 9 1963 - June 12 2015

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.

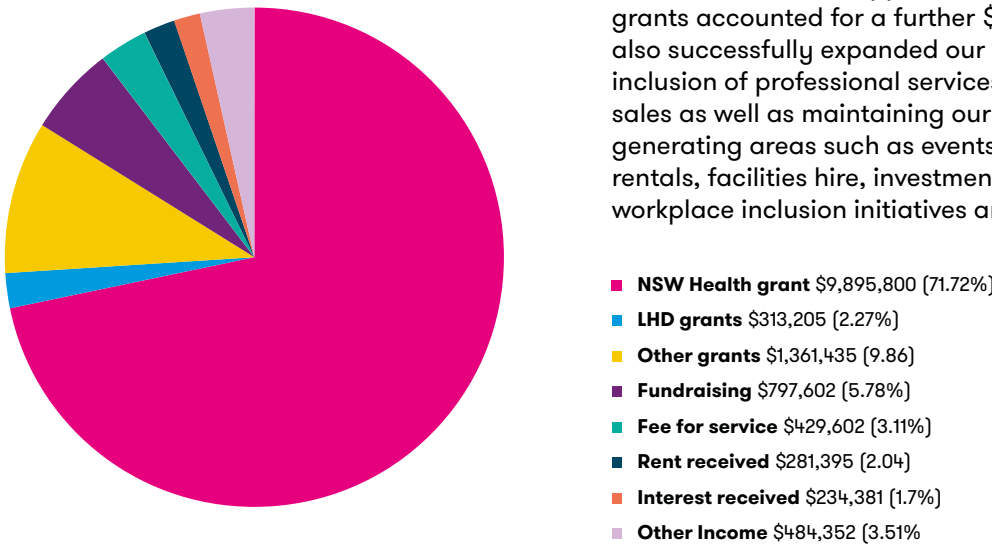
Alan was a truly remarkable person and he will be greatly missed by us all here at ACON, as well as more broadly across the HIV and health sectors in NSW, Australia and internationally.



# FINANCIALS

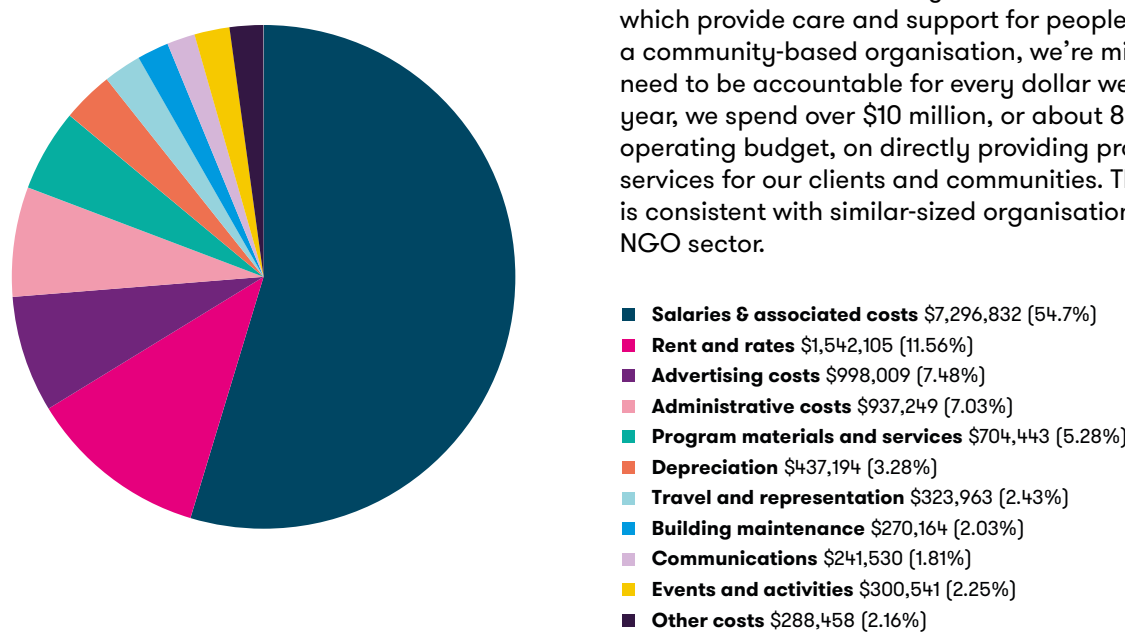
ACON’s overall financial result for the 2014/15 financial year was an operating surplus of approximately \$460,000 after all depreciations, accruals and provisions. Total income was approximately \$13.8 million and total expenses were approximately \$13.34 million. The following graphs represent ACON’s income and expenditure for the 2014/15 financial year. Full details are in the the financial statements in the latter part of this report.

Income



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.

Expenditure



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:  
414 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, Darryl O’Donnell, Nicolas Parkhill, Helen Conway, Richard Lee, Jason Bradshaw, Robert Stirling, Julie Mooney-Somers, Senthoran Raj, John de Wit, 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 2014  
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), MHSM, 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, BEc, 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 2014), BEco.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 Qantas Credit Union and serves on the Audit Committee. His experience spans 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, BAc, 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, many 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, GradCertEdStud, 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 2009.

**John de Wit**, MSC, PhD  
John de Wit 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.

**Senthoran Raj**, BA (Hons), LLB (Hons)  
Sen 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. Sen is also a writer for The Guardian and The Vine. 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**, BComm, 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**, BA (Hons), MPH  
Ben Bavinton currently works at the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales on the Opposites Attract 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.



**Darryl O’Donnell, BA, GradCertPubSecMgmt, MPASR**

Darryl has over 20 years’ experience working in HIV community, research and public sector roles. During the 90s 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 and program initiatives. Darryl is now the Executive Director of the NSW Mental Health Commission.

**Robert Stirling, MPH**

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 Gear, BNurs, MNurs (Critical Care) (Resigned 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, eHealth and Aboriginal health. Flowing from his background in nursing he is passionate about connecting and improving the health system for all Australians.

**Helen Conway (Resigned as Staff Appointed Director 29 May 2015), MBA**

Helen was the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at ACON, and the staff appointed Director 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, ecommerce and agriculture, and recently obtained her MBA from Macquarie University.

**Jason Bradshaw, Treasurer (Resigned 10 September 2014), BA, Dip Bus(Frontline Mgt), Cert IV Proj Mgt, AIMM**

Jason has over 16 years’ experience in the banking, finance, retail, telecommunication, 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, BBus(Org 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 Twenty10 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:

From 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015		
Board member	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended
Andrew Purchas	12	10
Benjamin Bavinton	12	8
Craig Gear	12	10
Darryl O’Donnell	12	12
Helen Conway	11	9
Jason Bradshaw	4	2
Julie Mooney-Somers	12	8
John de Wit	12	9
Joshua Hatten	12	10
Leigh O’Dwyer	12	9
Mark Orr	12	11
Nicolas Parkhill	12	10
Richard Lee	12	6
Robert Stirling	8	6
Senthoran Raj	12	12
Steven Berveling	12	10

**Notes:**

Nicolas Parkhill 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.

**Principal Activities And Objectives**

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

- Increasing the knowledge of gay men and other men who have sex with men about when to seek a HIV and STI test.
- Using innovative, targeted engagement strategies to motivate gay men and other men who have sex with men to test more regularly.
- Increasing the number of HIV positive gay men who understand the benefits of accessing treatment earlier.
- Sustaining the safe sex knowledge of gay men and men who have sex with men utilising both condom and non-condom based risk reduction strategies.
- Advocating for better access to home-based or self-administered HIV testing and access to Pre Exposure Prophylaxis for those who would most benefit.
- Reducing psychosocial barriers to testing and treatment uptake for people who are newly diagnosed through education, counselling and peer support.
- Ensure the range of HIV Health Promotion programs continues to relevant and useful for people with HIV.
- Developing a HIV Health Promotion Strategy focusing on post diagnosis support, living well with HIV and planning for healthy ageing.

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

- Providing HIV Care and Support services including: Counselling, Enhanced Primary Care Community Support Network and Newly Diagnosed Service
- Reviewing our current care and support programs to ensure they continue to meet the needs of people with HIV.
- Intensifying 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.
- Enhancing 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 support use co-morbidities through counselling from the substance use service, Needle Syringe Programs, harm minimisation 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 Aged Care
  - 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, fee for service models and social enterprise approaches to diversify our funding base.
- Exploring opportunities to grow discretionary revenue through fundraising, new grants and fee 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:**

- Providing LGBT employees within Australian workplaces targeted initiatives via education and benchmarking and through the Pride in Diversity Program.
- Establishing Partnerships with government, other NGO’s, 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,
- Ensuring 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 health promotion strategies.
- Developing ‘population specific’ communication strategies to ensure our programs are visible to all of the communities they are intended to reach,

**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 ACON’s involvement with GLBT 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 \$457,284 (30 June 2014: surplus of \$212,467). 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 operating surplus for the year is \$242,016.

**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 of money not exceeding the limit of liability of \$2 at the time 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:

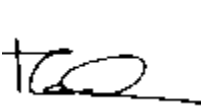
1. Group’s operations in future financial years, or
2. Results of those operations in future financial years, or
3. Group’s state of affairs in future financial years.

**Likely developments and expected 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.

Dated at Sydney this 9th September 2015



Mark Orr, President



Joshua Hatten, Treasurer



Consolidated Statement Of Profit Or Loss And Other Comprehensive Income For The Year Ended 30 June 2015

Income	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Grants:			
NSW Department of Health		9,895,800	10,655,100
NSW Department of Community Services		26,579	180,659
Local Health Districts		313,205	315,459
Other grants		1,334,856	1,016,331
Fundraising	15(a)	797,602	699,790
Interest received/receivable		234,381	190,489
Membership		5,084	1,951
Fee for service		429,602	370,224
Rent received		281,395	335,013
Sale of vitamins		14,799	17,123
Sale of materials		38,043	51,540
Other Income		426,426	185,490
<b>Total revenue from operations</b>		<b>13,797,772</b>	<b>14,019,169</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salaries & associated costs		7,296,832	8,001,487
Program materials and services		704,443	702,878
Rent and rates		1,542,105	1,539,893
Depreciation – plant & equipment		437,194	400,330
Amortisation – lease incentive		150,500	150,500
Building maintenance		270,164	321,695
Communications		241,530	170,693
Travel and representation		323,963	354,999
Donations given		57,257	57,790
Advertising costs		998,009	757,152
Events and activities		300,541	284,569
Administrative costs		937,249	1,040,236
Cost of goods sold		22,701	24,482
Fair value loss on financial assets		58,000	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>13,340,488</b>	<b>13,806,704</b>
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit for the year</b>		<b>457,284</b>	<b>212,465</b>
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Operating surplus of ACON Health Limited		457,284	212,465

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

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	4,427,368	4,075,963
Receivables	5	256,615	52,556
Inventories	6	6,790	7,536
Prepayments		56,616	52,304
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>4,747,389</b>	<b>4,188,359</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	7	942,000	1,000,000
Other Financial Assets		22,000	
Plant & equipment and lease incentive	8	2,106,191	2,342,429
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>3,070,191</b>	<b>3,342,429</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>7,817,580</b>	<b>7,530,788</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	822,268	760,276
Employee entitlements	10	1,262,810	1,236,496
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,085,078</b>	<b>1,996,772</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Deferred lease liability	11	840,292	990,792
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>840,292</b>	<b>990,792</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2,925,370</b>	<b>2,987,563</b>
Net Assets		4,892,210	4,543,224
Stakeholders' Funds			
Retained surplus at the end of the year	17	4,378,374	4,271,404
Funds Reserve		482,016	240,000
Revaluation reserve		31,820	31,820
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>		<b>4,892,210</b>	<b>4,543,224</b>

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

	Retained surplus	Revaluation reserve	Funds Reserve	Total
<b>Year ended 30 June 2014</b>				
Total stakeholder funds at the beginning of the financial year	4,298,939	31,820	-	4,330,759
Transfer to funds reserve	(240,000)	-	240,000	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	212,465	-	-	212,465
<b>Total stakeholder funds at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>4,271,404</b>	<b>31,820</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>4,543,224</b>
<b>Year ended 30 June 2015</b>				
Total stakeholder funds at the beginning of the financial year	4,271,404	31,820	240,000	4,543,224
Transfer to funds reserve	(242,016)	-	242,016	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	457,284	-	-	457,284
Total transfer to Sex Workers Outreach Inc	(108,299)	-	-	(108,299)
Total stakeholder funds at the end of the financial year	4,378,373	31,820	482,016	4,892,209

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

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers, granting bodies & fundraising (inclusive of goods & services tax)		13,563,391	13,828,680
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of goods & services tax)		(13,094,940)	(13,010,680)
Interest received		234,381	190,489
Net cash inflow from operating activities		702,832	1,008,489
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant & equipment		(351,427)	(136,607)
Payments for UBS Investment		-	(1,000,000)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(351,427)	(1,136,607)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held		351,405	(128,118)
Cash at the beginning of the year		4,075,963	4,204,081
Cash at the end of the year	4	4,427,368	4,075,963

The Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stakeholders’ Funds Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated. The financial statements are for the consolidated entity consisting of ACON Health Limited and its subsidiary, AIDS Council of New South Wales Incorporated.

A. Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012. ACON Health Limited is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

i) Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements

The consolidated financial statements of the ACON Health Limited group comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

ii) New and amended standards adopted by the group

None of the new standards and amendments to standards that are mandatory for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2014 affected any of the amounts recognised in the current period or any prior period and are not likely to affect future periods.

iii) Early adoption of standards

The group has not elected to apply any pronouncements before their operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2014.

iv) Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of art works.

v) Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the group’s accounting policies.

B. Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary of ACON Health Limited (“company” or “parent entity”) as at 30 June 2015 and the results of the subsidiary for the year then ended. ACON Health Limited and its subsidiary together are referred to in this financial report as the group or the consolidated entity.

Subsidiaries are all entities (including special purpose entities) over which the group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies, generally accompanying a shareholding of more than one half of the voting rights. The existence and effect of potential voting rights that are currently exercisable or convertible are considered when assessing whether the group controls another entity.

Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the group. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of the impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

C. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of any rebates and amounts collected on behalf of third parties.

The group recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met.

D. Government Grants

Revenue from non-reciprocal grants is recognised when the company obtains control of the funds.

E. Leases

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are not transferred to the group as lessee are classified as operating leases (note 17). Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the lessor) are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Incentives received on entering into operating leases are recognised as liabilities (note 12).

F. Impairment of Assets

Assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset’s carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset’s fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting period.

G. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

H. Trade Receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Trade receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days. They are presented as current assets unless collection is not expected for more than 12 months after the reporting date.

Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off by reducing the carrying amount directly. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is used when there is objective evidence that the group will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.



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 the asset is reduced and the amount of the loss is recognised in the profit or loss. If a loan has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract. As a practical expedient, the Group may measure impairment on the basis of an instrument's fair value using an observable market price. If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised (such as an improvement in the debtor's credit rating), the reversal of the previously recognised 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 it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of any component accounted for as a separate asset is derecognised when replaced. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to profit or loss during the reporting period in which they are incurred.

The Group is gifted works of art from time to time. Works gifted are valued at the time of the gift and are capitalised at that amount. Works of Art are valued at regular intervals at the Directors' discretion. Revaluations reflect independent assessments of the fair market value of works of art.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate cost, net of residual values, over the estimated useful lives of assets as follows:

Furniture & Fittings:	2-5 years,
Office & IT Equipment:	2-5 years,
Leasehold improvements:	10 years

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 1{f}).

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in profit or loss. When revalued 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 extensions to the Hunter branch on premises leased at 129 Maitland Road, Islington 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. Employee entitlements

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled within 12 months

after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for 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)

Revenues, 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

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash on hand	5,020	5,020
Cash at bank:		
Cheque account – operations	4,261,102	3,913,741
Deposits	161,246	157,202
	4,427,368	4,075,963

5. Current Assets – receivables

Trade receivables	251,960	52,556
Accrued income	4,655	-
	256,615	52,556

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

6. Current Assets - Inventories

Finished goods (vitamins) at cost	6,790	7,536
-----------------------------------	-------	-------

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

UBS Investment	942,000	1,000,000
----------------	---------	-----------

In May 2014, the Group invested \$1,000,000 in “UBS Callable Goals – Series 25 AUD” 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 of 30 June is \$942,000.



8. Non-Current Assets- 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:

	Furniture & fittings \$	Office & IT equipment \$	Library Works of Art \$	Leasehold improvements \$	Lease Incentive \$	Totals \$
At 30 June 2014						
Cost or fair value	874,808	1,051,263	146,650	977,619	1,505,000	4,555,340
Accumulated depreciation	(541,631)	(828,240)	-	(328,831)	(514,209)	(2,212,911)
Net book value	333,177	223,023	146,650	648,788	990,791	2,342,429
Year ended 30 June 2015						
Opening net book value	333,177	223,023	146,650	648,788	990,791	2,342,429
Additions	-	92,184	-	259,243	-	351,427
Depreciation/amortisation charge	(173,357)	(127,982)	-	(135,855)	(150,500)	(587,694)
Closing net book value	159,820	187,225	146,650	772,176	840,291	2,106,162
At 30 June 2015						
Cost or fair value	874,808	1,143,447	146,650	1,236,862	1,505,000	4,906,767
Accumulated depreciation	(714,988)	(956,222)	-	(464,686)	(664,709)	(2,800,605)
Net book value	159,820	187,225	146,650	772,176	840,291	2,106,162

9. Current liabilities – trade and other payables

Goods & Services Tax net payable	177,198	188,303
Trade creditors	469,777	264,166
Accrued expenses	175,293	307,807
Total	822,268	760,276

10. Current Liabilities – Employee Entitlements

Employee entitlements - annual leave	1,262,810	1,236,496
Number of employees at reporting date (full time equivalent)	98	95

11. Non-current Liabilities – Deferred lease liability

414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills	840,291	990,791
-----------------------------------	---------	---------

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	182,496
--	---------

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 2014, 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 4 May 2012 to 3 May 2017. Information and declarations to be furnished under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and is in relation to fundraising activities undertaken by ACON Health Limited.

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

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Gross proceeds from fundraising:		
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	118,967	106,119
Other including Donations, Events & Sponsorship	678,635	593,645
Total gross income from fundraising	797,602	699,764
less total costs of fundraising:		
Red Ribbon World AIDS Day Appeal	66,978	64,492
Other	223,860	192,813
Total costs of fundraising	290,838	257,305
Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals	506,764	442,459

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

Ratio of costs to gross proceeds	36%	37%
Ratio of net surplus to gross proceeds	64%	63%

Ratio of total cost of fundraising services to total Organisation expenditure	2%	2%
---	----	----

Ratio of total cost of fundraising services to total Organisation income	2%	2%
--	----	----

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:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Within one year	1,765,918	1,671,576
Later than one year but not later than 5 years	6,450,904	6,106,961
Later than 5 years	919,879	2,349,396
	9,136,701	10,127,933

17. Retained Surplus

Retained surplus at the beginning of the year	4,271,404	4,298,939
Transfer to funds reserve	(242,016)	(240,000)
Transfer to SWOP	(108,299)	-
Current year surplus	457,284	212,465
Retained surplus at the end of the year	4,968,688	4,271,404

Included in the retained surplus at 30 June 2015 is an amount of \$1,474,376 (2014: \$1,259,108), which is restricted in its use. This relates to grants received not yet expended for the purpose for which they were intended.



18. Parent entity financial information

a) Summary Financial Information

The individual financial statements for the parent entity show the following aggregate amounts:

Balance sheet	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current assets	4,738,699	4,181,427
Total assets	7,808,890	7,523,856
Current liabilities	2,086,469	1,996,772
Total liabilities	2,926,760	2,987,564
Stakeholders' Funds		
Retained surplus	4,882,130	4,534,908
Operating surplus for the year	455,491	211,803

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).

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In the directors' opinion:

- 1) The consolidated financial statements and notes set out on pages 10 to 24 are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:
- a) giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - b) comply with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013; and
  - c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
- 2)
- a) the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)* and the *Charitable Fundraising Regulations 1993 (NSW)*;
  - b) the provisions of the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)* and the regulations under this Act and the conditions attached to the authority to fundraise have been complied with; and
  - c) the internal controls exercised by the group are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received.

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

Mark Orr  
President

Andrew Purchas  
Vice President

Dated at Sydney this 9th Day of September 2015.

Level 11, 265 Kent Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
LOCKED BAG 9880  
GVB Post Office  
Sydney NSW 1230

T +61 2 8297 2400  
F +61 2 9299 4445  
E [info.mtw@au.gt.com](mailto:info.mtw@au.gt.com)  
W [www.grantthornton.com.au](http://www.grantthornton.com.au)

Level 17, 383 Kent Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Correspondence to:  
Locked Bag 9880  
GVB Post Office  
Sydney NSW 1230

T +61 2 8297 2400  
F +61 2 9299 4445  
E [info.mtw@au.gt.com](mailto:info.mtw@au.gt.com)  
W [www.grantthornton.com.au](http://www.grantthornton.com.au)

Auditor's Independence Declaration  
To the Directors of ACON Health Limited

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as lead auditor for the audit of ACON Health Limited for the year ended 30 June 2015, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

  
GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD  
Chartered Accountants

  
A G Rigele  
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 9 September 2015

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd ACN 130 913 594  
a subsidiary or related entity of Grant Thornton Australia Ltd ABN 41 127 556 389

Grant Thornton refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires. Grant Thornton Australia Ltd is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL). GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions. In the Australian context only, the use of the term "Grant Thornton" may refer to Grant Thornton Australia Limited ABN 41 127 556 389 and its Australian subsidiaries and related entities. GTIL is not an Australian related entity to Grant Thornton Australia Limited.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation. Liability is limited in those States where a current scheme applies.

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

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Electronic presentation of audited financial report

This auditor's report relates to the financial report of ACON Health Limited and controlled entities for the year ended 30 June 2015 included on ACON Health Limited's web site. The Company's Directors are responsible for the integrity of ACON Health Limited's web site. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of ACON Health Limited's web site. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this web site.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion the financial report of ACON Health Limited is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a giving a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b complying with Australian Accounting Standard – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Independent Auditor's Report  
To the Members of ACON Health Limited

We have audited the accompanying financial report of ACON Health Limited (the "Company"), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in stakeholder's funds and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the directors' declaration of the Company.

Directors' responsibility for the financial report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's


Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd ACN 130 913 594  
a subsidiary or related entity of Grant Thornton Australia Ltd ABN 41 127 556 389


Grant Thornton refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires. Grant Thornton Australia Ltd is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL). GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions. In the Australian context only, the use of the term "Grant Thornton" may refer to Grant Thornton Australia Limited ABN 41 127 556 389 and its Australian subsidiaries and related entities. GTIL is not an Australian related entity to Grant Thornton Australia Limited.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation. Liability is limited in those States where a current scheme applies.

The financial report and associated records have been properly kept in accordance with:

- a Sections 20(1), 22(1-2) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 ("the Act"); and
- b Section 10 of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008 ("the Regulations") and Section 7 of Schedule 1 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.

  
GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD  
Chartered Accountants

  
A G Rigele  
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 9 September 2015



# FIND US HERE

## **SYDNEY (Head Office)**

414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010  
9am-6pm, Mon-Fri  
(02) 9206 2000  
Freecall: 1800 063 060  
acon@acon.org.au  
www.acon.org.au  
endinghiv.org.au  
facebook.com/ACONHealth  
facebook.com/ACONHealth  
Tweet: @ACONHealth, @ENDINGHIV

## **NORTHERN RIVERS OFFICE**

27 Uralba St, Lismore, NSW 2480  
9am-5pm, Mon-Fri  
(02) 6622 1555  
Freecall: 1800 633 637  
northernrivers@acon.org.au  
facebook.com/ACONNorthernRivers

## **COFFS HARBOUR OUTREACH**

(02) 6651 6017  
athoener@acon.org.au

## **HUNTER OFFICE**

129 Maitland Rd, Islington, NSW 2296  
9am-5pm Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri  
9am-6:30pm Tue  
(02) 49620 7700  
hunter@acon.org.au  
facebook.com/ACONHunter

## **PORT MACQUARIE OUTREACH**

(02) 6584 0943  
mnc@acon.org.au

## **SOUTHERN & WESTERN NSW OUTREACH**

(02) 9206 2114  
regionaloutreach@acon.org.au  
facebook.com/ACONSouthernNSW

## **ACON TRAINING & CONSULTING**

414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010  
9am-6pm, Mon-Fri  
(02) 9206 2000  
training@acon.org.au  
www.acontraining.org.au

## **PRIDE & DIVERSITY**

414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010  
9am-6pm, Mon-Fri  
(02) 9206 2139  
info@prideindiversity  
www.prideindiversity.com.au

## **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**





[www.acon.org.au](http://www.acon.org.au)