

WA AIDS Council Annual Report

03/04

Until there's a cure



WA AIDS Council

The WA AIDS Council's vision is strengthening our community's health and quality of life. Its mission is to minimise the impact and further transmission of HIV, other blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections; $\frac{D}{\Delta}$ to demonstrate leadership and excellence in education, advocacy, support and health enhancement services. Its core values are excellence

- community • accountability •
- commitment • access and equity



chairperson's report

These are interesting times we live in. Unfortunately not all of it is good news for the world, WAAC or the community.

We face elections at both the state and Federal level, the outcomes of which always have the potential to affect the organisation either positively or negatively. The current discussion around the 5th National Strategy have been dragging on for some time and unfortunately, do not appear to have the vision or approach of the early strategies. This may or may not change regardless of the outcome of the election. Only time will tell.

In terms of Board activities, governance, finance and the now national increase in infection rates have been the principal foci for 2003-2004. Some interesting work in the area of governance has been done, and we are now in a position to examine critically and effectively the work of the Board and the organisation. As part of that process, the Board is maintaining a focus on attracting Board members with particular skills that will enhance its own work as well as that of WAAC. The issue of funding remains an ongoing issue becoming more and more difficult to maintain service levels each year. One issue that we are monitoring closely is a change in tendering processes in Queensland which has seen the Queensland AIDS Council lose a significant portion of its funding to another organisation. At this stage, there does not seem to be an appetite for this in WA, but we will watch developments closely. The national increase in infection rates is now being seen in WA and remains a concern at both the state level and nationally. How effectively it is managed will depend, not only on the day to day work of organisations such as WAAC but also on how the 5th National Strategy is handled and the vision it brings to the national approach.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and Board members of WAAC for the outstanding work they do to ensure that WAAC continues to excel at the work it does in supporting and educating the WA community in the fight to bring about a world free from HIV and AIDS. In particular, I would like to thank Chris Carter, who is retiring from the Board this year, for the work he has done on behalf of our community and this organisation.

Russell King

Chairperson

the board of management 2003-2004

Russell King (BSc, Grad Dip Ed, Post Grad Dip in Science Ed) – **Chairperson**

Russell has been on the Board of Management of WAAC since 1997. He has over 20 years experience as a secondary teacher and has been actively involved in the Perth lesbian and gay community for many years.

Christopher Carter (BSW (Syd.) Grad Dip Health Ed Prom (LaTrobe), GMQ (UNSW) – **Deputy Chairperson**

Chris is the Executive Director of the Perth and Hills Division of General Practice. He was previously the Executive Director of WA AIDS Council and has worked in the AIDS sector in Victoria and NSW.

Leonie Bigwood (BSocSc in Youth Work, Grad Dip Primary Ed) – **Secretary**

Leonie is an educator and has a very long involvement with GLCS in training, telephone counselling and administration.

(Peter) Willie Rowe (BA, BCom) – **Treasurer**

Willie has an extensive experience in government, political and lobbying processes and currently works as a consultant to businesses and government.

Roger Sykes (B Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Curtin University) – **openly HIV positive representative.**

Roger currently coordinates the Aged Care Therapy Unit at Bentley Health Service. He is one of WAAC's representatives on AFAO and is a founding member of HAPAN.

Kingsley Burton (BA Psych, GMQ UNSW, Exec Master in Business in Admin, Assoc Fellow ACHSE) – **Community representative**

Kingsley is a Director of Strategic Planning and Organisation development at St John of God Hospital, Subiaco.

Myles Kunzli (BA Ed, BSW (Hons) – **Gay and Lesbian Community Services Representative – until December 2003**

Myles is the Director of GLCS and works at the Legal Aid Commission as a Community Development Officer.

Daniel McAullay (BSc, MAppEpid) – **Community representative**

Daniel is a member of the Nyoongar community of the SW of WA. He is currently working as a Senior Policy Officer with the Office of Aboriginal Health in the Health Department. He has previously worked as a researcher at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, a community nurse at Derbarl Yerrigan and a Registered Nurse at RPH. He is currently a PhD candidate with the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University.

Philomena Rourke (Dip PEd, BEduc, MPsych (transpersonal) – **Community representative**

Philomena has extensive experience in Education, Community Cultural Development and Psychotherapy. She works for the Swan Districts Education Office and her work in Expressive Arts Therapy led to her involvement with AIDS patients in San Francisco.

Lisa Tomney (Dip Human Services) – **Staff Representative**

Lisa volunteered at the WA AIDS Council before commencing as the Customer Services Officer. She now works in Positive Services as a Support Officer. She is on the Board of Welfare Rights and Advocacy Services.

executive director's report

On the eve of the WA AIDS Council's 20th Anniversary, I am pleased to present my fourth report as Executive Director. It is always difficult to embody, in a couple of paragraphs, the scope and depth of the work undertaken at the Council in very efficient circumstances (i.e. on the smell of an oily rag!!). We are very fortunate to have some outstanding people working at the Council who are not only committed to the cause but innovative and contribute to a harmonious workplace. Please take your time to read about the specific work carried out at the Council.

The external environment is always challenging. The announcement of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Sexual Health, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (MACASSH) heralds a new direction in government policy. The "Partnership" approach, one of the principles of the first four strategies, has been eroded with the Commonwealth government diluting the voices of the community. The review and evaluation of the fourth National Strategy was effectively stymied and the fifth National Strategy consultations and considerations have been caught in the web of the ineffectual advisory structure.

This is most unfortunate as the epidemic is at the crossroads in relation to the relative importance of prevention and education and treatment and care. In the early years when treatments were not available, the prevention agenda was respected by all elements in the partnership and adequately resourced. Now, the treatments and medical discourse is starting to dominate. Whilst there is no doubt that people living with HIV want access to the most advanced treatments available, it is still essential that prevention is a strong part of the response.

How does this affect the work we do at the Council? In some ways the past year has been business as usual. However the framework of our work is less certain and it has become increasingly more difficult to plan. Our core funding level has reduced in real terms over the past five years and yet we acknowledge that the WA AIDS Council enjoys a good funding base by comparison to other agencies funded by Population Health in WA. We know that sexually transmissible infections are at unacceptable levels in Aboriginal communities and that the WA AIDS Council has a part to play in ensuring these levels reduce. However we also know that gay men still make up the majority of new diagnoses as well as those living with HIV. Re-orienting services to meet new and emerging needs can only be achieved if existing needs are met. At present, the vast bulk of preventative sexual health services for men who have sex with men and young men at risk of HIV is being done by the WA AIDS Council. This reality is exacerbated by the tenuous nature of other funding options and the risk associated with fundraising.

In some ways the WA AIDS Council is like a finely tuned and balanced motor vehicle. There are some dents which need fixing and the duco needs polishing. We have sufficient petrol, oil and water to keep running but it is driven by good drivers who know the road rules. Our vehicle will remain serviceable for many years as long it doesn't hit a barrier and it doesn't hit too many potholes. So in order for our vehicle to keep going, we need the potholes in the road to be fixed, the roads to be maintained and resurfaced and new roads to be built where there are dirt roads at present.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Management for their support and guidance, the Management team of Sally Rowell, Kevin Shanks and Julie-ann Kirk for their commitment during some challenging times, the loyal and dedicated staff and the volunteers who provide their time so generously. Together we will continue to keep the vehicle on the road.

Trish Langdon

Executive Director

positive services

Positive Services has seen an increase in the number of new clients referred in the past year. Despite treatments continuing to provide the majority of people living with HIV with much extended life prospects, side effects for some are debilitating and difficult to manage. For these people, complementary therapies and contact with other HIV positive people are really important strategies for maintaining a sense of equilibrium. The department has been very stable during the year and continues to provide high quality services under the management of Sally Rowell.

Support Services

The team of support officers made up of Grace Carroll, Lisa Tomney and Amanda Siebert have an ongoing caseload of 106 people living with HIV. The aim of this service is to ensure that psycho-social factors do not impact on an HIV+ person's capacity to remain healthy or improve their health. Its underpinning philosophy is to empower people living with HIV to lead a full and productive life with the capacity to make decisions affecting their health and wellbeing. This means that the support officers work in partnership with their clients – exploring options, setting goals, regularly reviewing how things are progressing and making appropriate changes wherever possible.

They also work collaboratively with other service providers such as Royal Perth Hospital, Fremantle Hospital, Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital and PMH and King Edward Memorial Hospital, The Living Centre (formerly AIDS Pastoral Care), Silver Chain and RUAH Inreach services. Specialist services are also involved such as Mental Health services, Alzheimer's Association, Haemophilia Services, Disability Services and Murdoch Hospice and other palliative care services.

The support officers provide practical, financial and emotional support to people living with their HIV and their families. During the year 12 new clients were referred for Support Services, of whom 87% were male and 35% were heterosexual. 6 deaths occurred during the year. The Support Officers had 1228

contacts with their clientele and made 294 referrals to agencies such as Homeswest, Centrelink, utilities providers to negotiate payments, applying for NILS (No Interest Loan scheme) for white goods and other support agencies to assist people living with HIV.

118 people received welfare assistance from the HIV assistance fund (supplemented by the Commonwealth, Lotterywest and local government), 116 food parcels were provided to people who required basic nutrition and 32 Christmas hampers (kindly donated by our own 'Angel' – Lorraine Sawyer) were provided to assist making the Christmas season happy and festive.

For people requiring more complex care, 13 care teams were organised with volunteers providing 1857 hours of care. This equates to 50 weeks of full time care.

Counselling

The aim of Counselling is offered to people living with and or affected by HIV/AIDS, people in situations of risk and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people addressing sexuality, gender and/or relationship issues.

Sabena Lund and Suzanne Calver provided 447 counselling sessions to 245 clients with 571 other non face to face contacts during the past year. The majority of clients seek counselling for HIV/AIDS adjustment issues, HIV test discussion, relationships, sexuality, substance use and depression/anxiety.

Sabena also provides support to the Spirituality and Wellbeing Group which meets on a monthly basis for people wishing to develop and explore a spiritual dimension to their healing, health and wellbeing.

"Counselling service always felt safe and professional and I always felt "heard", validated and understood"

Living Well Program

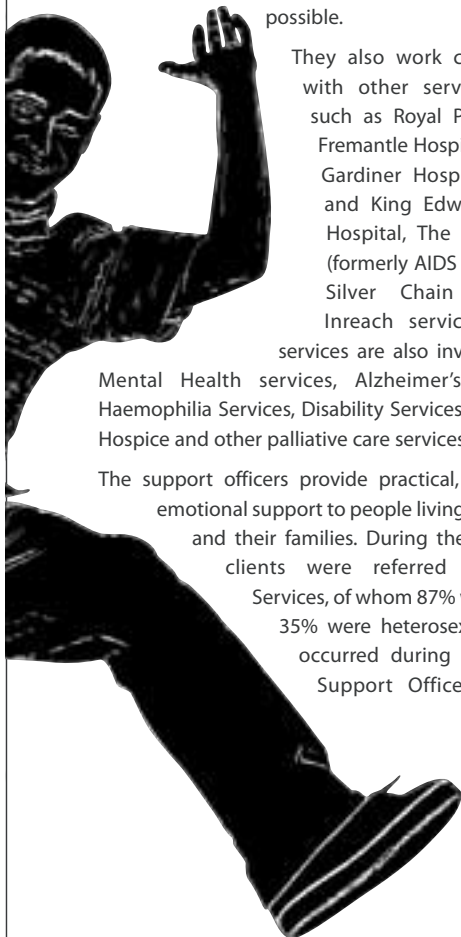
This program provides complementary therapies such as Massage, Reflexology, Reiki, Acupuncture, Kinesiology, Indian Head Massage and Pranic Healing. 7 Practitioners are involved and have provided 434 sessions including to 29 new clients. This is an increase of 10% from the previous year.

The Buddy Program

The Buddy Program provides emotional one to one support for people living with or affected by HIV. There were 513 contacts of staff, volunteers and clients throughout the year.

Treatments Services

Although Western Australia, by comparison to the rest of Australia, has a relatively high uptake of treatments, there is some evidence this level is reducing. A number of people report that the regimes are inconvenient, harsh and interfere with other aspects of their lives and that side effects are intolerable. There are new challenges on the horizon as more people seek



information about wanting to have treatment breaks. The ongoing impact of this is, as yet, unknown although research is being carried out on the impact and effects on the immune system and general health.

There were 272 contacts made by people requiring information about treatments with 23% wanting information about treatment side effects and 22% wanting information about general HIV treatments information and support. The rest required information about new medications, adherence to medication, missed doses and the effect of that and new diagnosis.

Health Enhancement Services

Cipri Martinez (HIV+ Educator) and Lyn Tolliday (Women's Officer) aim to enhance the health of people living with HIV/AIDS through the provision of social support outings, discussion groups and forums and one to one support. The program is designed to complement the services provided by support officers and the Living Well and Buddy programs.

Cipri has had 487 contacts with a diverse group of people during the past year, 97% of whom are HIV positive. Issues covered included being newly diagnosed and the repercussions of the diagnosis on the person and significant others, safer sex information, rights of HIV positive people, immigration issues, discrimination, dual diagnosis of mental health and HIV and coming to terms with same sex attraction.

A number of workshops were held during the year as follows:

"Genesis" is a new 2 day workshop designed for people who have been recently diagnosed. Twelve people availed themselves of this 2 day workshop.

40 people attended the "Country Roads" forum for HIV positive people and other interested persons to hear about what it is like for HIV positive people living in rural areas and the difficulties they have with accessing health services and treatments

Lyn Tolliday has had 368 one to one contacts with positive women, of whom 20% are Aboriginal. She has provided 183 information packs and made 42 referrals.

Retreats

Two retreats and a Family Camp were provided this year. A mixed Positive retreat had 29 attendees and a Women's retreat with 10 attendees. The Positive person's retreat was very successful and received very positive feedback from the participants. Workshops included dealing with relationships, including medical relationships, treatments and breakaway sessions that looked at being gay, heterosexual and a woman living with HIV.

One participant commented that it was good *"To be within a non discriminatory and supportive environment and to establish new acquaintances and to get away from the rat race, however brief"*.

50% of those attending the Women's retreat had never been on a retreat before. One woman reported that prior to coming to the retreat she felt *"angry, tired, stressed and lonely"* and that by the end of the retreat she felt *"light and free. I felt happy and full of energy"*.

The Family Camp had 33 participants with a number of new families. This camp provides parents and caregivers an opportunity to mix with other people in the same situation as well as seek some respite from the day to day stresses of family life.

HAPAN

Cipri Martinez continues to facilitate HAPAN – the HIV/AIDS Peer Advisory Network which provides valuable input into service delivery at the WA AIDS Council. Roger Sykes, in his role on the Board of Management and one of WAAC's AFAO representatives, has been very active in both disseminating information to HAPAN members as well as being involved at a grass roots level through co-facilitating workshops.

Robert Spicer received funding from AFAO to conduct a pilot project called "Bounce Back" an integrated program containing nutrition and physical activity information as well as an exercise program for HIV positive people. This program has turned the WAAC building into a centre for physical activity 3 times per week and the results have been noticeable for those attending.



aboriginal services

The WA AIDS Council is cognisant of the need for culturally appropriate services to be provided within the organisation. To that end, Daniel McAullay has joined the Board of Management and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee has been established to provide strategic advice to the Board and Management at the Council. The committee will take into account the findings of the social research project, 'Just getting' on with my life without thinkin' about it – The experiences of Aboriginal people in Western Australia who are HIV positive" by Maria Bonar, Heath Greville and Sandra Thompson.

At present, 9.1% of our core budget is expended providing services to Aboriginal people. This does not take into account the 2 non-recurrent Aboriginal projects currently funded – the Hepatitis C Education Project working within the Needle and Syringe Service held by Clyde Du Bois and the Aboriginal HIV/BBV/STI Officer held by Gail Jones. All the staff at the Council participated in cultural sensitivity training and others have participated in providing HIV/AIDS training with Indigenous organisations.

The majority of the Council's service provision is to Aboriginal people living with HIV. 10% of clients accessing Positive Services are Aboriginal although this accounts for 30% of the occasions of service. Of those people accessing the Women's officer, 20% are Aboriginal women from the metropolitan and rural areas. 10% of the families attending the Family Camp were Aboriginal.

Between 5% to 10% of people accessing the Needle and Syringe Exchange Service are Aboriginal. It is anticipated that this will increase with the education and capacity building being provided by Clyde Du Bois around the prevention of hepatitis C. Already some sites have seen an increase in the number of young Aboriginal people accessing information about the avoidance of blood borne viruses and safe sex and safe injecting information.

Some same sex attracted Aboriginal men access gay men's education programs and the Freedom Centre. The Same Sky project has uncovered unmet needs in some rural areas with one third of young same sex attracted people accessing the program being Aboriginal. It is recognised that there are probably other unmet needs in the community and the Council will be seeking information and ways to ensure that accessibility is enhanced.

Gail Jones has been working in conjunction with the Street Doctor program encouraging street-present Aboriginal people to seek STI and BBV testing. There has been encouraging signs with this service. She has also been involved with presenting "Keep Safe" at Bandyup and has worked on a joint project with the Department of Justice aimed at educating and supporting peer inmates providing HIV/STI and BBV education to fellow inmates. Gail continues to support other health promotion activities and training sessions aimed at enhancing the skills of Aboriginal Health Workers and others in the work they do in the community.



education services

Towards the end of 2003, it became clear that WA was seeing an increase in the number of new diagnoses of HIV, particularly amongst men who have sex with men, following the trend in the east coast.

Although not always possible to prove, it also appeared that some of these new diagnoses were new infections. This led to a concerted effort and campaign to revitalise the "condom culture" in WA and encourage people at risk to test for HIV and other STIs. This was enhanced by a collaboration with FPWA to open a men's sexual health clinic to enhance the clinics operated by WAAC at Perth Steamworks and Beaufort 565. The WAAC Education team is managed by Kevin Shanks which uses the Ottawa Charter 1986 to underpin its work.

The Ottawa Charter focuses on 5 key actions as follows:

- Building healthy public policy;
- Strengthening community action;
- Developing personal skills;
- Creating supportive environments; and
- Re-orienting health services.

Education for gay men and men who have sex with men:

After having a depleted staff in 2002-2003, services provided to gay men and men who have sex with men increased in 2003-2004. Garry Sattell, Mark Ravenscroft, Jonathon Hallett, Paul Davis and Simon Yam make up the team, as well as Dr Stephen Hodby, Dr David Chin and Dr Walter Ong in the sex on promises clinics. A dedicated team of volunteers provide services through Mensline, an anonymous telephone education service provided to men including rural and remote areas.

The gay men's education team provides one to one peer education and skill building and provides information and support via forums, workshops and groups. 1110 calls were received by Mensline, 72% of them being new callers. 54% identified as bisexual, 16.8% identified as gay and 27% of callers identified as heterosexual. Of those callers who had regular partners, 88.8% of them had female partners. 45% of callers who were sexually active had sex with both men and women.

The team seeks to strengthen community action by assisting already existing community groups such as West Oz leather and Bears with specific tailored advice about safe sex and other important information. It has supported "Primetimers", a social group for gay men over the age of 40 years, since its inception in July 2003. The group has 66 members and 16 different activities based groups.

The Sauna Clinic provides an essential service to men in WA who would otherwise be too frightened or anxious to access HIV and STI testing from STI clinics or a general practitioner. 376 men accessed the sauna clinics during the reporting period with 829 HIV and STI tests being conducted. The clinic diagnosed 3 cases of HIV.

Gay men's education has distributed 11,400 Condom packs throughout the year accompanied by nearly 1000 pieces of written information.

Crime Prevention Project:

Simon Yam undertook this project in collaboration with the WA Police Service, City of Bayswater and the City of Stirling with the goal of creating a supportive environment for men who use Beats. It aimed to enhance community amenity by preventing or reducing crime at Beats – through information and awareness-raising about consequences of using Beats and for crime perpetrated against men to be reported to the Police. In addition, it provided sexual diversity and sensitivity training to the Police, Local Government Rangers and security guards so that they were better equipped to deal with men using Beats. The WA AIDS Council continues to provide safe sex information to men choosing to use Beats and also provides referrals for men wishing to discuss any issues related to their Beat use or medical advice and information about alternative venues.

Needle and Syringe Exchange Program

Tania Lamond continues to lead the highly dedicated team of Sharen Picard, Sandie Tawhai and Clyde DuBois in providing needles and syringes on exchange and other related equipment to people who inject drugs. This program is an excellent example of the Ottawa Charter in practice where individual skills are improved, a supportive environment is provided to people wishing to access the exchange, there is focus on prevention rather than cure and public policy is based on evidence.

During the year, each exchange was capped at 50 units free of charge per visit in an effort to curb expenditure on this program. The decision, made by the Health Department, has now been reversed although it did result in 12.8% more client contacts than the previous year with a drop of 6.7% in the amount of equipment distributed.

WAAC has also seen a large increase in the number of people accessing the service in the West Perth office with 703 exchanges facilitated during 2003-2004. There is also evidence that clients are keen to know more about health matters and wanting to access equipment which enhance their health, such as wheel filters.

In all, the NSEP had 11,312 client contacts and distributed 683 444 pieces of injecting equipment. This service would not operate if it were not for the 50 volunteers who brave the weather cycles in Perth and the 13 sites throughout the metropolitan and outer metropolitan area.

annual report key facts

The Western Australian AIDS Council began in 1985. It was formed by a small but incredibly committed group of people who wanted to act to prevent HIV infection amongst gay men and provide care and support to those people who were ill. It remains a community based not-for-profit organisation providing a diverse range of services to the Western Australian community. At the heart of the WA AIDS Council are core values, which the staff and volunteers endeavour to uphold in all the work they carry out. About twenty thousand people in the Western Australian community have some contact with the WA AIDS Council each year.

The WA AIDS Council has 350 loyal and committed volunteers. We have always been heavily reliant on volunteer support and would not be able to provide the level of service without them.

Since the beginning of the epidemic until December 2003, 1215 people have been diagnosed with HIV in WA. 440 have been diagnosed with an AIDS defining illness and 299 have died. Homosexually active men overwhelmingly make up the majority of people infected with HIV in the Western Australian community. However over time, we have seen an increasing number of heterosexual men and women becoming infected with this virus.

Of great concern is the slow but steady increase in the number of Aboriginal people with HIV, many of whom have significant social issues to contend with. One third of all Aboriginal people diagnosed with HIV in Australia live in WA compared to the rest of the WA epidemic which makes up 5.21% of the total epidemic in Australia. The WA AIDS Council is currently providing about 9.1% of its total services to Aboriginal people and is constantly evaluating how we can improve our services.

The WA AIDS Council also manages the Freedom Centre which provides a unique supportive environment to young people with same sex attraction and diverse gender expression.

The Council has 32 paid staff members and 350 active volunteers, including the Board of Management.

It owns a building and manages 2 other facilities. It operates two Needle and Syringe Exchange vans and 2 other vehicles.

It receives funds from Department of Health – Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Aboriginal Health, the Coalition of Australian Governments (COAG), the Department of Justice, Lotterywest, Safer WA, the Department of Health and Ageing and many Local Government Authorities. It also has an active fundraising program involving many committed and dedicated sponsors and businesses.

HIV and AIDS

AIDS stands for “acquired immunodeficiency syndrome” (a syndrome means a cluster of medical conditions). It is caused by HIV – “the human immunodeficiency virus” which targets and weakens the body’s immune system. HIV can be a slow-acting virus and an individual can look and feel well for many years, without a person being aware they have the virus. A blood test is the only certain way to determine whether an individual is HIV positive. HIV can be passed on through certain body fluids (blood, semen, menstrual fluids, vaginal fluids, breast milk) getting directly into the blood stream of another person. Some activities which can put people at risk of HIV infection include; unprotected penetrative sex, unprotected oral sex, sharing injecting/ piercing and tattooing equipment and from a HIV positive woman to her baby during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.

There is still no preventative vaccine or cure for HIV. In Australia, people have access to antiretroviral drugs that can slow down the progression of HIV. However side-effects, drug toxicity and drug failure can have a significant effect on the quality of life for some people taking these treatments.

community education

Public Speaking

The WAAC Public Speaking program provided 162 talks during the year, with 70% being provided in schools or universities and 30% to professional and community groups. The most popular presentation is the “Personal Perspective” provided by people living with HIV. One student commented

“I’ve learnt to think about things a lot more.....responsibility to not assume that I know what people are going through – basically to be a lot more responsible”

AIDSline

AIDSline is an anonymous telephone service provided to people requiring information about HIV/AIDS. It is

staffed by volunteers and Health Promotion Students and received 538 calls with most calls being around HIV/AIDS anxiety, testing information and project material. There were 283 referrals, the majority of which were to an internal WAAC program or counselling, to a hospital for testing or to FPWA.

Prisons

WAAC, along with the Hepatitis Council and other health agencies continues to provide the “Keep Safe” Program in WA prisons and juvenile detention centres. The package is in the process of being re-written and incorporates a harm reduction and blood awareness approach to injecting and sexual practices, tattooing and piercing and other risk factors present in prisons.

youth services

The WA AIDS Council provides a number of education and prevention programs delivered within supportive environments targeting youth.

The majority of them are planned and delivered by young people, ensuring they are relevant and appropriate. Gemma Crawford, Catherine Swift, Chloe Britton, Jonathon Hallett, Jaye Edwards and Tania Metcalf and an enthusiastic group of volunteers deliver these innovative programs.

The K.I.S.S Program

K.I.S.S (Keep it Safe Summer) is an integrated program, starting with outreach teams attending the popular "leavers" celebrations at Rottnest and Dunsborough, having information stalls at events such as the "Big Day Out" and orientation weeks at Universities and workshops at Parkerville "damage control". The program, managed by Gemma Crawford, aims to provide HIV/STI, safe sex and drug and alcohol information at a time when young people are experimenting with risky behaviours and therefore vulnerable. Interestingly young men access the information and are willing to talk with the peer educators much more readily than young women. 2311 young people were outreached and a number of referrals were made to various health agencies.

"I found the KISS program to be well-designed, appropriate and informed intervention. I think that these kind of programs work best on a grass-roots level rather than just bombarding leavers with 'Safe sex' and 'don't do drugs' information and hoping for the best. To find out how the leavers really feel about sex, alcohol and drugs is a good way to 'open' them up."

Schools Program

The WA AIDS Council provides a Public Speaking program to schools. For the past couple of years a concerted effort has been made to engage young people with the AIDS issue in a way that is relevant to them. The World AIDS Day 2003 poster competition was conducted for secondary and tertiary students in conjunction with FPWA (formerly Family Planning Association). The theme was "Design for Life - World AIDS Day 2003" with safe sex being the dominant theme. Participating schools received information and talks from Health Promotion Students as part of the process of creating their masterpieces. This competition was very popular and some fantastic designs were created and shown during AIDS Awareness Week. The tertiary winner was Christy Stewart with "Condoms-the only accessory you need" and the secondary winner was Holly Williams with "Faces of HIV".

SHE

The SHE (Sexual Health Education) Program is a sexual health program devised by Catherine Swift aimed at young women who have not necessarily received this type of education whilst at school. It is likely it will be adapted to meet the needs of other girls and women in the coming year.

Freedom Centre

The Freedom Centre, managed by Chloe Britton, is a strong, vibrant program for young same sex attracted people or with diverse gender expression. The past year

has been tumultuous with 3 moves, a huge cleanup at the Stirling Street premises and a new start in William Street. Up to 100 young people access the Freedom Centre each month, with 30 being new clients. Specific programs are offered to young guys and girls to discuss aspects of sexuality and related issues, as well as mixed social and artistic programs. A successful retreat was held in February at Harvey to orient and train volunteers working in the program in the metropolitan and country areas. It is working closely with Trinity Youth Options to ensure that street present young people are getting specific needs met.

Training has been provided to a number of youth agencies as well as Youth Link, the Regional Domestic Violence committees, the Education Department and the State School Teachers Union, Youth-friendly Doctors scheme and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

Same Sky Project

Same Sky is a collaboration between the Freedom Centre, the WA AIDS Council, GLCS and P Flag to assist same sex attracted young people living in rural areas to develop their resilience and to build capacity within local communities to deal with the issues of same sex attraction. It is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Jaye Edwards, the Same Sky project officer, is based in Bunbury but has close links with Albany. Although Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie are the targeted towns for this intervention, a number of other areas have sourced information and material. The Bunbury Freedom Centre has opened and is being attended by a number of young people. There are a number of service providers in Geraldton with serious concerns about some of their young people and have indicated they would be in a position to support a Freedom Centre in Geraldton.

The community interest in the Same Sky project has been very encouraging and it is hoped that it will continue past the funding period.

Internet Project

Tania Metcalf has augmented the work of the Freedom Centre and the Same Sky project with the development of an interactive website designed for young people to access information about same sex and diverse gender expression issues. This has been funded by the Foundation of Young Australians. Since the website has been in operation 2754 different people have accessed the site, an average of 275 per month. Most people use the word "freedom" which indicates that the Freedom Centre is a well known resource within the community.

Celebrating Diversity

Celebrating Diversity is another collaborative project between GLCS, PFlag, WAAC and the Freedom Centre aimed at building the capacity of GLCS in order that the community can better respond to community needs as a result of Gay and Lesbian law reform. This project, undertaken by Sandra Norman, was funded by Lotterywest.

training services

Training continues to be a vital service provided by the WA AIDS Council for external service providers, where HIV/AIDS is not necessarily core business but where staff have contact with people at risk of HIV or have HIV/AIDS, and our internal service providers – our very important volunteers.

External training

It is very pleasing that all of our staff have provided some training over the past twelve months – whether it is formal training to external agencies or informal on-the-job training to new volunteers. The range of formal training offered in the past year is as follows:

- Basic HIV/AIDS information;
- Blood borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs), transmission and prevention, infection control including standard precautions;
- Pre-test discussion and post-test counselling;
- Sexual diversity and Beat culture;
- Working with young people with same sex attraction and diverse gender expression;
- Assisting serodiscordant couples;
- Providing risk HIV/STI and BBV assessments for men who have sex with men;
- Needle and Syringe Exchange – safe use and disposal; and
- Drug and alcohol issues such as overdose.

External training has been provided to over 450 Prison Officers, 20 WA Police Service (WAPS) Diversity Officers, 150 WA Police Service new recruits, over 300 Medical students and nurses and over 150 Aboriginal Health Workers. Other allied health and welfare professionals such as pharmacists, local government workers including rangers, environmental officers and security officers, health promotion officers, teachers, youth workers and community workers, have all attended training, workshops and forums.

Volunteer training

Over 70 new volunteers have been trained in the past year with specific training courses being offered in the Needle and Syringe Exchange program, Positive services, the K.I.S.S program, Mensline and Public Speaking. In addition a number of new volunteers are providing valuable assistance in administration which has really enhanced our work.

Sarah Collins has done an excellent job in re-vamping the format for volunteer participation at WAAC with the introduction of a VIP club for volunteers, offering discounts and services for WAAC volunteers, a volunteer newsletter and the re-introduction of condom packing days which have proven to be highly successful and great fun!

All people who make enquires to WAAC regarding volunteering attend an Information evening and then Introductory Training over 2 days. They are then interviewed by Sarah before attending more specialist training and orientation into different programs. This has led to an improved matching between volunteers and programs, higher retention levels and greater satisfaction for the volunteers.



volunteer awards

POSITIVE SERVICES

Brian Hellar – Support Services

Ray Hoare – Living Well Program

Bryce Mc Cartney – Buddy Program and the Family Camp

Stella Ward – Support Services

Catherine Bishop – Support Services

EDUCATION

Rob Brown – Gay Men's Education

Mychele Pringle – AIDSline and Public Speaking as well as Positive Services

Lisa Trainer – AIDSline, Public Speaking, K.I.S.S and the Poster Competition

Catherine Swift – Public Speaking (Be Blood Aware) and K.I.S.S

Jan Steele – NSEP

Roxy Lang – NSEP

Nadine Toussaint – Freedom Centre

Robbie Cliff – Freedom Centre

ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

Patrick Turner – PRIDE and World AIDS Day

Mardy Aye & Jeff Tatton – Events and World AIDS Day

CHAIRPERSON'S AWARD – BEN BRADSTREET

Ben had been volunteering for Mensline for almost two years and has shown himself to be a model volunteer. He is very reliable and has an excellent understanding of issues that relate to MSMs. Ben also volunteered to co-facilitate the Men on Men workshop during the year, showing a great understanding of the issues involved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD – ROGER SYKES

Roger is a passionate, committed individual who in 2003 was integrally involved in the 2003 positive sexuality retreat. Not only did he act as co-facilitator, but was involved in the development of the program and workshops. Roger has demonstrated his facilitation skills elsewhere including meetings for HAPAN (HIV/AIDS Peer Advisory Network), and for Genesis – a program for people newly diagnosed with HIV. He has also provided a personal perspective for Men on Men. Roger believes in the empowerment of people and is a constructive team player.

organisation development and services

During the past year, Organisation Development and Services welcomed a new Business Manager – Julie-ann Kirk. Tony Murdoch continued to maintain the finance and administration support systems, Tania McGuinness was the Customer Service Officer, Mark Reid coordinated Fundraising strategies and Sarah Collins administered the volunteers.

Publications

Now in its 14th year of publication, Positive Life (PL) magazine continues to inform and educate the clients, members, sponsors and volunteers of the WA AIDS Council. Many staff members and volunteers contribute to this magazine with a range of articles designed to keep people up-to-date with WAAC activities, fresh information about HIV/AIDS and education and prevention strategies.

World AIDS Day 2003

"Show you care" was the theme for World AIDS Day 2003. Posters, temporary tattoos, pens, t-shirts and postcards, designed to interest people of all ages and backgrounds, were distributed around the state. The Murray Street Mall had a stall for the week leading up to World AIDS Day and volunteers provided information about the Council and sold red ribbons. This was augmented with the poster competition.

The Candlelight vigil was held at the AIDS Memorial in Northbridge, where the World AIDS Day Awards were presented and people had a chance to remember their loved ones in a solemn ceremony. HAPAN and the Living Centre were involved in organising this event.

Fundraising

StyleAID 2003 with the theme of "Perform" was held in August in the ethereal surrounds of Winthrop Hall and the grounds of the University of Western Australia. Over 600 people attended a stunning night with artistic performances, fantastic Western Australian fashion and divine food from Comestibles and Ultimo Caterers. More than 300 volunteers worked backstage to produce this fantastic event, which would not be possible without the generous sponsorship from many suppliers, listed in the back of the report.

The Perth Food and Wine Fair, held in Russell Square, Northbridge in March 2004, saw over 8 000 visitors taste delectable food and wine, generously supplied by some of the best eateries and wineries in WA. The weather was beautiful and people were entertained by a number of local acts. The third "Long Table Lunch" was a great success providing sumptuous Mediterranean delights from Comestibles, Heyder and Shears and Ultimo Caterers and Clairault Wines.

M.A.C (Makeup Artists of Canada) stocked at Myer continues to provide generously to the WA AIDS Council HIV assistance fund from sales of Viva Glam lipsticks and Christmas cards. Wherever M.A.C. is stocked in the world, the company donates money to HIV/AIDS causes and to date has raised millions of dollars.

LUXE Bar in Beaufort Street Highgate, continues to raise funds from Luxe Bar patrons.

WORLD AIDS DAY 2003 award recipients

Individual Award: The Ferrari Family

For an individual who has made a significant personal contribution in the fight against AIDS.

The Ferrari family, particularly John and Catherine, have contributed to WAAC through their invaluable sponsorship by their family company, European Foods, for the Perth Food and Wine Fair for the past four years and STYLEAID for the past six years. They also provide goods throughout the year for retreats for positive people, volunteers and other functions.

Group or Association Award: The Town of Vincent

For a group which has made a significant contribution to the fight against AIDS.

The Town of Vincent has supported the WA AIDS Council and people with HIV as well as those vulnerable to being infected with HIV over many years. They provide funds for the WAAC HIV Assistance Fund, support the Western Australian Substance Users' Association and the WA AIDS Council having Needle Exchange sites in their jurisdiction and have contributed land and the ongoing upkeep of the AIDS Memorial Monument.

HIV Positive Person Award: Arpad Ollari-Hazy

For an HIV positive individual who has had a significant impact in HIV/AIDS awareness raising.

Arpad is a member of HAPAN and has contributed his artistic and organisational skills in developing logos and websites and helping organise events for positive people. He is also an active member of the Spirituality and Wellbeing group and was instrumental in the organisation of a number of retreats for HIV positive people.

Youth Award: Meredith (Midge) Turnbull

An individual or group who have made a significant contribution to awareness, education and prevention efforts, particularly related to youth.

Midge is the former Coordinator of the Freedom Centre and is now the Executive Officer at the Youth Affairs Council of WA. She continues to strongly advocate for young marginalised and vulnerable people in the community, including gay and lesbian people and those vulnerable to HIV infection. During her time at the Freedom Centre she provided peer education around HIV as well as many other health related issues.

Health Services Award: Dr Lewis Marshall

For an individual or group who have provided essential health or clinical services in the prevention and treatment of HIV.

Dr Marshall is currently providing Sexual Health services at Fremantle Hospital and has, in the past, provided sexual health services at RPH. He is also involved with Clinical Service delivery at the WAAC sauna clinics and was instrumental in setting clinical standards of service delivery in them. He is the former Medical Coordinator of the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Division at HDWA and is the present Chairperson of FPWA.

Media Award: Marnie McKimmie – The West Australian

For an individual or media group who contributed in a positive manner to the education and awareness of the general public through the media.

Marnie is the health writer from the West Australian and has written many relevant articles about the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This year, she wrote an excellent 4 page feature article in The West Australian on March 12th 2003 titled "Remember – AIDS Today", researching her article accurately and writing in a responsible, informative manner.

Congratulations go to

The WA AIDS Council Volunteers won the WA National Bank Volunteer Awards for Community Services and was a national finalist in the award.

Lorraine Sawyer (volunteer and provider of all the food for the WA AIDS Council food cupboard and the Christmas Hampers) for winning the Anglicare "Angel in WA" Award – in December 2003.

Catherine Swift (volunteer in K.I.S.S, AIDSline and Public Speaking) won the Healthway and Australian Health Promotion Association Graduate Scholarship to work at the WA AIDS Council implementing a sexual health program for young women.

Mark Reid (Fundraising, Marketing and Events Coordinator) for being a finalist in the Community Services Awards – Outstanding Achievement by an Individual.

the WA AIDS Council thanks...

Companies and Associations

Aalto Colour Perth, Absolute Organics, Adultshop.com, AFAO, Alize, Amberley Estate Wines, Anchor Foods, AQWA, Argyle Diamonds, Atlantic, Atlas Clothing, Augusta Margaret River Tourism, Balshaws Florist, Ballydooly Cider, BAM Creative, Barwick Wines, Beaufort 565, Becca Cosmetics, Be Ba Beau Hair & Beauty, The Belgian Beer Cafe/Brass Monkey, Bent Knee Creative, Bentley Health Service, The Berry Farm, Birra Moretti, Black Swan Theatre Company, BLINC Photographic Studios, Brazilliano Coffee, Brazilliano Capiewara Troupe, Breville, Brinkhaus Jewellers, Briskets Pasta, Brumbys, Briskleen, Buddha Bar, Burswood Resort, C Restaurant, CBD Restaurant, Captain Cook Cruises, Carillon City, Central TAFE, Chadwick Models, Chalice Bridge Estate, Chesters Subiaco, Cino To Go, City of Bayswater, City of Fremantle, City of Gosnells, City of Joondalup, City of Mandurah, City of Melville, City of Perth, City of South Perth, City of Stirling, City of Swan, City of Subiaco, Clairault Wines, Club X – Barrack Street, Cocos, Columbia Tri-Star Films, Comestibles, Connections Nightclub, The Court Hotel, cpi Paper, Curtin University, Curtin University Department of Health Promotion, Department for Community Development, Department of Culture and the Arts, Department of Education and Training, Detpak, Designmine, Deutz Brut Method Traditionelle, di Lusso Estate Wines, Don Ramsay Floral Creations, D'orsogna, Drug and Alcohol Office, Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Network, DrugARM, East Metropolitan Health Service, Edith Cowan University, Efes Bakery, Elmar's Smallgoods, EMI Music, Esola Jewellery, The Essential Ingredient, Estee Lauder, Eureka Cheese Merchants, European Foods, FPWA (Family Planning WA), Family and Community Services, Ferngrove Vineyards Estate, Fermoy Estate, Florambiente, Frank Prowse Hi-fi, Fremantle Hospital, Future DVD, G & L Travel, Gay and Lesbian Community Services, Goundrey Wines, Greco's on Broadway, Halcyon Hair, Halo Cafe, Haughty Culture, Head Office for Hair and Beauty, Health Consumers' Council, Healthway, Health Promotion Association, Hepatitis Council of WA, Herdsman Fresh Essentials, Heyder & Shears, Hogs Breath Cafe Northbridge, House of Ernest, ICON Brands, Immunodeficiency Foundation, JAS Sushi, Jurlique, Kaylene's Ella Bache, KEMH, Kleenheat Gas House, Kookai, koro fine australian jewellery, Le Creuset, Lexi for Flowers, The Living Centre, Living Digital, Longden Burke & Co, Lotterywest, Luxe Bar, Luxxe, M.A.C, Mad Fish Wines, Manic Botanic, Milners, MIX94.5, Moby-Sinks, Moet et Chandon, Montana Wines Australia, Motorola Rental, Must Wine Bar, Mustard Catering, National Drug Research Institute, Natale Security Services, Nectar Fresh Flowers, Network 10, Neverfail Springs, New Edition Bookshop, New Norcia Bakeries, The Ninth Floor, n'joi Olive Oil, North Metropolitan Health Service, Office of Crime Prevention (Department of Premier and Cabinet), Ogdan IFC – Perth Theatre Trust, Ogilvie & Co, Optima Print, Orlando Wyndham, Otello Chocolates, The Oz Chilli Man, PAV (Perth Audio Visual), Pacific Earthovens, Paul McClurg on St Quentins, Pedersens Hire, Peel and Rockingham/Kwinana Health Services, Peel Community Development Group, Periscope, Perth and Hills Division of GP's – Street Doctor and MAC Bus, Perth Steamworks, Pixi Personal Training, Platypus Lane Wines, Poppys Flowers, PMH, PRIDE, Pronto Ristorante, PROOST!, Puffin Fresh Donuts – Armadale, RPH, Red Bull, Reeces Hire & Structures, Renouf Health Club, Retro Chef, Rottnest Island Authority, RTR FM, The Ruby House, Ruth Tarvydas, Sachi Shoes, Saints Clothing, Sandcastle Organic Café, San Pellegrino, Sandalford Wines, Sante Fe, Schwarzkopf, SCOOP, Scene Model Management, Seaduce Cafe & Catalano, secca, Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program – Health Department of WA, Shire of Kalamunda, Sienna's, Sigma Chemicals, Silver Chain, Singapore Tourism, softcentre, SONY Music, Soto Espresso, Soul Outlet, South East Metro Community Drug Service Team, Spiers Model Management, Star Bistro, Thai Airways, Tempus Two Wines, Terra Wines, The Tanning Salon, Tim Davies Landscaping, TIME Magazine, Tin Roof Rusted, Tip Top Bakeries, Tiro/Splitrock, Tony & Guy Central Park, Town of Cambridge, Town of Vic Park, Town of Vincent, Tremaine, Trevelen Café, Trevelen Farm Wines, Trinity Youth Options, Ultimo Catering & Liquor, United International Pictures, University of Western Australia, Valentinos Restaurant, Varga Girl, Vintage Cellars, Vivien's Model Management, WA Association for Mental Health, WAAAPA, WACOSS, WANADA, WASUA – WA Substance Users Association, WA Police Diversity Unit, WA Police Service, Water Corporation, We're Wines, West Australian Ballet, West Australian Centre for Health Promotion Research, West Australian Opera, Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, The West Australian, West Cape Howe Wines, Willespie Wines, Wusthof, XPress Magazine, Xanadu Wines, Youth Affairs Council of WA, Zomp Shoez Claremont.

Individuals

Adam Bury, Aly May, Amelia Pliwaskas, Annette Hasluck, Anthony Hosken, Anthony Von Leonardi, Brian Greig, Callum Hastie, Carol Brearley, Carol Mackie, Carolien Giele, Catherine Ferarri, Catherine Montigny, Coosje Griffiths, Dale Sniffen, David Cranson, Des Eddy, Di Bauwens, Don Hancey, Eddie Natale, Emma Phillips, Faith Nicols, Gavin McGurren, Giz Watson, Graham Brown, Graeme Blevins, Gina Church, Sgt Glen Liddelow, Graham Hood, Heath Greville, Hendra, Holly Wood, Iain Blackley, Jayne Cooper, Jeff Barrett, Jeremy Curthoys, Jo Beth Taylor, Jo Di Loreto, John Dawson, John Ferarri, John Hyde, Jude Bevan, Kate Ledger, Kelly Renouf, Lauren Wilhelm, Leigh Turner, Libby Hammer, Lorraine Sawyer, Louise Pratt, Lynette Evans, Marilyn Carr, Mark Grashk, Maryrose Baker, Melissa Wunch, Michele Kosky, Mike Newson, Nat Foster, Snr/Sgt Neville Beard, Nico Moretti – The Urban Provider, Pat Lim, Paul Bluett, Paul McClurg, Paul O'Connor, Paul Raphael, Peter Braidner, A/Sgt Odin Cann, Russell Dewson-Jones, Sergeant Gill Wilson, Shane McFarlane, Shirley Bowen, Cr. Sonia Turkington, Sophie Zalokar, Stephan Caddon, Tracey Weatherilt, Trish Gouldson, Tonia McNeilly, Vanessa Read, Verity James, Victoria Readings, Zoe Evans

Staff Transitions during 2003 and 2004

Departing:

Donna Bannister, Steve Keys, Raileen Merlino, Brendon Midson, Serena Nathan, Radio (Sally) Pike.

Arriving:

Luke Cadden, Paul Davis, Jaye Edwards, Julie-ann Kirk, Tania Metcalf, Catherine Swift, Dawn Whyte, Simon Yam

In Memoriam

The Board of Management, staff and volunteers dedicate this annual report to the memory of those people who lost their lives as a result of AIDS over the past 12 months.

Leading the community to a world beyond AIDS



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