

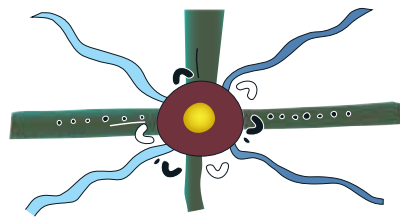


Western Australian
AIDS COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

acknowledgements



NGALA KAADITJ WADJUK MOORT KEYEN KAADAK NIDJA BOODJA

We acknowledge Noongar people as the original custodians of the land on which our office stands



We acknowledge those around the world who have lost their lives to AIDS, and also those living with HIV who continue to face stigma and discrimination every day



On 25 March 2017 our Chief Executive Officer Andrew Burry passed away unexpectedly while on holiday on Taiwan.

This was a great shock to everyone at the WA AIDS Council, and it resonated around the organisation and the HIV sector locally, Australia wide and internationally.

Andrew had been involved in the sector for many years, with stints at the Victorian AIDS Council, AIDS Action Council of the ACT and latterly WAAC. He was also Vice President of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, having previously served as Treasurer.

Andrew was CEO at WAAC for four years. He came to the Council with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the public, private and community sectors. His advocacy in Western Australia was significant and most recently successfully lobbied for the Western Australian Government to support and fund a PrEP Trial.

To Andrew's daughter Kate and son James, his mother, siblings and extended family, his many friends and colleagues, WAAC extends our heartfelt wishes. Andrew's legacy will live on.

VALE

the council



Western Australian
AIDS COUNCIL

664 Murray Street
West Perth
Western Australia
6005

PO Box 1510
West Perth
Western Australia
6872

Email: waac@waaid.com
Phone: (08) 9482 0000
www.waaid.com

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 3900+ appointments

1900+ unique clients 

from 75 countries 

600 treatments 

700 vaccinations 

1 PrEP Trial 



1 equine therapy session

500+ face-to-face client appointments



8 social events

1 film produced 



5 workshops



120 active volunteers

3000+ hours of volunteering



training provided to 2000 professionals and 45 volunteers

15,496 social media followers





20 training sessions delivered to staff

53 staff members



Western Australian AIDS COUNCIL

the numbers

~2000 visits to Freedom Centre



2m pieces of injecting equipment distributed with 97% returned



90,150 safer sex packs distributed across WA

475 hours of outreach to 8,000 school leavers



8 WASHW grant recipients



chairperson's report

The WA AIDS Council is now in its fourth decade of operations.

Conceived at a time of crisis, WAAC has grown into a \$4.5 million dollar nationally-recognised organisation providing support for people living with HIV and undertaking a range of health promotion activities.

While it is an enormous honour to lead WAAC at such a strategically important time, my “freshman” year as Chair has not been without its challenges.

The 2016 -17 Board term began with the recruitment of a largely new Board. I am pleased to report that WAAC's Board continues to grow and evolve in-line with the organisation's maturity.

In particular, I welcome the service of HIV clinicians, Doctors Matthew Skinner of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Ian Woolley of Monash Health Melbourne. I also welcome Vice Chairperson Emma Jarvis, Executive Manager of Operations for RUAH, Treasurer Suzanne Hillier, Community Representative Joanne Shaw from Queensland Health, Staff Representative Matt Ranford and Community

Representative Steven Singer. Steven has been a WAAC member for over 30 years.



I also note the service of long time HIV+ Community Representative Darren Vernede who has served on the Board since 2010.

At its first meeting, the Board approved the much-debated Strategic Plan, which sets our course for the next five years. Between September 2016 and February 2017, WAAC welcomed the State Government's funding of a Pre-exposure Prophylaxis trial, PreP-IT WA; acquired full ownership of our headquarters at 664 Murray Street; and successfully tendered for a \$200,000

Methamphetamine Peer Education Program from the Mental Health Commission.

However, in March 2017, tragedy struck when our community learned of the sudden passing of our friend and CEO Andrew Burry. It was, of course, a significant shock to the Board, everyone at WAAC and the broader HIV community across Australia and New Zealand. I was moved by the numerous tributes, condolence messages and memorials held across the country which honoured Andrew's remarkable work in the HIV sector.

I must note, in particular, the efforts of WAAC's staff about whom I said at the time: *“I cannot begin to describe the resolute courage and absolute professionalism I observed over the last three days from WAAC staff and in particular the Management team. I have always held them in high regard but they have floored me with their ability to rise to the occasion, manage their grief with fortitude and dignity and simply get on with the business of running the organisation at a time of great sadness. They are, without a doubt, the most valuable asset WAAC has. I record here my heartfelt thanks and my indebtedness to them*

for their professionalism and service.”

I would also like to record the Board’s thanks to Willie Rowe who served as Interim CEO on very short notice from March to September 2017. I am immensely grateful to Willie for his stewardship of the organisation through a very difficult time and for his hard work, professionalism and wise counsel during CEO Recruitment, Constitutional Reform and other important work the Board performed this year.

In the days following Andrew’s passing, I established a Search Selection and Recruitment Board Sub-committee whose remit was to find WAAC a new CEO. Between April and July 2017 a long and thorough recruitment endeavour was undertaken and I acknowledge the invaluable work of Emma Jarvis, Suzanne Hillier and Willie Rowe who served with me on this Sub-committee.

As a result of this process the Board appointed a new CEO, David Kernohan, previously of the Mental Health Law Centre (Inc). David’s remarkable intellect and patient, thoughtful consideration of the issues we face as an organisation and

sector, has already left its mark on Board deliberations. I look forward to a long and rewarding collaboration.

Also in 2017 the Board undertook the difficult and time-consuming task of rewriting our Constitution, a requirement of the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015*. I’d like to thank the Board’s Governance Sub-committee and in particular our resident “constitution whisperer”, Steven Singer, whose fastidious attention to detail and member-focused thinking have enabled a truly modern and user-friendly document to emerge. I also thank Emma Jarvis, Dr Simon Yam and Willie Rowe for their management of this important project. I also thank our pro bono lawyers, Messrs K&L Gates who patiently answered our many, many questions and whose valuable time was always given generously.

In 2017-18 the Department of Health, our biggest funder, will change its funding model to a competitive tendering process. Where once we were the first in line for funding in our area of expertise, we must now compete with other organisations to provide the contracted services. This represents a significant risk to

WAAC. We must focus on delivering against current grants, all the while preparing for the new landscape ahead. Never before has it been so important for WAAC to be strong, professional and competitive. Our record will no doubt stand us in good stead, but we can leave nothing to chance.

To conclude, I acknowledge the extensive work of outgoing Board Members Sam Hastings, Kath Snell, Ruth Sims and Justin Manuel.

In the next term, the Board hopes to continue its rigorous governance of the agency, move towards a budget surplus, and increase membership and bequests.

Thus, our journey continues.

Asanka Gunasekera
Chairperson

board of management

June 2017

Asanka Gunasekera Chairperson

Asanka is a legal practitioner who was admitted to practice in 2009. Asanka practises as a Barrister at Francis Burt Chambers and specialises in all aspects of personal injury law. Asanka is also Secretary of the WA Bar Association (Inc) and serves on its Diversity Sub-committee. Asanka is a member of the Law Society of Western Australia and sits on its Personal Injury & Workers' Compensation Sub-committee.

Asanka has been a sessional lecturer in Occupational Health and Safety (Industrial Relations) at Curtin University. Asanka has been a past WAAC volunteer and has served on its Board since September 2013 in the capacities of Community Representative, Secretary, and Vice Chairperson.

Emma Jarvis Vice Chairperson



Emma is an Executive Manager at Hope Community Services. Emma is experienced with clinical and organisational development, culture change, leadership development, dispute resolution, risk management, governance and mentoring. Emma has over 17 years experience in the non-government, government, and corporate sectors.

Emma is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has a Masters in Applied Social Studies, a Post-Graduate Diploma and a Post Qualifying Award in Social Work, a Bachelors with Hons in Theology, and a Certificate IV in Coaching, with specialist streams in executive and workplace coaching. Emma is registered as an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker with the AASW. Emma has been appointed to the Examining Chaplain's Committee by the Anglican Archbishop of Perth for a 3 year term, 2015-



2018.

Suzanne Hillier Treasurer

Suzanne is a legal practitioner who practises as a government lawyer. Suzanne provides advice on contract and commercial issues, compliance, audit and risk, human resources, investigations, occupational health and safety, and environmental management. She has previously managed the Legal and Legislative Services Directorate at the Western Australian Department of Health. Suzanne is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Suzanne is committed to making a difference in the not-for-profit sector. She is also Secretary and Board Director for HeartKids WA which provides support for families affected by childhood heart disease.



She joined the in-house and government lawyers advocacy organisation, the Australian Corporate Lawyers Association (now Association of Corporate Counsel Australia) as a Committee member in 2003. She has held positions as Treasurer, Vice President, and President of the WA Committee, and National President and Chair of the Board.

**Darren Vernede
HIV Positive
Representative**

Darren acquired HIV and Hepatitis C in the early 1980s through blood products. Darren is married with three children and he has served on the Haemophilia Foundation of WA for 12 years during the late 1980s and early 1990s and represented WA in national forums. Darren was involved in several successful campaigns to gain better treatments for people living with HIV and



haemophilia. He has a Medical Technology Certificate IV (TAFE) and a degree in Mediation from Curtin University. He has just written and published a book based on his life story and dealing with HIV and Hepatitis C and is currently working as an executive coach and motivational speaker. Darren has served on the Board since 2010.

**Joanne Shaw
Community Representative**

Joanne is a Registered Nurse with post graduate qualifications in critical care and haematology and has a Masters of Nursing leadership and management. Joanne is the Nursing Director of Community and Primary Health Care at North West Hospital Health Service in remote Queensland. This role encompasses oversight of numerous departments and specialities including Sexual



Health Service, Womens Health Service and Indigenous Primary Health Care. Joanne is a member of the North Queensland Sexually Transmissible Infection Action Plan 2016-2021 implementation group.

Joanne has extensive knowledge with strategic and operational leadership of tertiary, rural, and remote hospitals, to ultimately provide first class, safe, sustainable, and family centred care. Joanne is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has publications in the British Journal of Haematology and is a member of the Australasian College of Health Service Management and the Australian College of Nursing.

**Dr Ian Woolley
Community Representative**

Dr Woolley is an Infectious Diseases physician who has been working almost entirely



board of management

June 2017

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in the HIV sphere since 1993. He trained in Melbourne and Cleveland Ohio before returning to Australia in 2000.

He holds an MD, FRACP and Diploma of Tropical Medicine as well as an undergraduate medical degree and has NGO experience working on short-term projects in several countries in Asia and Africa.

He is currently Deputy Director of Infectious Diseases and Director of HIV Medicine at Monash Health in Melbourne which involves clinical education and research work.

Steve Singer Community Representative

Steve is a consultant economist working on the evaluation and social impact of Australian mining and petroleum projects. He brings to the Board his

skills in commercial negotiations, strategic thinking, policy formulation and economic analysis along with a passion for science including current medical/pharmaceutical research.

Steve has been an ordinary member of WAAC since the 1980s and has attended most member meetings of the association from its inception. He has previously served on the management committees of several LGBTI-focused not-for-profit organisations.

Dr Matthew Skinner Community Representative

Matthew is a general and infectious diseases physician working in Perth. He trained in Melbourne, obtaining his undergraduate degree in 1996. Travel and volunteer work in Africa prior to 2000 sparked an interest in infectious diseases, especially HIV. Training was undertaken in

Melbourne, before completing his fellowship in Perth in 2008. He returned to Western Australia in 2012 to take up his current post at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

He keeps an active interest in HIV, working with research staff at Murdoch University, and providing clinical care in an outpatient setting there. He has an active interest in teaching and education, and looks forward to making a contribution to WAAC.

Matt Ranford Staff Representative

Matt is a marketing and communications professional with a background in small business and start-up enterprises, with a long held interest in philanthropy and social causes, especially comprehensive sexual health education for young people.

Currently in his fourth year at

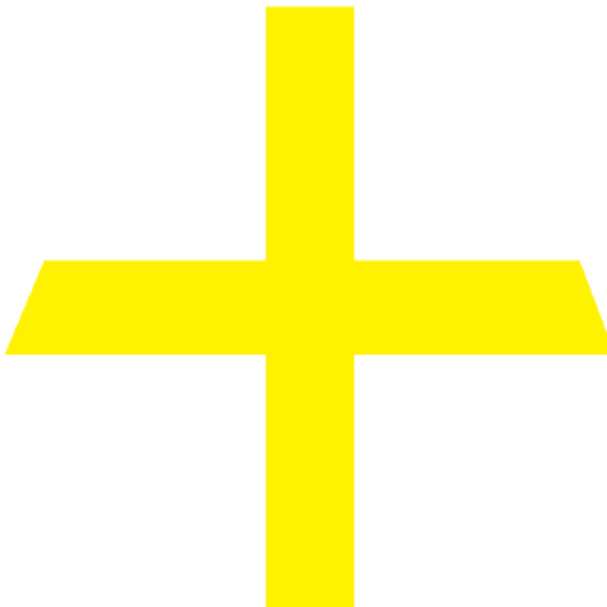


the WA AIDS Council, Matt is responsible for all areas of communication, including strategy, website management, social media, PR, graphic design and photography.

**Peter ‘Willie’ Rowe
Interim Chief Executive
Officer**

Following the sudden passing of CEO Andrew Burry, the Board of the WA ADIS Council appointed Peter ‘Willie’ Rowe to the position of Interim CEO.

Willie has a long association with the Council, having served on its Board for over 10 years, including three as Chairperson. Willie has also served as the President of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), and was most recently Chief of Staff to former Premier Colin Barnett in the Western Australian State Government.



CEO's report

I write this report knowing full well that it should have been Andrew Burry's report – he was and would have continued to be the CEO were it not for his sudden passing on 25 March 2017.

Can I say at the outset that coming in as Interim CEO at the WA AIDS Council has been an honour, albeit in sombre circumstances? I have been blessed to be welcomed by each and every person I have encountered in the four or so months I've been on board. From the wonderful, professional team here who have delivered in spades everything asked of them, to the Board who have provided me with the support to get on with the job, to our Health Department and Mental Health Commission colleagues, to my sector friends and our amazing and dedicated volunteers, I owe you a debt of thanks and in return I give you my commitment to the organisation in every way I can.

The year in review has been not without its challenges, however it is fair to say that the WA AIDS Council continues to deliver excellent client services, support and counselling, meeting the needs of people living with HIV and

affected communities. Our health promotion activities, underpinned by long-term



programs such as KISS and our Needle and Syringe Exchange Program are complemented by new programs and an innovative social media presence, enabling us to target new communities. And our training and development and volunteering teams are delivering strong positive outcomes across the organisation and onto the wider community. Of course the M Clinic and Freedom Centre go from strength to strength, which is testament to the leadership and commitment by their teams.

We are still recording new HIV transmissions each year.

Although the number of new diagnoses remains relatively stable, this does not mean that we are going backwards in our fight to reduce the number of new transmissions. With more people testing more regularly through programs such as those run by the M Clinic, we believe that we are able to catch new infections more quickly.

Current and new biomedical technological advances continue to make significant headway into giving us the opportunity to achieve our objective of no new HIV transmissions. Obviously these technologies, including Treatments as Prevention (TasP), Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) are part of a suite of available tools, but we continue to advocate for condom use across the spectrum for people considering their sexual health. Encouragingly, the findings of the recently released Kirby Institute's Opposites Attract research, found zero linked HIV transmissions among serodiscordant homosexual couples where the HIV positive partner had an undetectable viral load, which provides more concrete evidence of the negligible risk associated with sexual transmission of HIV.

PrEP has continued to be a key focus for the organisation throughout the year. The Department of Health has funded a study with the M Clinic as the lead trial site for the Western Australian Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Implementation Trial (PrEPIT-WA). The keenly anticipated study, which commences in the second half of 2017, runs for a two-year period and offers 2,000 places to Western Australians at high risk of HIV infection.

Methamphetamine use in our at-risk populations continues to be a growing concern, and we have started our peer-based methamphetamine harm reduction project, Rock Solid. This program works with methamphetamine users from WAAC's broader target populations, including but not restricted to gay and homosexually active men. It provides non-judgemental peer-based support for people who are using methamphetamine to help reduce the harms associated with consuming crystal meth.

In addition we entered into several partnerships during the year to support our programs. Of note is the partnership with the M Clinic and Next Step Drug and Alcohol Services,

East Perth, to establish an alcohol and other drugs service that sits within M Clinic. The service provides open-door, peer-based, non-judgmental, friendly and tailored services about alcohol and other drugs use.

Our Communications team continues to update and refresh our look and brand. Importantly we are building on our social media presence to ensure that more interested people are accessing information about WAAC and our programs. This includes an active presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram promoting KISS, Sex in Other Cities and STYLEAID.

The principles of the Meaningful Inclusion of People Living with and Affected by HIV (MIPA) are central to all of our activities across the organisation. This has seen workshops and programs with an increased focus on wellness and well-being through participation, in a proactive rather than reactive way. Our advances include the mentorship program with the significant involvement of people living with HIV.

We also completed and launched *Sharing the Journey*, a DVD production that tells the story of six people living with HIV in

Western Australia. This is a moving and often funny documentary that charts the different yet similar journeys each of these people has taken since being diagnosed with HIV. It clearly shows that people living with HIV continue to be subjected to unacceptable stigma and discrimination, in an age where we strive for inclusion.

Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training, the Safe Schools Program continued to deliver training and support to educators and school communities in WA through our contract with the Foundation for Young Australians. During the year hundreds of teachers received this important professional development.

As noted last year, our core funding grants conclude at the end of the 2017 calendar year. At the time of this report the tenders for these grants are yet to be released. Nevertheless, management have been working closely to ensure that not only can we demonstrate our evidence-based success in delivering program outcomes, but that we are forward-thinking in how to deliver outcomes in a changing environment. We are confident

CEO's report

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that our knowledge of the sector will inform the tender and tender specifications. We have also been keen to identify the value-add that WAAC offers in addition to our contract requirements. With tightening budgets we are being asked to do more with no more resources. Therefore we are now able to identify additional costs and in-kind support provided that are being absorbed across the organisation.

Attracting and retaining staff and volunteers in community-based, not-for-profit organisations is challenging. Can I please record my thanks to the management team, staff and volunteers at WAAC for your commitment, support and on-going humour? Your dedication and love for your work is recognised, as is your professionalism.

The WA AIDS Council can only operate effectively under a strong governance framework and the Board and Sub-committees have ensured that this framework continues to be developed and refined. We are always mindful that we are providing services on behalf of our funders and other stake-

holders and must be accountable every step of the way. The input and advice from Board members across the organisation has been welcomed and valued. Thank you.

In conclusion I can say that the WA AIDS Council continues to be the leader in providing support for people living with HIV in Western Australia, and educates and promotes sexual health and wellbeing across the wider community in an informed and non-judgemental way. But even if we achieve no new transmissions in the next few years our work is not done – we have to continue to fight on behalf of our communities – stigma and discrimination will not just go away – it must be exposed as divisive and ugly. I am confident that collectively we will continue to pursue these objectives now and into the future.

Willie Rowe
Interim Chief Executive Officer



staff

as at June 30th 2017

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Willie Rowe Interim Chief Executive Officer
Vincenzo Rigoli Manager, Finance and Facilities
Simon H Yam Manager, Organisational Development
Lisa Tomney Manager, Clinical Services
Justin Manuel Manager, M Clinic
Matt Creamer Manager, Health Promotion
Ivi Sanchez Accountant

FINANCE AND FACILITIES

Tania McGuinness Sales and Administration Support Officer

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Matt Ranford Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Mark Reid Fundraising, Media and Events Coordinator/ STYLEAID Coord.
Annette Hasluck STYLEAID & PIQFF Coordinator
Reena D'Souza Training & Development Coordinator
Kristina Mitsikas Volunteer Program Coordinator
Leah Adams Communications Officer
Reno Furfaro Client Relations Officer
Christine Offerman Client Relations Officer/Admin Support

CLINICAL SERVICES

Daniel Jessup Outreach/Support Officer/Team Leader, SHAPE
Beck Sherman Outreach Officer, SHAPE
Allison Paterson Outreach Liaison Officer, SHAPE
Mark Reid HIV Positive Peer Educator
Troy Peverall Case Manager
Emma Beattie Case Manager
Ben Bradstreet Counsellor
Hanieh Tolouei Counsellor
Romney Jones Counsellor

M CLINIC

Garry Kuchel Clinical Nurse Consultant
Matthew Jones Clinical Nurse Consultant
Simon Swallow Clinical Nurse Consultant
Anthony Smith Peer Educator
Tyrone Atter Client Services Officer
Dr Lewis Marshall Clinical Governor
Dr Sally Murray Clinical Governor
Dr Donna Mak Casual Medical Officer
Dr Richard Chaney Casual Medical Officer
Dr Belinda Wozencroft Casual Medical Officer
Dr Irene Dolan Casual Medical Office

Dr Haipeng Wang

HEALTH PROMOTION

Carley Robbins Senior Health Promotion Officer
Matt Bacon Outreach Officer, Gay Men's Health
Tony Bober Health Promotion Officer, Mobile Populations
Louise Grant Project Officer, Health Promotion
Tryg Guyton Project Officer, Methamphetamine Peer Education Program
Rebecca Craft Project Officer, NSEP
Gavin Brunini Outreach Officer, NSEP
Tina Stanton Outreach Officer, NSEP
Olivia Knowles Senior Project Officer, Safe Schools Coalition WA
Katie Darby Project Lead, Safe Schools Coalition WA

FREEDOM CENTRE

Dani Wright Toussaint Coordinator
Bryan Stewart Coordinator
Sophia Rasmussen Peer Educator / Project Officer
Claire Foster Peer Educator
Stephen Boccaletti Peer Educator, Freedom Centre / Project Officer, Safe Schools

In 2016-17, we said goodbye to:

Adam Ehm
Andrew Burry
Bethany Martin
Liz Walker
Pamela Haskell Mahon
Ruth Wernham
Samuel Gibbings
Shahmir Rind
Sinéad Glackin
Suzanne Woolner
Dr Kevin O'Connor
Dr Gareth Wahl

PrEPIT-WA Principal Investigator

STAFF REPORTS

case managers and the SHAPE program

As reflected on in the *Sharing the Journey* DVD produced by the WA AIDS Council, living with HIV in 2017 is markedly different than the experiences of people living with HIV (PLHIV) who were diagnosed in the very early years of the epidemic. While this may be the context of HIV in Australia, and is considered a chronic manageable illness, for many PLHIV, there are still complex and challenging issues which compromise their health, well-being, relationships, family and capacity to actively participate in community life.

The Clinical Services Department has a dedicated team of support workers who provide practical, emotional and advocacy support for PLHIV who require this on many differing levels. This support, and client care plans, are client focused, self-determining and directed towards outcomes that provide independence, resilience and better overall health and well-being outcomes for PLHIV.

The Clinical Services Department SHAPE Program (Supporting Health and Personal Empowerment) has two Outreach Officers who provide high level, intensive support in an outreach setting

AT THE COALFACE

for 24-26 PLHIV experiencing a number of co-existing issues that place them at significant risk of poor health outcomes, dependency on alcohol and other drugs, mental health issues, family and domestic violence and/or homelessness.

The Case Management team provides in-reach support for PLHIV who require somewhat less intensive support than SHAPE clients, but still crucial support in walking beside clients to achieve their desired outcomes.

During the year, the SHAPE and Case Management team

had over 500 face-to-face client appointments, spoke to clients over 1,300 times on the telephone, and responded to nearly 100 emails.

In addition Clinical Services facilitated emergency financial assistance, provided food parcels and supported a number of bequest applications for PLHIV seeking support.

The services provided by Clinical Services are a critical part of ensuring clients' total well-being is supported. Clients and their families who link in with the particular case management programs within Clinical Services, continue to provide feedback about the support they received from the team.

“Just wanted to say hi and to thank you for your visit the other day. Honestly to be able to share with someone lifted a burden which was getting rather tiresome”

“Thank you for your support for my son, it’s been a difficult journey for him, but I think with your continued assistance he will achieve what he wants. Please also express my acknowledgement to the rest of the WAAC team”

THINKING OUTSIDE THE STABLE - EQUINE THERAPY



During the year, Clinical Services offered PLHIV a new and innovative experience; interacting with horses and nature. In a safe and inviting space, participants were able to learn, through their interaction with horses, about self respect, boundaries and empowerment.

Mel and Vicky, from Horse Horizons, facilitated a workshop, offering their expert guidance and seemingly endless equine wisdom. Conversations were peppered with earthy humour and abundant smiles to warm up the grey skies and keep the rain at bay.

We learned that horses are prey animals and have a finely honed ability to sense changes in the environment and people's emotions. They notice nuances in expression and body language and respond accordingly, giving valuable feedback about how we are communicating. They are straightforward and not capable of being duplicitous; what they show on the outside matches how they feel on the inside.

Mel explained that horses are sensitive to duplicity in humans. If there is a mismatch in what we humans feel and the way we express ourselves, horses will sense this, and feel less able to trust or move closer. This mirroring effect invites us to be more aligned with how we feel and what we communicate. This strengthens

our attunement with the horse and with ourselves.

Horses teach us other lessons through their presence alone. Like many of our beloved furry friends, they don't judge us on our history, appearance or dress sense. They simply let us be.

We explored our boundaries, and how to respect our own and those of others. Horses let us know if they need space; they will move away. We too, can show them when they have crossed our boundary, by firmly yet non-aggressively nudging them away. We may also expand or soften our boundaries, inviting the horses with our outstretched palms to come closer.

case managers and the SHAPE program

...continued from page 19

All up this was a truly moving experience, topped off with a yummy lunch and homemade scones with jam and cream. Thanks to Mel's mum, we were extremely well-fed and left with our bellies as full as our hearts.

What attendees had to say...

"The whole experience of being with horses was extremely good for body and soul."

"Amazing day with animals, Mother Nature and fantastic people...very safe space to let your emotions go free."

"Being with horses made me aware of my personal boundaries, and helped me to assert them more."

"My first experience with horses...it was a beautiful space to connect, beautiful set up and comforting energy."

"What a wonderfully uplifting experience, I can't speak highly enough of it. I would encourage anyone who was too 'in their heads' or a little stressed to give it a go."

"The experience was deeply moving and I felt I was able to be myself and be seen."



clinical services

During the year, the newly appointed HIV Positive Peer Education Officer facilitated the launch of a new HIV Positive Peer Mentor Program. This program has been initiated to align with, and embrace the internationally recognised 'meaningful involvement of people living with HIV', or MIPA, principles. Two of the core principles which also align with the NGO Code of Practice are:

- **Advocating for the meaningful involvement of PLHIV and affected communities in all aspects of the HIV response;**
- **Fostering active and meaningful involvement of PLHIV and affected communities in all of our activities.**

This program followed in the footsteps of the June 2017 launch of the *Sharing the Journey* DVD, an update of the 2005 production of *Being Positive*. Both DVDs feature a diverse group of PLHIV sharing their journeys, the lows, the highs, the challenges and the wins.

The HIV Positive Peer Mentor program has a number of elements and projects to complement one another. This includes encouraging and motivating PLHIV to become involved in sharing their journeys with a range of audiences and target populations; become a peer co-facilitator and be a mentor to PLHIV, particularly for people who have been newly diagnosed with HIV; or seek such support. All the program elements aim to build resilience in those involved and to embrace the notions of education and visibility to break down stigma and discrimination in the community.

The mentor program also aims to support and create a strong voice of people living with HIV in the Perth community. This will be achieved by arming PLHIV with a range of skills and abilities to navigate the ever changing lived experience,

HIV POSITIVE PEER MENTOR PROGRAM

and to be involved in peer-led focus groups and other peer support mechanisms. This strongly aligns with the principle that PLHIV have a right to self-determination and participation on all levels, whether it be access and client focused support for PLHIV with complex and challenging issues, or PLHIV being actively involved in delivery of support and services at the ground level.

The HIV Positive Peer Mentor program is proactive. However there remains ongoing need for individual Positive Peer

clinical services

...continued from page 21

support. PLHIV regularly link in with or are referred to HIV Positive Peer Education Officer for face-to-face appointments to address a range of issues, including but not limited to, treatments information, employment, travel and insurance, disclosure, relationships, sexuality and gender, problematic alcohol and other drug use, migration and referral to a broad range of other internal and external

support services. The team has also developed and facilitated workshops, focus groups, social engagements opportunities and complementary living well activities for PLHIV on a regular basis. During the 2016-17 year, the team facilitated eight social engagement events and five workshops.

We continue to work closely with the Western Australian Representatives to the National

Association of People Living with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) in supporting Community Forums and distribution of newsletters and community correspondence. We are working with NAPWHA as part of the Treataware Project, bring together Positive Peer Educators and support workers from all States and jurisdictions.

m clinic

STILL LEADING THE WAY

M Clinic celebrated its seventh birthday in July 2017, entering its eighth year as the leading community-based and peer-led sexual health service in Australia. The Clinic's services continue to be highly regarded, providing over 3,900 appointments to almost 1,900 unique clients from over 75 different countries, across its main site in West Perth and the outreach service at Perth Steam Works in Northbridge. This includes over 3,000 testing appointments, over 700

vaccinations and over 600 treatments. There continues to be a high level of satisfaction with the service, with clients commenting specifically on the warmth, non-judgemental and professionalism of interactions with staff and volunteers. Almost half of all new clients attend the service due to positive word-of-mouth referrals.

In addition, M Clinic has been providing rapid HIV testing now for 18 months. While a

m clinic

number of clients choose to have rapid HIV testing when they attend M Clinic, 90% were happy to test only on a standard blood sample. This is possibly because M Clinic was able to help foster an excellent testing culture in the Perth-based community well before rapid HIV testing was implemented in Australia, and used as a means to increase testing rates in other states.

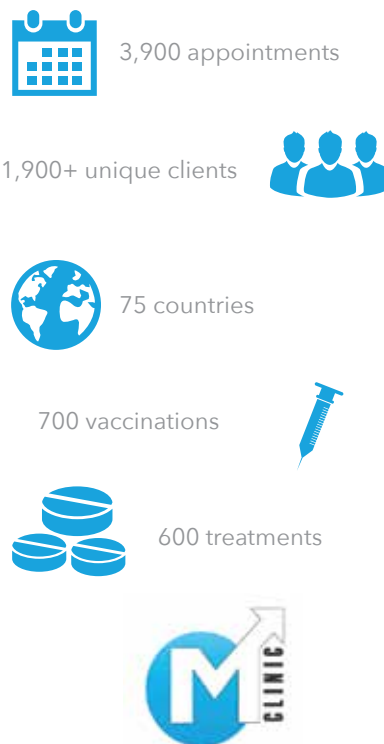
M Clinic also implemented a drop-in testing option one day a week. This was in response to lengthening waiting periods for appointments for routine testing, and clients wanting more flexible options. The drop-in testing is strongly patronised.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Study

M Clinic has been appointed lead trial site for the Western Australian Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Implementation Trial (PrEPIT-WA), which commences in the second half of 2017. During the year there was significant progress made in the clinical and other preparation for the trial. PrEP is a highly effective HIV prevention tool. This long awaited study provides Western Australians with significantly improved access

to PrEP, equal to that in New South Wales and Victoria. The study runs for a two-year period and offers up to 2,000 places to Western Australians at high risk of HIV.

Education and Behaviour



Change

M Clinic has always focused on quality consultations in its clients, rather than a typical transactional service, giving clients an opportunity to ask questions and build their knowledge. This is provided by the experienced testing

staff, made up of peer nurses and peer educators. A range of topics were covered this year, however the most frequent educational discussion was PrEP – how it works and how to get it. Information on PrEP was given to almost every client testing during the year, and many clients were referred to a PrEP prescribing service. Over the 12-month period, reported use of PrEP increased from 3.5% to 15%, more than a four-fold increase. Use of PrEP is expected to increase significantly when PrEPIT-WA commences.

Another significant discussion point was negotiating sex in the time of undetectable viral load and PrEP. With the consensus of 'Undetectable = Untransmittable' during this year, and more readily access to PrEP through personal importation, our clients have been challenged with a new way of thinking about 'safer sex'. M Clinic has supported clients to tease out what 'safer sex' is, and to help them find the risk reduction strategies that work best for them as individuals.

Alcohol and Drug Service

Alcohol and other drugs services are increasingly a focus for support of MSM. During

m clinic

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the year M Clinic met with David Stuart who is a world leader in the area of Chem-Sex programs for MSM at 56 Dean Street, the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital's sexual health clinic. M Clinic has since partnered with Next Step Drug and Alcohol Services, East Perth, to establish a fortnightly alcohol and other drugs service that sits within M Clinic. We have also partnered to provide mutual training in our respective areas of expertise. The service is designed to be an open-door to MSM to access peer-based, non-judgmental, friendly and tailored services, including general information, education, referral and support with any difficulties they may be experiencing with their substance use. The co-location within M Clinic allows clients to remain in a comfortable setting to begin accessing information and support.

Public Health

M Clinic continues to lead the Western Australian STIGMA Group (Sexually Transmitted Infections in Gay Men's Action Group), a public health partnership aiming to monitor and address HIV and

STI rates in WA-based men who have sex with other men. In response to significant increases in infectious syphilis, M Clinic has developed and led the implementation of a Syphilis Action Plan in partnership with the other agencies involved in the STIGMA Group.

Research and Data

M Clinic participates in national and state research each year. This year, M Clinic was involved in the Mouthwash in Australia Survey in June 2017. This is a cross-sectional study conducted by the Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic and Monash University over a five-year period, aiming to determine the frequency and type of mouthwash use among MSM in Australia to help determine if mouthwash prevents gonorrhoea in the throat.

M Clinic has also partnered with the Centre for Social Research in Health in NSW to help facilitate a study into the use of methamphetamine for sex in Perth-based MSM; the Stimulants, Pleasures and Sex between Men Study. The study involves qualitative interviews and key advisors and methamphetamine-using

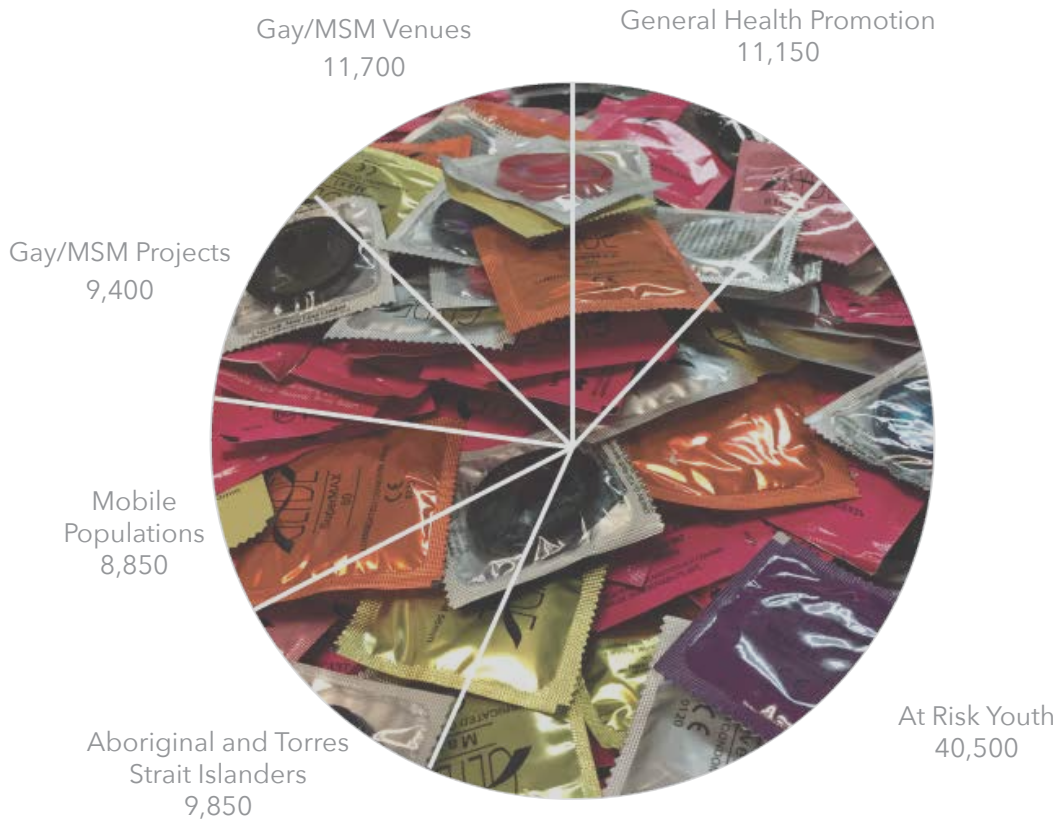
MSM.

In late 2016, M Clinic began planning the redesign of its data collection and management system, and enrolment in the Australian Collaboration for Coordinated Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance of STIs and BBVs (ACCESS) project. This involved the development of a new data collection tool and set up of new data management software, REDCap, to enable digital forms for self-collection.

The system was successfully launched and has fulfilled all its requirements. It has significantly reduced the burden of manual data entry, streamlined the recording of medical records and is anticipated to provide better quality data, due to self-collection and a data collection tool that incorporates questions designed to be used in epidemiological and behavioural data analysis.



health promotion



SAFER SEX HARDWARE DISTRIBUTION

In the current space of HIV prevention, we are lucky to have a range of tools to help prevent and decrease the likelihood of onward transmission of HIV. In the mix are Pre-exposure Prophylaxis, Post-exposure Prophylaxis and Treatments as Prevention, but condoms and safer sex hardware remain a staple of our work as it allows free access to at-risk populations to enable them

to protect themselves against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Over the last twelve months, we distributed 90,150 safer sex packs throughout Western Australia from the Kimberley to Albany, and out into the Goldfields.

Target communities included at risk youth, MSM populations, mobile

health promotion

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populations that are culturally and linguistically diverse people travelling to and from Western Australia, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.

To at-risk youth, we distributed 40,500 condom packs, by far the largest group. These were distributed through our KISS program, at high school stalls and in engagement with alternate learning and youth drop-in sessions, as well as through relationships and partnerships we have with many universities.

We distributed 21,100 safer sex packs to MSM through LGBTI bars and clubs and sex-on-premises venues, community group outreach including Pride, and to University queer departments.

The mobility projects distributed 8,850 condoms to numerous rural areas through Sex in Other Campsites, a project undertaken to raise awareness of sexual health to fly-in fly-out workers. We also distributed 9,850 safer sex packs under our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projects which include during

WA Sexual Health Week and Aboriginal services around the state.

Importantly, the safer sex pack offers the WA AIDS Council means of building a partnership with different community groups and organisations, as well as opening conversations with community groups, when our Safe Sex Angels attend events and conduct community outreach. In 2016-17, approximately 100 organisations were supplied with safer sex hardware and approximately 20,000 safer sex packs were distributed through WA AIDS Council staff and volunteers during outreach.

In the response to the HIV epidemic, condoms have, for over thirty years, played an important role. Their role, now as it was then, is fundamental and they remain a cost effective, practical and viable option for people to keep themselves and their partners safe.

WA SEXUAL HEALTH WEEK 2017

WA Sexual Health Week 2017 was held in February 2017 with the continuing theme of Safety, Pleasure and Respect. Coinciding with other events including National Sexual Health Week, National Condom Day and Valentine's Day, WA Sexual Health Week 2017 aimed to raise sexual health knowledge and awareness among young people who are for a range of reasons particularly vulnerable to STIs.

Each year the WA Sexual Health Week Committee offer a Community Small Grants Scheme to organisations in regional/remote WA to provide financial assistance to enable them to run a small project to coincide with WA Sexual Health Week.

There were eight successful

grant recipients for this year including:

- Population Health Goldfields – Kalgoorlie – Regional Sexual Health Week workshops
- Kimberley Population Health – Derby – Sexual Health Week project and activities
- Population Health South West – Albany – Advertising for Sexual Health Week
- Pingelly Health Care – Pingelly – Youth and Sexual Health Program
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Inc – Balgo, Bililuna, Mulan – Sex and the Law
- Headspace – Bunbury – Sexual Health Workshops
- Great Southern Aboriginal Health – Albany – Katanning SHS Sexual Health Week Event
- Avon Youth, Community and Family Services – Northam – Love Bites

For Sexual Health Week 2017 the Sexual Health team from Population Health Goldfields, travelled to Northern Goldfields communities, Kalgoorlie and local surrounding areas, and the southern parts of the region to reach their target audience.



The Goldfields Population Health Sexual Health team were able to provide light refreshments and prizes as incentives for attendance and participation in the sessions throughout the Goldfields. Overall the team delivered 21 sexual health sessions to a total of 555 participants including secondary school students, parents and caregivers and health professionals. Participants were provided with education, awareness and a safe place to explore sexual

health, risky behaviours and negotiating skills. The sessions were well received across all locations with participants expressing appreciation to the team for the sessions delivered.

2016 saw the eighteenth year that the WA AIDS Council has been providing outreach and support during Leavers celebrations to young Western Australians via the KISS Keep It Safe Summer project.

The KISS project provides a range of information, activities and referral for young people around the topics of sexual health, alcohol and other drug information while celebrating throughout the summer months.

During Leavers week 2016 around 12,000 school leavers descended on the South-west and Rottnest Island. The KISS Team conducted 475 hours of outreach by a dedicated team of volunteers and staff between the two locations. Focusing on messages about celebrating safely and looking after your mates delivered strong outcomes including:

CELEBRATING SAFELY WITH 18 YEARS INVOLVEMENT WITH LEAVERS!

- **12,500 safe sex packs distributed**
- **1,200 quizzes completed on sexual health, consent, alcohol and drug use**
- **7,000 Leavers contacted in Dunsborough**
- **200 Leavers participated in Pitstop**
- **5,000 participated in activities at Meelup Beach Day**
- **1,000 Leavers on Rottnest Island**

The year also saw the continuation of exciting new elements of KISS including the Facebook page which had over 2,500 views during Leavers week and 3,000 people engaged with the posts.

KISS also participated in more coverage in local news and media promoting how young people celebrate safely with the KISS messages.

KISS also saw the introduction of Snapchat filters at the zone and Dunsborough foreshore which leavers could access photos for their memories, friends



and family through the filters which promoted the staying safe and looking after your mates messages.

Leavers had great interactions and many positive experiences with the KISS team enjoying their Leavers week celebrations. Feedback was positive reflecting the success of the program.

“You guys are lifesavers thanks for coming.”

“Leavers is so much fun and made awesome and better by you guys.”

“I have learnt so much this week, (it’s) going to stay with me forever.”

“Thanks for coming down and the free stuff and condoms - so cool!”



KISS will continue to provide a holistic approach to young people’s sexual, alcohol and drug health and deliver a high standard of outreach.



needle and syringe exchange program

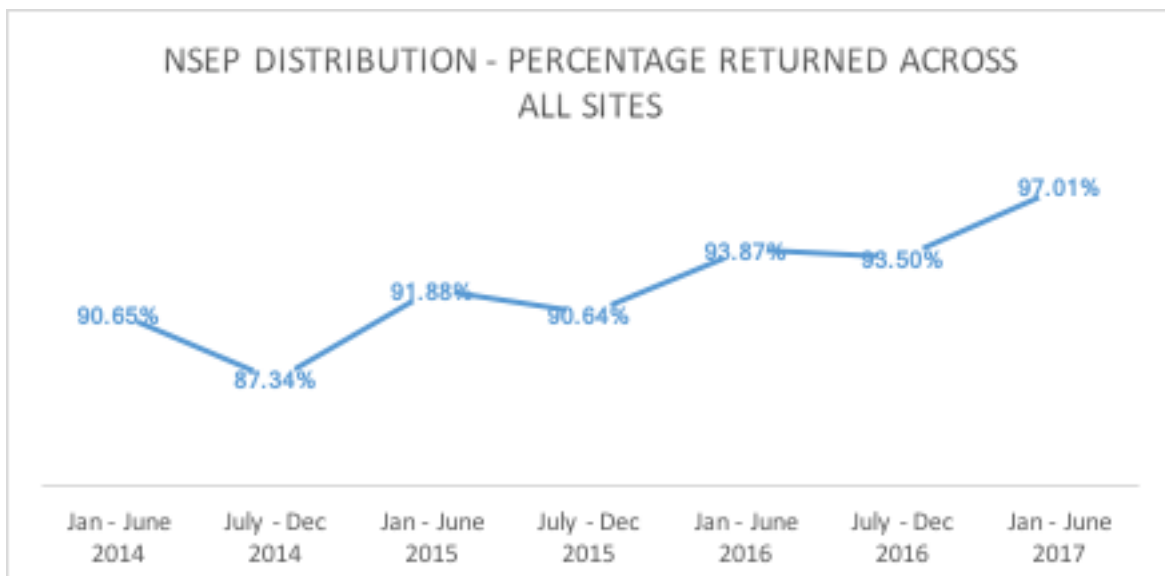
Since 1987, the WA AIDS Council has offered a discrete and efficient service to a highly vulnerable and stigmatised portion of the population - injecting drug users - through the Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP). The NSEP service does not always attract attention and recognition, yet it overwhelmingly contributes to the prevention of HIV, Hepatitis B and C and many other serious health issues.

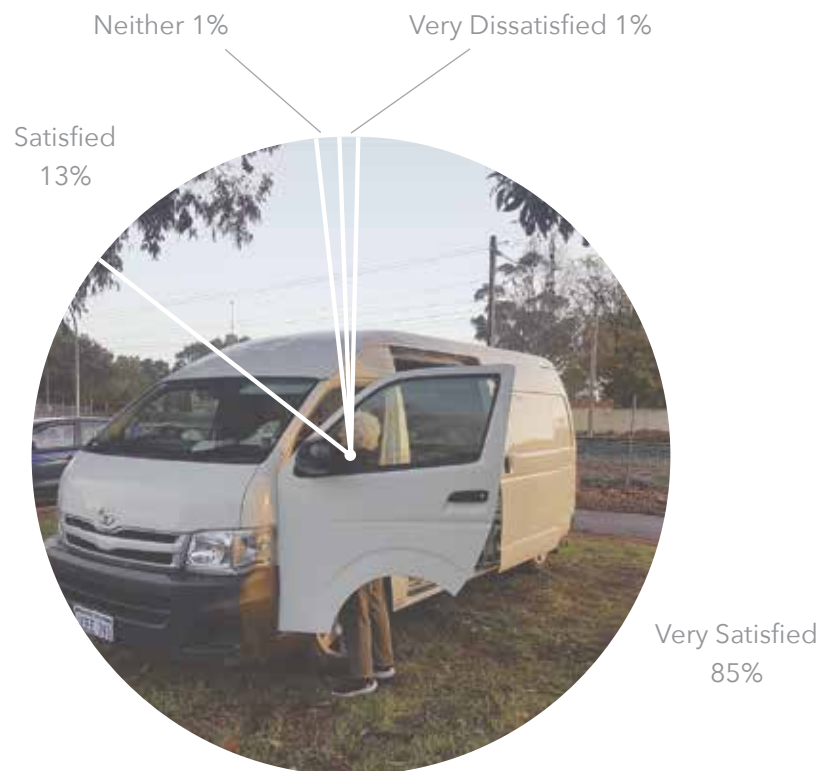
Our NSEP service has had yet another successful year. We have seen a significant increase in both client contacts as well as equipment return and distribution. In the

ARE YOU SATISFIED?

2016-17 period the NSEP service had over 12,000 client interactions, and distributed close to two million pieces of sterile injecting equipment.

When working with NSEP clients, one of our primary goals is to educate individuals on safe disposal and the importance of returning equipment. Over recent years we have seen significant behaviour change amongst our clients, who are now returning 97% of injecting equipment across all sites. This is not only an outstanding public health outcome, it also ensures that used equipment is not out in the wider community.





The progression seen in the NSEP service can be in-part attributed to the clients. Each year the NSEP program conducts a Client Satisfaction Survey (CSS) to explore ways to improve the NSEP service and to gauge client satisfaction. The CSS gives clients the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback and suggestions for the service. Clients are asked

to complete the CSS when they utilise the service, and are not offered an incentive for their time. Overall 97.74% of clients were satisfied with the service, with 85.31% answering Very Satisfied.

We believe that with our continued increase in client engagement and increased provision of sterile injecting equipment, up-to-date

education and health service referrals, blood borne viruses and other health risks can be significantly reduce. Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs remain an important avenue for harm and risk reduction, as well as opportunistic health promotion for both the injecting population and wider community.

ART FOR HEALTH'S SAKE

Freedom Centre is a safe social space for young people, and has been operating for nearly 23 years.

Our goal is to promote mental health and prevent mental illness through reducing isolation in LGBTI young people and assist them to develop positive attitudes towards their sexuality, sex and/or gender, enhance protective factors and coping strategies, and to increase their capacity to engage with their community. In 2016-17, Freedom Centre conducted 157 drop-in sessions and ran one weekend retreat. Notably, of the 2,046 visits from young people, 199 of them were by people attending for the first time.

Freedom Centre services are accessed by a far higher proportion of trans and gender diverse young people than the proportion of the general population they represent. This demonstrates the greater need for trans and gender diverse young people to access gender diversity-inclusive safe spaces. Of the visitors to Freedom Centre over the last twelve months, 55% were trans and gender diverse.

This year, Freedom Centre received a Suicide Prevention grant from the Mental Health Commission to foster peer support and mentoring connections for trans and gender diverse young people in Perth. This project was developed in line with findings from the recent Trans Pathways research by Telethon Kids Institute, University of Western Australia, Curtin University, YouthLink and Freedom Centre, which found that art, music and friends were the key protective factors for the mental well-being of trans and gender diverse young people 14-25 years old.

Phase One was a Trans Art Project in which eight young trans and gender diverse people participated in a series

of art workshops developed to help facilitate discussion among peers about gender, mental health and well-being. The six-week art workshop series began by mapping artists' gender journeys, which guided conversations and the creative process throughout the project. The artists found personal meaning in abstract string art, illustrated the lyrics of songs that inspired them, created works of self-portraiture, showing aspects of themselves they love, that they want to change, that make them feel fabulous or feeble, and that make them who they are. The work created in these workshops culminated in a well-attended Art Exhibition and the creation of a health promotion poster for services to display in order to show their support of trans and gender diverse young people.

Phase Two of this project is the Freedom Centre's Buddy Network. The Buddy Network aims to connect trans and gender diverse young people together and the parents of trans and gender diverse young people together to provide one another with support, and to share experiences. Friends and peers were two of the

protective factors for the mental well-being of trans and gender diverse young people 14-25 years old the Trans Pathways research uncovered. Nine people (five young people and four parents) attended a one-day training where they had the opportunity to understand the responsibilities and boundaries that come with being a buddy. It was also an opportunity for them all to reflect on and plan how to stay safe and well in the face of mental health challenges, and what they want to achieve through the Buddy Network Project. The parent group and the young people meet up fortnightly to share a meal, work on their goals together and reflect on their Buddy Group and goals.

In February, thanks to a small grant from Commonwealth Bank Australia and the generosity of a number of donors and small businesses (not to mention our volunteers who donated more than 500 hours of their time), Freedom Centre was able to conduct a weekend retreat for LGBTI young people in Serpentine. These retreats are important respite breaks for LGBTI young people, and serve to develop confidence and community amongst the participants. We

are thrilled to announce that the Mental Health Commission has acknowledged the tremendous value of these retreats and has committed additional funds that ensure we can conduct weekend workshops over the next two years.

Here's what our visitors had to say about the experience of engaging with the Freedom Centre:

"In mid-2016 I went through a very difficult time with my mental health and felt very isolated and unstable. Coming to FC made me get out of the house, discuss my worries in a supportive, health-positive environment. This, in combination with other things, helped me get through quitting drugs, and get help for my eating disorder. I was able to get a healthy perspective which informed my decisions and plans in recovery, which was a huge part of getting and staying off drugs, and reminded me I had a support network of positive influences. This is significant because my quality of life, physical and mental health, and the choices I make are improved."

"Since starting at FC I have become tons happier and I look forward to attending each week. I have made so many



friends through the service and it has really helped with anxiety and depression by knowing there will always be people to help and support me when I need it. I don't know what I would do without FC. It has also help me come to terms with my gender identity and figuring out who I really am. This has been significant to me because my happiness has gone through the roof. I love being surrounded by supportive, non-judgemental people. Thank you to the team, you really made a difference in my life."

"My family feel more comfortable with and relaxed with the gender identity of my child. I feel more able to share information and understand gender identity."

Freedom Centre remains an important institution in the promotion of positive mental health to LGBTI young people in Perth. We thank the Mental Health Commission for their continued investment in Freedom Centre, and for providing additional grant money to refine and extend our services to people who most benefit from them.

organisational development



PEOPLE

The WA AIDS Council continues to ensure that we attract and retain people with the ability to adapt, and are flexible to changing landscapes, including emerging priorities around HIV, STI and BBV epidemiology, treatment and prevention strategies; our human resource policies and procedures are up-to-date; and our recruitment processes are open and transparent.

Our values are inclusive and we pursue diversity in the workplace.

We are committed to professional development to ensure our people are highly trained and skilled in all areas of our work. This includes the ability and focus to maintain and strengthen our evidence-base for prevention programs that reflect current behaviours; possess the understanding to embrace

new bio-medical prevention and testing methodologies; and have the training to fully evaluate and report our prevention programs to stakeholders.

During the year, 20 training sessions were delivered to the staff in the organisation. We have also collaborated with other agencies in the sector, including the Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Magenta, Mental Health Commission, WA Council of Social Services and Multicultural Services Centre WA and Next Step Drug and Alcohol Services to deliver training to staff.

The Council believes strongly in encouraging our people to think outside the box and work actively with current and potential new peer-based networks, thereby building the capacity of other organisations in meeting their responsibilities for improving outcomes for people affected by HIV, STIs and BBVs. This is evident across our numerous projects in health promotion, with the M Clinic, our Needle and Syringe Exchange Program and in our external training capacity. It includes embracing the potential of current and emerging

technology, particularly in the use of social media, data entry and analysis with electronic tablets, and audience outreach on social applications chat sites online.

Our workforce remains committed to our policy on substantive equality, cultural sensitivity, and our Reconciliation Action Plan. This is demonstrated through our service delivery, particularly in the expansion of accessibility of our prevention programs to all of Western Australia, to our various target communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. We continue to develop better awareness and understanding of our diverse sexuality and gender communities, so as to identify current challenges they face. These include barriers in accessing health services, and bullying and discrimination in schools, workplaces and in public settings resulting from diverse gender and/or same sex attracted identity.

**ENSURE OUR PEOPLE
REFLECT THE
COMMUNITIES WE
SERVE**

The WA AIDS Council staff are always clear about the work we do, particularly our primary focus on our communities through the improvement of health and well-being outcomes for them. This includes people living with HIV. The ethos and philosophy of the Council is strongly embraced by our workforce who may come from, or represent the communities we serve, and have a thorough understanding of our communities' identities, challenges and needs. This reflection will provide strong focus on our working commitment to the delivery of our services.

True to our organisation's ethos, we continue to welcome employees from diverse sexuality and gender communities. As health promotion experts, our workforce needs to ensure we mindfully reflect the needs and challenges of our target communities. We use our voice proactively in drawing attention to policy omissions and weakness across several areas of our work, ensuring that the sexual and mental health and well-being of our communities are advocated.

organisational development

Staff members attended the following professional development in 2016-17:

R D'Souza, <i>Training and Development Coordinator</i>	<i>Australasian Sexual Health Conference and HIV & AIDS Conference</i>
S Yam, <i>Organisational Development Manager</i>	<i>Not-For-Profit People Conference</i>
K Mitsikas, <i>Volunteer Program Coordinator</i>	<i>National Standards for Volunteer Involvement – Volunteering WA</i>
	<i>Master Class Series – Volunteering WA</i>
	- <i>Organisational Readiness</i>
	- <i>Connecting with Volunteers</i>
	- <i>Leadership Workshop</i>
	<i>Dealing with Difficult People and Conflict – Volunteering WA</i>
	<i>Productivity – Strategic Forward Thinking – Volunteering WA</i>
	<i>WA State Volunteering Conference</i>
	<i>Online RSA Training / Certificate</i>
	<i>Basic Support Life and First Aid Course</i>
	<i>Gilead HIV in Context Conference</i>
	<i>Basic Support Life and First Aid Course</i>
	<i>Basic Support Life and First Aid Course</i>
	<i>Working with Methamphetamine Using Clients, MHC</i>
	<i>Basic Support Life and First Aid Course</i>
	<i>Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, MHC</i>
	<i>CPR Refresher Course</i>
	<i>CPR Refresher Course</i>
	<i>Basic Support Life and First Aid Course</i>
	<i>ACT for Depression and Anxiety - Russell Harris</i>
	<i>Mental Health First Aid</i>
	<i>What to do when your triggered (ACT and Trauma/Sensory Experiencing</i>
	<i>Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault (SARC)</i>
	<i>ACT and Trauma - Russell Harris</i>
	<i>ACT: Flexible Exposure - Eric Morris</i>
	<i>Working effectively with Clients who regularly use Chrystal</i>
	<i>Methamphetamines (AOD) Mental Health Commission</i>
	<i>Mindfulness in Relationships, Relationships Australia</i>
	<i>Integrated Mental Health – Dr Adrian Lopresti</i>
	<i>Healthy Conflict in Relationships, Relationships Australia</i>
	<i>Comprehensive Resource Management</i>
	<i>Couples Counselling, Relationships Australia</i>
	<i>Working with Alcohol and Drug-Using Clients – Mental Health Commission</i>
	<i>Trauma informed Care and Practice, Mental Health Commission</i>
	<i>Introduction to couple counselling Relationships Australia</i>
	<i>Couple counselling and domestic violence Relationships Australia</i>
	<i>Domestic violence, Relationships Australia</i>
	<i>Trauma and couple therapy Rosemary Watkins</i>
	<i>Grief and loss Rosemary Watkins at Relationships Australia</i>
	<i>Trauma and the brain, Relationships Australia</i>
	<i>Hakumi</i>
	<i>Motivational interviewing</i>
	<i>Treataware, NAPWHA, Sydney Forum</i>
	<i>Australasian Sexual Health Conference and HIV & AIDS Conference</i>
	<i>Aboriginal Sexual Health Forum</i>
	<i>Aboriginal Sexual Health Forum</i>
	<i>Hepatitis B Forum</i>
	<i>Multicultural Mental Health</i>
	<i>ASH Forum</i>
	<i>ACON Networking</i>
	<i>Mooditj Leader Training</i>
	<i>NACCHO Ochre Day</i>
	<i>Regional Sexual Health Forum</i>
	<i>ATSI Health Promotion Short Course</i>
	<i>WACOSS Training</i>
	<i>Opening Closets training (Living Proud)</i>
	<i>Facilitator Training</i>
	<i>Supervising Staff training</i>
	<i>First Aid Training</i>
R Furfaro, <i>Client Relations Officer</i>	
M Jones, <i>M Clinic Clinical Nurse Consultant</i>	
G Kuchel, <i>M Clinic Clinical Nurse Consultant</i>	
S Swallow, <i>M Clinic Clinical Nurse Consultant</i>	
A Smith, <i>M Clinic Peer Educator</i>	
T Atter, <i>M Clinic Client Services Officer</i>	
J Manuel, <i>M Clinic Manager</i>	
R Jones, <i>Counsellor</i>	
H Tolouei, <i>Counsellor</i>	
M Reid, <i>Positive Peer Support Officer</i>	
L Tomney, <i>Clinical Services Manager</i>	
C Robbins, <i>Senior Health Promotion Officer</i>	
T Bober, <i>Health Promotion Officer, Mobile Populations</i>	
M Bacon, <i>Outreach Officer, Gay Men's Health</i>	
S Rind, <i>Health Promotion Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Projects</i>	
K Darby, <i>Project Lead, Safe Schools Coalition WA</i>	
O Knowles, <i>Senior Project Officer, Safe Schools Coalition WA</i>	

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DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE MODELS THAT EXPAND OUR REACH

Our staff members are committed to building strong and successful partnerships with other stakeholders in the sector. This ensures we address all specific evidence-based sexual health needs of our communities, and confidently deliver services and resources that reduce the impact of HIV, STIs and BBVs across WA. These partnerships and collaborations are evident in our numerous activities in health promotion with stakeholders in the sector, with our government agencies and funders, and with academic and research institutions.

The adjacent table lists professional organisations our staff have maintained high-level engagement with during this financial year.

With a strong workforce, that consists of a range of employees both from diverse sexuality and gender and non-diverse sexuality and gender backgrounds, as well as robust professional development and training in diverse sexuality and gender research and service delivery, our Council continues to work confidently across the sector with these stakeholder partnerships, and is regarded as a community consultant on issues of diversity, inclusivity and corporate responsibility.

HIV, STIs and BBV Sector

- Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
- Hepatitis WA
- National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA)
- SHQ Sexual Health Quarters
- WASUA (WA Substance Users Association)

NFP Community Health Sector

- Aboriginal Health Council of WA
- Australian Health Promotion Association (WA Branch)
- Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Youth Service (DAYS)
- From Nothing to Something (FNFS)
- Youth Affairs Council WA – YEP Project

LGBTIQA+ and Other Communities Sector

- Absolutely Adult; Fremantle
- BEARS Perth
- Club X Northbridge
- Connections
- Court Hotel
- Everyman Store
- GAYmers Community Group
- Headspace Bunbury
- Kutjungka Communities
- Living Proud
- Loton Park Tennis Club
- Magenta
- Multicultural Services Centre WA (MSCWA)
- Murdoch University – Kulbardi House
- Out in Perth
- PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
- Perth Steam Works
- Pride WA
- RAM Lounge
- Red Cross
- Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) WA
- University of WA Student Guild

Government Departments

- City of Armadale
- City of Gosnells
- City of Joondalup

- City of Rockingham
- City of Stirling
- City of Swan
- City of Wanneroo
- Department of Health, Communicable Disease Control Directorate
- Kalgoorlie – Population Health
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service
- Kimberley – Population Health
- Mental Health Commission
- Pilbara – Population Health
- Shire of Kalamunda
- WA Police – Office of Crime Prevention and Community Engagement Division

Academic and Research Institutions

- Curtin University
- Edith Cowan University
- WA Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network (SiREN)
- University of Notre Dame
- UWA- Health Promotion Unit
- WA Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility (CoPAHM)

Reference Groups/Steering Committees

- HIV & Ageing Workforce Development Program
- Infections and Immunology Health Network (EAG)
- National PreP Advocacy Working Group
- The Value of Community Control in Australia's HIV Response (Working Group)
- Western Australian Committee for Blood-borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections Sub Committee (WACBBVSS)
- Western Australian Committee for Blood-borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections Aboriginal Sub-Committee
- WA Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility (CoPAHM)
- WA Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network (SiREN) Reference Group
- STIGMA Group

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The WA AIDS Council's Training and Development program seeks to increase awareness and understanding of HIV, STIs and BBVs to a range of external stakeholders, as well as enabling skills development for our community and stakeholders. It also helps the sector to better understand the needs of our affected communities, and in turn, advocate for their sexual and mental health and well-being.

During the year the Council ran a comprehensive series of training programs across a range of topics, and for a broad cross section of government, business and the community.

Professional group training

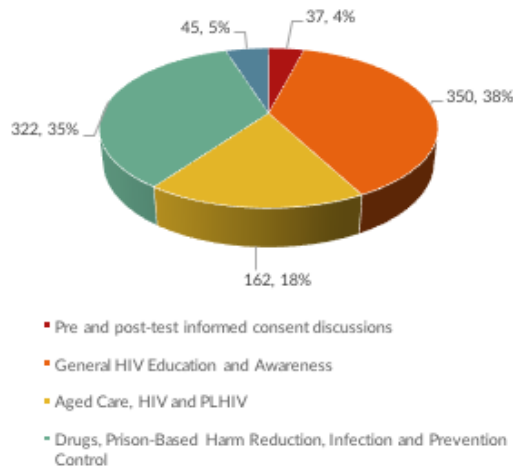
Many government agencies and professional organisations and individual professionals provide services to or support the Council's target populations and PLHIV. WAAC works to develop, maintain and strengthen strategic partnerships with relevant key agencies,

organisations and professions (including education, scientific, health and research sector organisations) which represent or provide services to priority target groups.

Training provided to these groups seeks to increase awareness, knowledge and confidence in HIV and related issues; develop, maintain and strengthen strategic partnerships with key agencies, organisations and professions; and improve attitudes towards HIV and related issues.

During the year the WA AIDS Council provided training to nearly 2,000 people, from inmates and custodial services officers, to nurses, to aged-care providers and local government rangers. Training topics included Aged Care, HIV and PLHIV, General

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXTERNAL TRAINING AREAS IN 2016/2017



HIV Awareness, and Drugs and Prison-Based Harm Reduction. **Volunteer training**

The WA AIDS Council volunteers are an integral part of the organisation, and their help is greatly valued. All new volunteers need to go through Volunteer Introductory Training to ensure they have a basic grounding in the Council's values and principles. The training also covers HIV facts, confidentiality, boundaries, diverse sexuality and more general concepts including harm minimisation, individual responsibility and providing a non-judgmental service. During the year 45 volunteers undertook this training in addition to the many volunteers who were recruited for events like STYLEAID.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community based organisation and the WA AIDS Council is no exception.

The Council's Volunteer Program's primary objective is to increase our human resource capacity to help us meet our health promotion objectives. The program also supports our work in reducing stigma and discrimination and HIV, STI and BBV transmission within our communities.

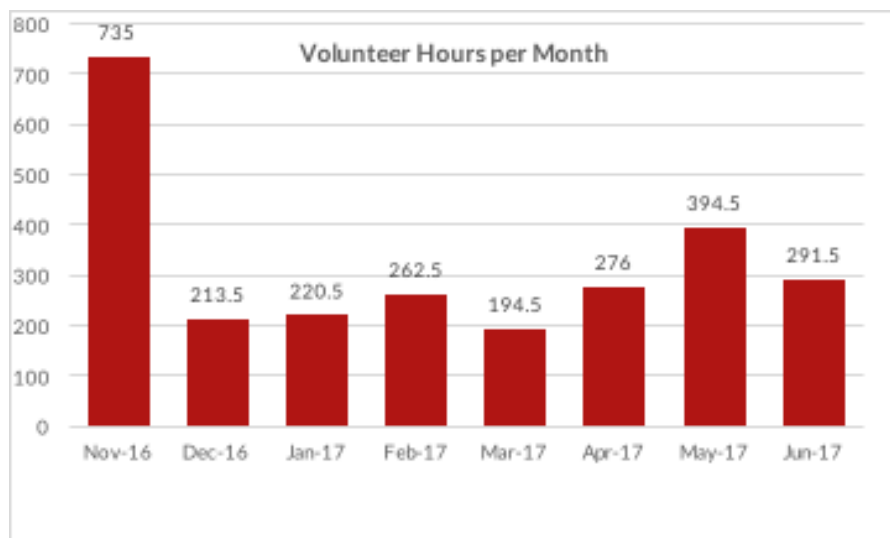
This year was a time of review, alignment and consolidation for the Volunteer Program. One of the key outcomes of the review was a strong focus on

THE REAL HEROES; VOLUNTEERS

improving the program's efficiencies and effectiveness particularly in the recruitment, retention and recognition of volunteers. While this focus remains an ongoing work stream, we believe that the volunteer program has now largely consolidated the improvements identified and introduced during the year, and is well placed to further develop and grow in the coming 12 months.

In July 2016, the volunteer data base consisted of 171 volunteers. Response to and uptake of regular volunteering opportunities within our programs was very low and it was unclear how many volunteers remained active. On completion of the three month review in November 2016 a total of 92 active volunteers were confirmed. As of the end of June 2017, our list of active volunteers became the foundation for the current volunteer database. At the date of this report, the volunteer program currently has 120 active volunteers.

During the year we held two volunteer recruitment intakes with 45 new recruits receiving training. In addition, two program specific volunteer



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training sessions, which support the intake process, for the Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP) and Event Outreach were undertaken.

The year also saw the completion of our final six months of the 12 month BankWest Foundation Social Media Grant. The grant has allowed us to better engage with our volunteer workforce through developing stronger and more robust communication/social media channels aimed at attracting and retaining a strong volunteer workforce; provide skills development through access to social media training sessions and the ability to allocate a mentor to

provide ongoing guidance and feedback; and management of a more effective and streamlined social media strategy for the Volunteer Program with support from our Communications team.

November 2016 saw 735 hours of volunteering completed with the Pride Parade, Leavers Program and Zero Art Exhibition all requiring large volunteering numbers. Most months' average between 200 – 250 hours of volunteering with regular engagement of volunteers in daily programs and office support roles.

In April 2017, WA AIDS Council received a grant from Lotterywest for National Volunteer Week, to help celebrate the ongoing contribution made by our volunteer network both to our programs and our organisation more generally.

Celebrations and volunteer engagement occurred on three days across National Volunteer Week with a wellness component – mindfulness and yoga sessions and a social component – a thank you dinner and a series of fun activities.

Communications: The Changing Face

The ever changing nature of communications continues to provide challenges and opportunities for the WA AIDS Council, particularly as we seek to reach an increasingly diverse range of, and less engaged, populations. The sheer size of Western Australia presents challenges across the board for the Council, but new exciting platforms are opening this up for us.

The Communications team continues to support our Health Promotion activities, actively assisting colleagues with their communication needs, and further developing opportunities.

Corporate website and e-newsletter

As expected, the WA AIDS Council's website saw significant traffic increases (25%) due to the site's redevelopment in 2015. The website continues to be the first stopping point for people seeking to engage with the Council, whether passively or actively. It is mobile optimised, and information centres on images rather than text, making it more accessible and user friendly.

The e-newsletter, now sent monthly, has progressed from an original list of less than 200 subscribers, to over 1,600, with an average open-rate of 45%, compared to industry standards of around 25%.

The newsletter system is used to target and update specific stakeholders, while the full list is used, for example, to promote training opportunities. It also allows the organisation to inform communities about discussions on issues impacting vulnerable groups, or to highlight stigma and discrimination.

Social media

A strong social media presence and active engagement using these platforms is critical to successful communications. During the year total reach grew to 15,496 connected people across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr. This reach will continue to enable the Council's Health Promotion activities to be widely accessed, as well as ensuring new audiences can be targeted, particularly with specific campaigns.

The WA AIDS Council continues to use Sprout Social, which has streamlined communication to audiences by allowing multi-channel posting from one location. Eliminating the need to interchange between Facebook and Twitter has improved

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efficiency in the scheduling of messaging. This ability improves effectiveness in ensuring all relevant channels are utilised. The ability to create Twitter hashtag searches has improved the Council's engagement with current events. Sprout Social has also generated efficiencies in reporting.

Sex in Other Cities

Sex in Other Cities (SIOC) was first branded in 2008 as a response to improving the Travel Safe campaign that targets vulnerable heterosexual travellers who

travel to South-east Asian countries with high HIV prevalence, as well as Western Australians on fly-in-fly-out work arrangements.

SIOC aims to ensure there is increased and sustained testing and treatment opportunities for vulnerable travellers through detailed information about sexual health clinics on the Sex in Other Cities website; encouraged and sustained condom use among vulnerable travellers, particularly access to safer sex equipment and availability of condoms in various international and national locations.

In 2016-17, the Council continued to promote this brand through the current website, Facebook page and convenience advertising in Western Australia's international and domestic airports. A raft of new initiatives are currently under consideration for this brand, including a move away from Facebook to Instagram, and website upgrades.



Reinvigorating awareness of HIV messaging through public events surrounding World AIDS Day and World AIDS Awareness Week remains a challenge.

In 2016, WA Health, Hepatitis WA, NAPWHA Community Representatives and the WA AIDS Council came together to develop a series of community engagement events in reflection, raise awareness and celebration of WA World AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day.

For the Council, the aim of these activities are to encourage all individuals in Western Australia:

- to understand how HIV can be transmitted, and to take action to reduce the transmission of HIV by promoting safe sex practices; and
- to ensure that people living with HIV can participate fully in community life, be open about their HIV status and live a life free from stigma and discrimination.

There were a range of activities during the period. These included Good Spirits Day, a social event during World AIDS Awareness Week that provided a space for people living with HIV to engage with volunteers from a key funding provider, MAC Cosmetics, to enjoy a session of pampering, networking, learning about MAC makeup products and how to use them, having fun with the volunteers and acknowledging AIDS Awareness Week and World AIDS Day 2016.

The Council also promoted key health messages and raised the awareness of HIV/AIDS via broadcast media, in particular with RTRFM who provided substantial coverage.

Eight staff members participated in radio interviews on RTRFM during

World AIDS Awareness Week, discussing a variety of topics. Exact audience numbers are difficult to gather, however RTRFM claims 103,000 people listen to the station each week, and 16,000 hits on the station website

In addition a billboard campaign was developed. The question “Is This What We Are Telling Our Kids About HIV?” raised awareness of World AIDS Day, and to question the general public’s knowledge of HIV, in order to sufficiently prepare younger generations. The billboards encouraged debate and discussion in community in the lead up to World AIDS Day and also encouraged people to engage with the work of the WA AIDS Council. The community was reminded of the need to commemorate World AIDS Day, that HIV is still relevant in 2017.

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- AMP Capital
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- Bankwest
- Barrick Gold
- Bears Perth
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- Black Swan State Theatre
- The Blonde Candle
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- Braziliano
- Bunnings Subiaco
- Casa Regalo
- Catering Essentials
- Chadwick Models
- City Farm
- City of Fremantle
- City of Stirling
- City of Vincent
- City of Perth
- Club X
- Coles North Perth
- Commonwealth Bank Australia
- Connections Nightclub
- Coolbellup Optimal Pharmacy
- BaseGroup
- Cottesloe Civic Centre
- Court Hotel
- Crown Perth
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- Department of Health (WA)
- Department of Families
- Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Office
- Empire Rose
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