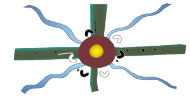




Western Australian
AIDS COUNCIL



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15 February 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

WAAC set to scale mountains against stigma

West Australians will be able to combine scaling mountains with countering stigma later this year, thanks to a new partnership with WA AIDS Council (WAAC) and Sydney-based travel company Inspired Adventures.

The new partnership will see an inaugural fundraising initiative take place in September where participants will be able to scale Cradle Mountain and visit Tasmania's wilderness World Heritage Area, while at the same time raise funds to fight against the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS.

The Tassie Trek fundraiser was launched on Valentines Day - Sunday 14 February - which is also National Condom Day and falls on the eve of Sexual Health Week.

Lisa Dobrin, CEO of WAAC, says the not-for-profit organisation was genuinely excited to cement the long-term partnership with Inspired Adventures, which will see annual fundraising travel adventures planned both in Australia and overseas, depending on Covid-19 restrictions.

"We welcome the commencement of our long-term partnership with Inspired Adventures and the launch of our Tassie Trek fundraiser," says Ms Dobrin.

"The focus of the fundraiser is on WAAC's 35th anniversary and our aim is to get 35 trekkers to raise \$3.5k each to fight the devastating impacts of stigma on people living with HIV, and all individuals and communities facing injustice and discrimination.

"It has been a career dream of mine to lead and partner with the community on a charity fundraiser like this. Our intent is to run future treks, cycles and runs in countries that also have a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, particularly those closest to WA such as south east Asia, to raise awareness on a global level as well as within and across Australia."

Justine Curtis, CEO of Inspired Adventures, says the five-day trek on a variety of trails around the Cradle Mountain Village area will enable participants to explore walks, daylong hikes and steep climbs, as well as discover the Tasmanian rainforest and some of the most spectacular scenery in the Cradle Mountain area.

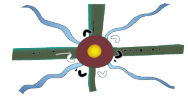


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“This is a great opportunity for West Australians, and those from other states, to join an amazing group of individuals united by their sense of philanthropy and adventure, while also raising funds for people living with HIV as well as individuals and communities facing injustice and discrimination,” she says.

WAAC provides a wide range of services and supports that are non-judgmental, inclusive and easy to access including counselling and support services for LGBTQI+ people and people living with HIV, a sexual health testing clinic for non-binary, sexuality and genders diverse people, a drop-in space for LGBTQI+ young people, peer mentoring, resources and education on sexual health, as well as free condoms.

These services are offered for free or at an affordable cost for all residents as well as international students.

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