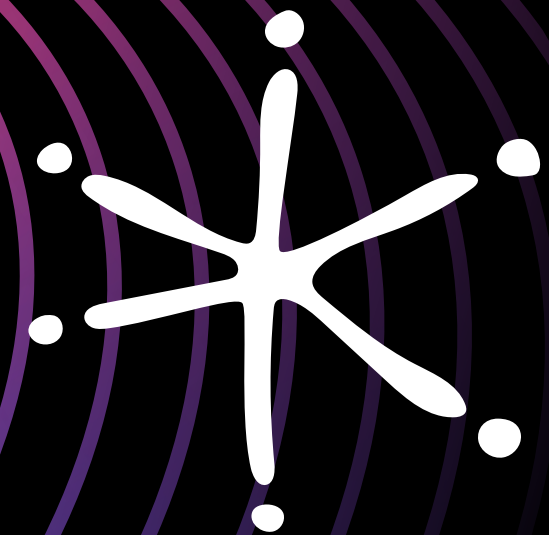


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WAAC

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# Ngala kaaditj Noongar moort keyen kaadak nidja boodja.

*Translates to: We acknowledge Noongar people as the original custodians of this land.*

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we work. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge all First Nations Peoples and their immutable strength, resilience and connection to land and country.

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## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

My primary school had the creed “as many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school”. I’ve reflected upon that a lot more over the past year when I assumed the role of Chair. The work of WAAC is achieved only through the heart, passion and energy of many, which the Board is proud to oversee.

This is my first report as Chair. I was upfront with the Board, and anyone else I spoke to, that I didn’t covet the role of Chair, but if I was called upon I would do it to the best of my abilities. My focus has been on improving the clinical governance, improving board engagement, building WAAC’s profile and revenue base and re-establishing our position of sexual health leadership.

These are matters that don’t have an immediate solution and will take years to fruit. I am happy, however, to advise that on each of these there has been progress: We are amid a significant clinical governance review; the Board is more collegial and engaged; and, WAAC’s profile continues to rise and we are called upon more for our expertise

While boards set the strategy, goals and parameters of the organisation, much of this is achieved through the work of the staff. When I tell people I’m involved with WAAC they are quick to mention someone they know at the organisation and shower them with praise. Every time I come to the WAAC offices and buildings I am energised by their enthusiasm and energy. Much of the goodwill of WAAC comes back to our staff, and I thank them for their outstanding ongoing efforts.

WAAC is in good hands with Lisa Dobrin as our CEO. Her first year, starting in March 2020, was a baptism of fire. In her second year, I have seen that as Lisa grows and develops in the role so does WAAC. A new strategic plan, a new

chair and new or renewed major contracts are difficult things to manage on their own, let alone all together. When the board makes requests of Lisa they are met with the openness you would expect. I have personally welcomed the openness and candour we have together to achieve the aims of WAAC.

I thank my fellow board members – Justin Clarke, Robin Cohen SC, James Duffy, Julian Henderson, Trish Langdon, Danielle Newport, Mark Reid and Matthew Skinner – for their contributions this past year, which they do as volunteers. Michael Felix has also provided an invaluable contribution as a member of our Finance and Audit Sub Committee. Every time I, and people within the organisation, reach out to them they are there with considered advice that improves the outcomes we seek. They are a reservoir of experience and knowledge which make them the careful, thoughtful guardians of WAAC, you are well-served by them.

Robin Cohen SC and James Duffy joined the board in the last year. James was familiar with the board and the organisation and has provided compelling contributions on matters of regulation and compliance. Robin was a complete outsider but with values and expertise that are aligned with WAAC’s. She has added tremendous value from day one and adds a unique and practical insight that is widely appreciated.

I always appreciate my discussions with Julian Henderson, as Deputy Chair, who shares the wisdom and clarity of his many years of experience.

Over the next year you will see more activity on our clinical governance and growing and diversifying our revenue base. Those things will be aided by and equally strengthen our profile and expertise.

It is the Chair’s responsibility to provide this report to you. I hope I have emphasised to you that this is merely the final gloss on what was the effort of dozens of people throughout the organisation.

ABOUT WAAC

WAAC (pronounced “whack”), is a non-profit organisation with a vision for a world of positive, healthy people in inclusive, connected communities.

Our Values

Courageous Leadership

Boldy standing up for what is right.

Inclusion without Exclusion

Welcoming and supporting everyone.

Creative and Innovative

Really listening to community, striving to improve.

Our Promise

Optimise the sexual health and wellbeing of all, through reducing the impact of stigma and discrimination, improving access to health services and information and reducing transmission of HIV, sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne viruses.

Our Vision

Positive healthy people in inclusive, connected communities.

Our Value Promise

Striving to do, make and be better.

Strategic Pillars

Unique & Defining Identity	Person Centred	Building Capacity & Capability	Community Engagement & Involvement	Organisational Endurance
To develop a unique and defining identity that embraces our past, values our present and reflects our future.	To develop person-centered services, practices and behaviours that offer opportunity and choice.	To build the capacity and capability of WAAC and its governance to respond to emerging environments.	To partner with community to disrupt bias and to influence change in the perception and understanding of the people we support and serve.	To develop a sustainable competitive advantage that drives a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship founded on decision-making that is person-centered, data-driven, and adaptive to change.

YEARLY OVERVIEW

WAAC

Needles provided

1,141,379

Safe sex packs distributed

126,962

Engagement at outreach events

23,379

Needle Syringe Exchange Program engagement

5,858

Brief interventions provided to NSEP clients

5,565

Instances of support to case management clients

5,540

Freedom

Visits by young people to Freedom sessions

2,791

Participants in LGBTIQA+ education sessions

874

Number of unique visits to Freedom Centre

369

Hours of counselling to LGBTIQA+ youth

299

M Clinic

M Clinic appointments

5,322

PrEP related appointments

2,787

HIV, STI & BBV screenings conducted

2,573

Number of unique clients that visited M Clinic

2,042

Number of outreach screenings conducted

844

Vaccinations provided

463



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## The New WAAC Brand

We successfully launched our new brand as WAAC on 15 September 2021.

The launch included the announcement of the new strategic direction, highlighting our purpose as an organisation who optimises sexual health and wellbeing for all, our values of ***courageous leadership, inclusion without exclusion, and creative and innovative***, and our vision for positive healthy people in inclusive and connected communities.

It was well-attended with support from our staff, our funders, representatives from community organisations and members of the community.

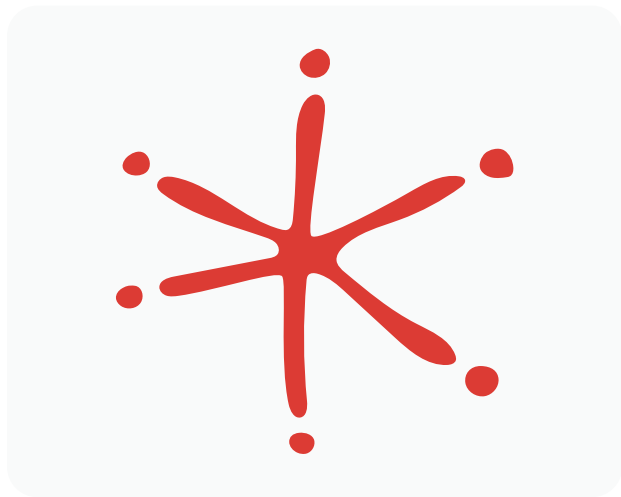
## Updated Logo

Our new logo takes inspiration from several different places:

**The Star of Life** – a six-pointed star used in many health fields, which symbolises our work in the health sectors and the importance of sexual health in holistic healthcare.

**Aboriginal art** – the hand drawn style of the logo pays homage to Aboriginal art work, including different symbols about meeting and connecting. We operate on Aboriginal land which is imbued with so much history and connection to country. It also demonstrates the need for WAAC to always centre on the needs of the communities we serve.

**The red ribbon** – the red pays homage to our history and to the universal symbol of awareness and support for people living with HIV.



## Open Borders Campaign

WAAC led a state-wide public health campaign called “Open Borders” which was aimed at increasing awareness around HIV, STIs and BBVs and was targeted at people travelling.

Messages such as “Pack smart, Play safe, Get tested” were tied in with images of masks for COVID-19 and condoms for prevention of HIV, STIs, and BBVs.

Open Borders was widely promoted across diverse media platforms including at Perth Domestic Airport, on public buses across the Perth metropolitan area, social media and WAAC’s website.

There was a reach of over **520,000** impressions using these means of promotion.

### Webpage views



### Page clicks



### Direct searches



### Unique users



### Page events tracked



### From social media





## YEAR IN REVIEW (continued)

### WAAC Information From You (WACCIFY)

WACCIFY being WAAC's people living with HIV consumer advisory committee, met six times in the 2021-22 financial year and provided meaningful engagement and input into a number of key WAAC events, resources and campaigns.

WACCIFY provided advice, guidance and leadership into both WAAC's campaign for the 40th anniversary of HIV/AIDS and the planning of the 20th anniversary of the AIDS Memorial at Robertson Park.

### 20th Anniversary AIDS Memorial

WAAC partnered with the City of Vincent to commemorate 20 years of the AIDS Memorial being established in Robertson Park, Perth.

As part of honouring and acknowledging the 20th anniversary, the Memorial received an exciting upgrade with the additions of a red ribbon artwork and augmented reality installation developed by local artist Janet Carter.

The event included an address from the City of Vincent Mayor Emma Cole, WAAC Board Chair Conrad Liveris as well as a speech from Mother Gretta.

### World AIDS Day & Fast Track Cities

During World AIDS Day in Dec 2021, WAAC, in collaboration with WACCIFY led a "40 years of HIV" campaign to mark the significance of the 40 years since the first HIV diagnosis, with a focus on combating stigma and discrimination.

The WAAC team proudly wore their red t-shirts with the words "40 years of HIV" along with banners, and messaging on the digital tower in the middle of Yagan Square. The campaign had a reach of over 28,000 impressions and was showcased throughout the month of November at our Pride events, on our social media platforms, as well as on our website.

WA became the first state and Perth become only the second city in Australia to sign up to the Fast-Track Cities (FTC) global initiative, aimed at getting to zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

The FTC Paris declaration was signed at WAAC's World AIDS Day event held in Yagan Square on 1 December 2021, by Minister for Health, the Hon Roger Cook, MLA, along with a community breakfast at Perth's Yagan Square, and featured high-profile speakers The Honourable Kim Beazley, AC, Governor of Western Australia, and Senator Louise Pratt.

85%

*of counselling clients surveyed reported they felt more confident to deal with challenges in their lives.*







## FREEDOM

WAAC has been successful in acquiring multiple new grants from the Mental Health Commission to expand its LGBTIQ+ Youth services. The iconic Freedom Centre and the ongoing Wellbeing Workshops have been complemented by the evolution of Freedom State and Freedom X service offerings. Freedom's expansion includes counselling, group facilitation, community development, workforce development and social support both in Perth and regional WA.

Due to the expansion, Freedom has developed its own business stream with a dedicated manager, to operate alongside the other four business streams within WAAC.

At the beginning of 2022, after 12 years based in Northbridge, the Freedom Centre moved to Leederville to co-locate with The Y to further expand HQ as one of WA's primary youth hubs.

While regional staff recruitment posed a challenge, it equally posed an innovative opportunity for WAAC to develop its first telehealth and face to face hybrid model of support. The local communities welcomed and embraced WAAC's presence and the project warmly.

Due to its initial and ongoing success and overwhelming support, Freedom - State has since expanded its reach and impact to the greater South West and Mid-West regions, Esperance and Carnarvon, with intentions and plans to expand even further into the Wheatbelt and northern regions of WA.

WAAC were delighted to have successfully secured a further \$500,000 for a 12-month extension in 2022-2023 from the Mental Health Commission, for the continuation of these critical state based youth services.

**100%**

*Surveyed young LGBTIQ+ counselling clients reported an improvement in their mental or emotional health.*

**Freedom**  
centre



## M CLINIC

M Clinic continues to be the go-to service for men who have sex with men, trans people and non-binary people, with more than 5,000 appointments seen in the last 12-month period.

With access to PrEP becoming increasingly convenient with two after hours clinics available weekly, the clinic is providing convenient and accessible ways for people to access HIV prevention.

As one of the specialist clinics in Perth for the gay community, M Clinic has seen year-on-year increases with clients accessing this service.

M Clinic has been instrumental in working with the Department of Health in the roll-out of monkeypox (MPX) information as well as vaccinations in 2022, being one of the first clinics to offer vaccinations.

M Clinic provided outreach testing and screening for HIV, STIs and BBVs to priority populations through sex on

premises venues such as Steamworks and Club 103, as well as provided outreach testing at community events.

With the ever-changing landscape of sexual health, M Clinic is keen to meet the needs of the community through the expansion of services to incorporate additional resources that will lead to more holistic care.

Our future plans include sourcing a bigger purpose-built premises to accommodate the expansion as well as provide much-needed accessibility for people living with disabilities.

M Clinic continues to partner with local communities, particularly LGBTIQ+, youth and alcohol and other drug organisations to increase awareness of testing, treatment and prevention of HIV, STIs and BBVs.

**2,787**

*PrEP related appointments  
conducted at M Clinic*







## VOLUNTEERS

To deliver various WAAC services effectively, WAAC relies on the assistance of an amazing network of volunteers.

WAAC focuses on recruiting a professionally diverse group of volunteers, with backgrounds in health promotion, education, nursing, psychology and counselling, public health, sexology, youth work and social work to promote a rich knowledge and multidisciplinary team with a diversity in gender/sex identities.

WAAC's dedicated and passionate volunteers have individually and collectively donated thousands of hours spread across programs including the NSEP, WAAC's Fringe Festival Events, Safe Sex Packing Sessions, Vic Park Pride Barn Dance and Waste for WAAC. We currently have 148 registered volunteers who regularly receive updates about volunteering opportunities, engaged via email, social media and direct contact depending on their preferences and interests.

We also partner and engage corporates in volunteering condom packing sessions to support our Safe Sex pack distribution across WA. We have hosted five sessions for Woodside, Modis, and the Department of Health, producing a total of 4,030 Safe Sex Packs.

We also hosted sessions with universities, supporting a "burst" volunteering excursion for UWA's micro-volunteering team at our Freedom Centre for 19 volunteers, as well as a session with WAUC at UWA for 30 volunteers, packing a total of 3,750 Safe Sex Packs.

### Students

WAAC is committed to building the capacity of new graduates and hosted five student placements in the disciplines of counselling and health promotion.

## FUNDRAISING

### Waste for WAAC

Waste for WAAC is a community initiative that saves containers from landfill and raises funds by encouraging individuals and businesses to collect 10c containers and donate their refunds using the WAAC Containers for Change community number (C10455300).

Since commencing in 2021, Waste for WAAC has established partnerships with 15 local businesses, community organisations and corporations and saved over 45,000 containers from landfill.



### Tassie Trek

A team of amazingly committed WAAC staff and community allies took on the incredible challenge of partnering with WAAC to explore 50km of the stunning Tasmania Wilderness World Heritage Area.

In honour of our 35th year milestone, \$25,000 was raised to help our response to the impacts of stigma on people living with HIV and all individuals and communities facing discrimination.

### FringeWorld

WAAC held four events as part of the annual Perth Fringe Festival in January and February 2022.

In partnership with The Court, Dean Misdale, Fay Rocious and Donna Kebab, WAAC's Drag Queen Bingo and Yas, Quiz Me Daddy events were massive hits, so much so that WAAC and Dean Misdale won the Fringe World 2022 – Community and Special Events Award!





## OUR PEOPLE

WAAC promotes a workplace that actively seeks to include, welcome and value the unique contribution of all people. It is due to the ongoing and unwavering commitment, talents and passion of our highly skilled humans that we are fortunate to work with, that we continue to be able to meet our vision of positive healthy people in inclusive, connected communities.

### Board Members

**Chairperson:** Conrad Liveris  
**Vice Chairperson:** Julian Henderson  
**Secretary:** James Duffy  
**Treasurer:** Justin Clarke

**Community Representatives:**  
Dr Matthew Skinner, Robin Cohen,  
Danielle Newport, Mark Reid,  
Trish Langdon.

**Chief Executive Officer:** Lisa Dobrin  
**Total Staff:** 58  
**Total Volunteers:** 148

**WAAC would like to thank  
everyone involved in helping us  
be who we are!**

## OUR PARTNERS

### Funders

WA Department of Health, Mental Health Commission, WA Police Force, WA Primary Health Alliance.

### Grants

Lotterywest, MAC Cosmetics, U.S. Consulate General Perth, ViiV Healthcare.

### Research Partners

WA Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network (SiREN), The Kirby Institute, Burnet Institute, Centre for Social Research (UNSW), Telethon Kids Research Institute.

### Special Mentions

ACON, Aboriginal Health Council of WA, Ability WA, Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer and Community Coalition, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), Hon. Alison Xamon MLC, Annette Hasluck (Rubis), Australian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM), Club 103, Constable Care, Cougar Morrison, Cyrenian House, Dean Misdale, Dee Roche (DRLDC), Department of Justice, Equality Australia, Fast Track Cities, Fayrocious, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Floreat Maintenance, Francis Burt Chambers, Gordon Street Garage, GRAI, GP on Beaufort, Hepatitis WA, Homelessness We Care, Inspired Adventures, Jordan Bruno, K&L Gates, Leavers Joint Operation Taskforce, LGBTIQ+ Health Alliance, Metaxas Legal, Michael Felix, Mission Australia, National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA), OKMG, Out in Perth, National AIDS Fundraising Limited (as trustee of the AIDS Trust of Australia), PFLAG WA, Pride WA, Palmerston, Peer Based Harm Reduction, Perth Queer Film Festival, Positive Organisation WA (POWA), Pride in Diversity, Rainbow Futures, Rainbow Community House, Richmond Wellbeing, Royal Life Saving WA, Royal Perth Hospital, Ruah, Shine Communications, Senator Louise Pratt, SECCA, Samaritans, SciTech, Sexual Health Quarters, Sheila McHale, Steamworks, The Court, TransFolk of WA, Tranby House, Vic Park Pride, View Street Medical, Volunteering WA, WA Return Recycle Renew Ltd (Containers for Change), Youth Affairs Council of WA, Youth Pride Network, YMCA WA.