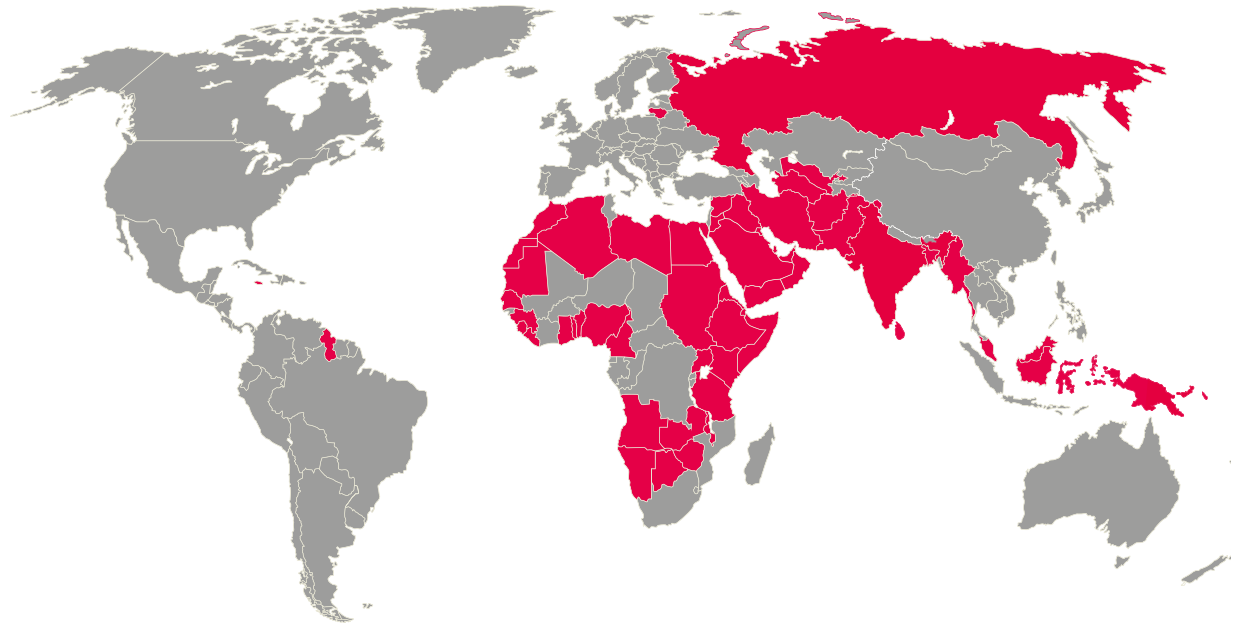


**if** **KAM** lived in Iran, he could be paraded in front of the public and hanged, his body left on show as a reminder that homosexuality is punishable by death. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.

A photograph of a man sitting on a black motorcycle in an alleyway. The man is bald, has a beard, and is wearing a dark blue polo shirt, dark shorts, and black and white sneakers. He is looking directly at the camera. The motorcycle is a Honda CBR600F4I, with 'SDT-5A' visible on the side. The background consists of a brick wall on the left and a corrugated metal wall with graffiti on the right. The graffiti includes a yellow circle and some white scribbles. The lighting is bright, suggesting daytime.

**if**

**DANTE** lived in Papua New Guinea, he could face discrimination and be sacked from his job for being gay. Being sexually intimate with his partner could mean up to fourteen years imprisonment for them both. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.



● DENOTES REGIONS IN THE WORLD WHERE SEXUAL ORIENTATION IS CRIMINALISED



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if

ANA lived in Finland, before she could transition and legally be recognised as a woman she would need to be sterilised and officially diagnosed with a mental disorder. Transphobia is a crime against humanity.

## THE PRICE OF FEAR

Homophobia, trans phobia, and stigma and discrimination directed at people living with HIV remain critical factors influencing poor health outcomes for LGBTI people around the world. With regard to homophobia, apart from generalised societal homophobia, which is largely uncontrolled, there are currently 72 states around the world that criminalise same-sex activity and 45 of those states apply those laws to women as well as men. In this year's Annual Report, VAC is drawing attention to these issues.

### SYSTEMIC FEAR

We include Australia and the United States in this examination, as even in countries with fairly advanced laws relating to equality, it is still possible for LGBTI people and their families subjected to stigmatising behaviours and discrimination. In addition, we believe that externalised homophobia insidiously feeds the debilitating and damaging effects of internalised homophobia and its subsequent impacts of depression, isolation, stigma and suicidal ideation.

### STATE SPONSORED HOMOPHOBIA

In May of this year, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association published the 12th edition of their report on State-Sponsored Homophobia. This report makes for very sobering reading. It is difficult to believe that in 2017 laws exist that proscribe the rights of LGBTI peoples based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Punishments and prohibitions exist throughout the world that include:

- The death penalty exists in four states (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Sudan), two regions (southern parts of Somalia and in 12 states in Nigeria), and is codified in law in a further five states (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Mauritania).
- 19 states where the 'promotion' of sexual orientation (other than heterosexuality) is illegal including: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Somalia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lithuania, and Russia.
- A survey of countries that currently carry laws around sexual orientation and criminalise same-sex activity cite offences 'against nature' along with other provisions that criminalise the 'promotion' of same-sex activity. The punishments for these crimes in their worst incarnation is death but can carry sentences from 15 years to life imprisonment for 'offenders' in addition to corporal punishments such as lashing or stoning.
- There are 25 countries that put

up barriers to the formation of non-government organisations (NGOs) that would support LGBTI people. This includes China and Russia, where surveillance of HIV and AIDS cases remains extremely poor, making the provision of treatment, care and support services extremely difficult.<sup>1</sup>

Of course all these issues become more problematic when we consider intersectional matters such as disability, detention or imprisonment, race, HIV status, migrant or refugee status, religion, and gender.

### YOUNG PEOPLE

In our own country, the third national study on the sexual health and wellbeing of same sex attracted and gender questioning young people, *Writing Themselves In 3* from the Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society reported that the negative impacts of homophobia and transphobia are very real for young LGBTI people. 61 percent of the young people surveyed reported verbal homophobic abuse, 18 percent reported physical abuse and 26 percent reported 'other forms of homophobia'. In terms of the wellbeing consequences behind these statistics, consider this quote from the report:

'There were strong links between homophobic abuse and feeling unsafe, excessive drug use, self harm and suicide attempts. Young people who had been physically abused had worse mental health indicators than those who reported verbal abuse or no abuse.'<sup>2</sup>

### MARRIAGE EQUALITY

At the time of writing, the Marriage Equality postal survey results are not known. Even when they become known we cannot know how the vote in Parliament will go with regard to changing the *Marriage Act*. What is known however is that by opening the debate in this way, the government has enabled a small but virulent minority to voice concerns of same-sex relationships that can only be described as homophobic bigotry. Invoking the need to protect children, suggesting that same-sex relationships are so fundamentally flawed that to place children in these situations would be to put them at risk or at the very least disadvantage them through the denial of a 'traditional' family structure, can only be recognised as deeply homophobic.

These attitudes are not made any less homophobic by their proponents protesting that their opinions need to be respected as a reasonable opposition to marriage equality. In actuality, it is the fact that this is seen as a reasonable opposition to marriage equality that demonstrates how deeply insidious



RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES ARREST LGBTI ACTIVISTS PROTESTING AGAINST CHECHNYA'S PERSECUTION OF GAY MEN

homophobic attitudes run in parts of our society.

In considering this issue, VAC is once again drawing on its history of community activism. Repeatedly over the past three decades, VAC has taken a leadership role in advocating on behalf of our community, and that work has not been limited to issues relating to HIV/AIDS.

### A HEALTHIER FUTURE

As we move through the fourth (and hopefully last) decade of this epidemic

we will have to remain vigilant with regard to all matters that negatively impact on LGBTI people. Phobic attitudes to same-sex activity and gender identity as well as positive HIV status are significant issues central to the work of VAC that will need to be addressed if we are to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities in the future. For information on the work of community based organisations in some of these countries, see page 25.

<sup>1</sup> International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association: Carroll, A. and Mendos, L.R., State Sponsored Homophobia 2017: A world survey of sexual orientation laws: criminalisation, protection and recognition (Geneva: ILGA, May 2017).

<sup>2</sup> Hillier, L. Et al: *Writing Themselves In 3 (WTI3)* The third national study on the sexual health and wellbeing of same sex attracted and gender questioning young people. Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, 2010



if

**RAY** lived in one of 28 states in the USA, he could be denied housing or legally evicted. In 17 states he could be denied employment or sacked from his job, all because he's gay. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we look back on the progress of the recent financial year, our 2012-2017 *Strategic Plan* is coming to its end — prompting a time for forward thinking and an evaluation of where we're going.

### CHANGE

The past year has been a reminder that 'change is the only constant'. Since our humble beginnings as the Victorian AIDS Action Committee in 1983, we quickly became a community leader in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre, we continued this important work and developed an expertise in gay men's sexual health and wellbeing. Our models for peer support, health promotion, and community-informed service delivery became valuable assets as we expanded our work within the broader LGBTI community. Following our 2014 rebranding, the breadth of our work as simply 'VAC' has grown exponentially to be more inclusive and address a wider range of health and wellbeing issues faced by our gender and sexually diverse communities than ever before.

### LGBTI COMMUNITY HEALTH

We formally recognised our role as a LGBTI community health organisation during our Special General Meeting on Wednesday 5 October 2016 where it was decided that the objects in our Constitution would be amended to include the promotion of the health and wellbeing and the provision of support and services for the entire LGBTI community — a change that has been a long time coming.

During this time, the organisation has continued to receive recognition for the amazing work undertaken by our staff and volunteers. In the same month we amended our Constitution, we once again received the GLOBE award for 'A Healthy Community' — this time for Equinox Gender Diverse Health Centre, one of our services that is striving to meet the needs of our trans and gender diverse communities. This was soon followed by the 2016 VicHealth Award for 'Communications in Health Promotion' for our Drama Downunder campaign. As the year came to a close, we were awarded the 2016 Victorian Public Healthcare

Award for Supporting LGBTI Health — recognising us for the LGBTI community-led organisation we are today.

### MOVING ON

Following the sale of our site on Clarendon Street, finding a new home for our growing organisation has presented as a Herculean task. Careful consideration for the organisation's future and the investment of our funds remains a top priority. As a result, this past year has seen the formation of our Investments Committee to give these important decisions the additional consideration they're due. We have continued to work with Government and the board of the Victorian Pride Centre as they plan the establishment of Australia's first LGBTI centre in the country. In the meantime, senior management and the relocation team have worked tirelessly to secure a temporary home for those staff and services previously housed at the Peter Knight Centre, at 615 St Kilda Road.

### AN EVOLVING BOARD

During these changes, our Board has evolved. Following the 2016 AGM, we welcomed Tony Maynard to the Board and farewellled Michael Tippett. We thank Michael for his time on the Board and leadership he showed on our Governance Committee. I'd also like to thank our entire Board for volunteering their time and expertise. As a community controlled organisation, VAC is governed by, staffed by, and for our communities.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN COMES TO AN END THIS YEAR - A TIME FOR REFLECTION AS WE BEGIN THE PROCESS FOR A NEW PLAN FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OF OUR DEVELOPMENT.



**if**

**GARETH** was in Yemen and used his real name on Facebook, his only means of social contact, he would risk being outed to the government where he could face life in prison or be put to death. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.



## CEO'S REPORT

Diversity — our community calls for it in everything we do. As an organisation, we have begun to undertake a more diverse portfolio of projects, initiatives, and services than ever before in our history. This provides us with a fantastic opportunity — to engage more people from more communities. It also presents challenges as we adapt existing models or, in some instances, seek to find whole new solutions to support the health and wellbeing of the LGBTI communities we serve.

### DIVERSITY OF COMMUNITIES

Last year, we launched Equinox — our peer led, trans and gender diverse health centre in Fitzroy. We've added more staff to meet community demand, and with that growth, we've been able to diversify the services offered to incorporate mental health as well as sexual health, hormone management, and our standard GP services.

Our Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer (LBQ) Women's Health Conference, now in its third year running, has officially become a national event as we co-hosted the event with ACON in Sydney. This conference has become an annual opportunity for further discussion around the health needs of LBQ women as well as share the knowledge and insight garnered through research and existing work being undertaken across the country. At the most recent conference, we announced a new project as part of VicHealth's Alcohol Culture Change Initiative to address the risky drinking behaviours of LBQ women in regional Victoria.

### DIVERSITY OF ISSUES

Starting with the epidemic in 1983, over time we have tackled a range of issues impacting our community's wellbeing. That tradition has not changed as we have continued to tackle complex issues like LGBTI relationship and family violence. The past year we launched flexible support packages designed to provide financial assistance to victims/survivors of family violence within the LGBTI communities. The uptake of this service has been encouraging as we continue to develop the services we can offer in this area.

Our Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) team has grown to address the complexities around alcohol and drug use in our communities. With unique considerations, we developed guidelines for alcohol and other drug service providers supporting trans and gender

diverse clients. The AOD team also collaborated with our health promotion team in a range of activities as part of our Ice Action Plan including community outreach, a safe injecting video, and the be-longing for It exhibition as part of the 2017 Midsumma festival.

Every new service area we have developed has been due to requests from our communities to broaden our offer. As we head into the future, we will investigate what role VAC can play in the NDIS as our community calls for community controlled disability services.

### DIVERSITY OF LOCATIONS

We have continued to grow our presence outside Melbourne's metropolitan area. VACountry is now in its second year of operation out of Bendigo, supporting LGBTI people living in regional and rural settings. In Adelaide, in partnership with our dedicated friends at Shine SA, the team at SAMESH have truly established the program as a LGBTI community leader. Through our work with SAMESH, we have seen the expansion the PrEP-X trial and the roll out of Drama Downunder in Adelaide.

Successful engagement has always required us to go where our community goes. In this day and age, this means going online. For our Outreach volunteers, this has meant heading onto social networking and hook up apps to offer their peer education expertise through AppReach. Meanwhile, the online communities established at Pete.org.au and Dale.org.au completed their initial two-year research period offering insight into the potential for digital interventions to reduce the experiences of stigma. The latter of which, Dale.org.au, allowed for us to successfully engage same-sex attracted men living in heterosexual relationships — a group that has historically proven difficult to engage in face-to-face services.

This year also saw the exciting launch of another national project — Emen8. In partnership with ACON, emen8.com.au is quickly becoming Australia's biggest and boldest online sexual health and wellbeing initiative for gay men, bisexual men and men who have sex with men.

### DIVERSITY OF MESSAGES

One of the biggest challenges amongst all this diversity is connecting all the communities we engage with the important messages they need to receive. World AIDS Day is one opportunity where we endeavour to

engage the broader community in one of our core purposes. Following mainstream media coverage that heralded 'the end to AIDS' in Australia, on 1 December 2016 we set out to remind everyone that HIV Still Matters. The bold look and key messaging proved so effective that the campaign was rolled out in the ACT and will now become one of our featured health promotion campaigns going into the future.

Greater diversity in programs has required greater diversity in staffing to ensure we continue to be a peer led organisation. I'd like to thank all of our staff for their dedication over the last year. VAC continues to attract staff who believe in what we do and are prepared to go the extra mile to ensure our community receives the services it deserves. I'd also like to thank the Board for their ongoing support and our funders for their belief in LGBTI community controlled health.

Diversity is important. It can also be challenging. Still, it's the way forward for us as an organisation and as a community.

Simon Ruth, CEO



REI ALPHONSO FROM VAC'S AOD SERVICE WAS A KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT OUR THIRD LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND QUEER WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE, THIS YEAR CO-HOSTED WITH ACON.



if

**JONO** used a gay dating app in Russia, he could be threatened with arrest and imprisonment. Russian parliamentarians describe being gay as shameful and have called for whipping to be introduced as a punishment for anyone who is gay. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.

**CONNECTING** WITH COMMUNITY

\$2,403,134



OUR TIRELESS VOLUNTEERS ADDED OVER TWO MILLION DOLLARS AS IN-KIND VALUE TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION, WORKING OVER 59 THOUSAND HOURS OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.

891,000+



MORE THAN 891,000 PEOPLE WERE REACHED VIA VAC'S FACEBOOK PAGE.

319,800+



OVER 319,800 PEOPLE VISITED THE CAMPAIGN WEBSITES FOR DRAMA DOWNUNDER, STAYING NEGATIVE, TOP2BOTTOM, TOUCHBASE, DOWN AN' DIRTY AND TREAT HIV NOW.

90,000+



CONDOMS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO VENUES, PARTIES AND OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS PROVING THAT EVEN IN AN AGE OF BIOMEDICAL PREVENTION THAT MANY MEN STILL USE CONDOMS AS PART OF THEIR PREVENTION STRATEGY.

44,000+



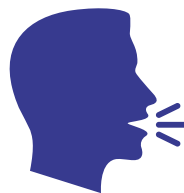
OVER 44,000 PEOPLE LOGGED ON AND VIEWED VIDEO CONTENT FROM VAC ON TOPICS AS VARIED AS PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS, HIV STIGMA, MANAGING DRUG AND ALCOHOL ISSUES, SEXUAL HEALTH, AND TRANS HEALTH.

40,000+



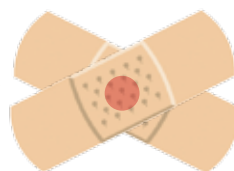
OVER 40,000 RED RIBBONS WERE DISTRIBUTED DURING OUR WORLD AIDS DAY STREET APPEAL.

2,700+



VAC CONDUCTED OVER 2,700 COUNSELLING SESSIONS THIS YEAR.

1,840+



OVER 1,840 RAPID TESTS WERE CONDUCTED AT OUR PRONTO RAPID TESTING SERVICE.

1,700+



OVER 1,700 APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE AT EQUINOX, VAC'S GENDER DIVERSE HEALTH SERVICE.



**if**

**SHANNON** lived in China, as a lesbian she would have no protection against discrimination in the workplace, in the provision of goods and services or against hate speech. If she was openly affectionate with her partner, she would be accused of abnormal sexual behaviour which is banned federally. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.

## 20 STORIES FROM VAC



### 1 Marriage Equality Debate

We opposed the Australian federal government's planned marriage equality plebiscite (and later postal survey) and called for Government to allow a free vote to pass marriage equality once and for all. Our main concern surrounding such a vote was the health and wellbeing of our LGBTI communities. We feared any plebiscite or survey would open up a public debate that would provide a platform for a fear campaign and promote vitriol

towards the LGBTI community. The debate would further stigmatise sexually and gender-diverse individuals and potentially harming their mental health alongside an increase in prejudice-motivated crimes against LGBTI people. We believe the unnecessary, expensive, and entirely non-binding vote on an issue that could have been easily resolved in Parliament with a free vote is genuinely insulting to the LGBTI people of Australia.

### 2 SAMESH

Ongoing community engagement has strengthened SAMESH's relationship with the LGBTIQ and PLHIV communities in Adelaide. Our Hyde Street site has flourished as a community hub with twelve community groups regularly accessing the space from Queer Gamers and Bear Men of Adelaide to LGBTIQ Christians and the sporting group Adelaide Spikers.

In February, SAMESH hosted a street party to launch the Drama Downunder (DDU) 'Decades' campaign in Adelaide.

The DDU Decades campaign is the largest social marketing campaign ever undertaken in South Australia by a sexual health service working with gay men and men who have sex with men. SAMESH continues to grow its peer based education sessions, delivering two 6-week sexual health and wellbeing workshops for gay men aged 18–30 and 30–70 years.

### 3 Adam Bourne

In October 2016, VAC partnered with ACON to bring Associate Professor Dr Adam Bourne, a leading researcher in alcohol and drug use within LGBTI communities, to Australia to present a keynote address at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Drugs Conference (APSAD) held in Sydney. Whilst in Melbourne, Dr Bourne presented at both a community forum held at Hares and Hyenas and a sector forum held at the Doherty Institute on the issues of chemsex within the gay community. Both events had over 50 people in attendance. His presentations emphasised the need for a range of approaches in dealing with the complex issue of drug use and sexual scenes.



### 4 VACstravaganza!

RuPaul's Drag Race has prompted a resurgence of drag worldwide and provided the inspiration for our annual trivia night. With the show's season finale approaching, the 350 tickets for the event sold out a week early. With a packed house of 45 trivia teams and Rhubarb Rouge & Frock Hudson (Dean Arcuri) hosting, VAC-Stravaganza went off! Trivia was complemented by drag performances, mini challenges, lip-Sync-for-your-life, and a live auction. Teams raced to answer questions

on RuPaul, queer culture, and sexual health. The woof-able Melbourne Surge Water Polo Club played a vital role as their 10 "Pit Crew" volunteers assisted in games, scoring and the auction. Another 10 VAC volunteers made sure the bar, ticketing and stage management ran seamlessly. With a very different demographic of attendees from other VAC events, it was great to reach the broader queer community and its allies as well as raise \$10,000 for the organisation.

### 5 Jane

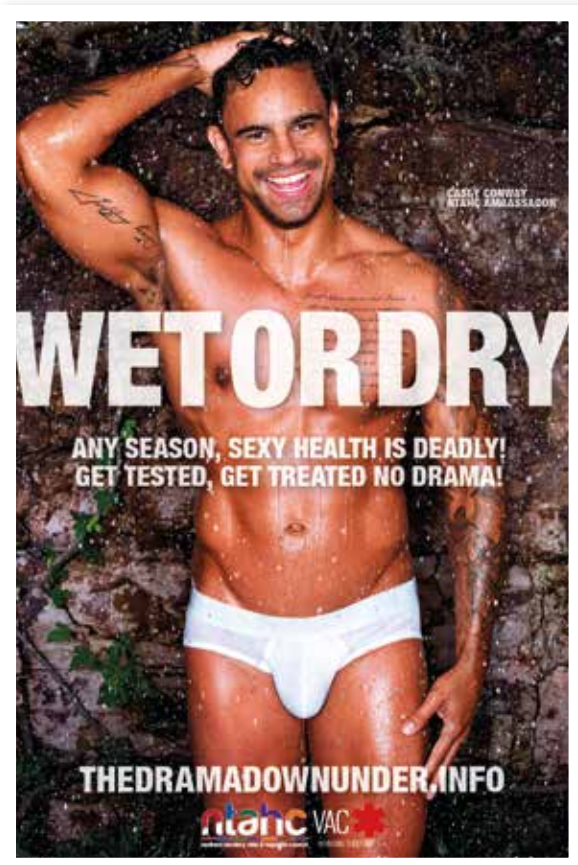
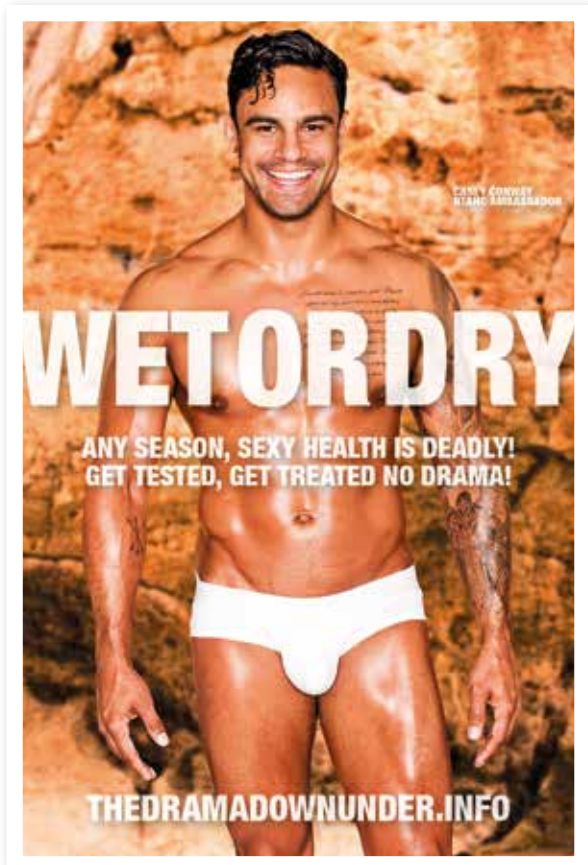
Jane (not her real name) is a transwoman who was a victim of severe abuse, resulting in neglect of her own health and a six month stint in hospital. She came to the David Williams Fund after her release, when she had been placed in a room in a boarding house. Although there were shared facilities for a kitchen and lounge, her past experiences made her too afraid to use them. Jane was living only on food she could eat cold in her room and

skipping many meals entirely. This was having an impact on her recovery. The David Williams Fund helped her with an electric wok and rice cooker so that she could cook and eat her own hot, nutritious meals. We also provided her with a television so that she could relax and still connect with the world. She has, she says, "found a little bit of peace" and her room now "feels more like home".

A full-page photograph of a man standing in a park. He is wearing a tan V-neck sweater over a light blue collared shirt, olive green trousers, and dark shoes. He has a beard and is looking directly at the camera. The background consists of large trees with some green leaves and a ground covered in brown fallen leaves.

**if**

**BRIAN** lived in Jamaica, he could be tortured or murdered simply for being openly gay. Homosexuality is illegal in Jamaica and often the police fail to protect LGBT citizens from homophobic and transphobic attacks. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.



**6 Aboriginal Drama**

The Drama Downunder campaign broke new ground this year through a partnership with the Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC) and the participation of high profile ex-rugby league footballer, Casey Conway. Casey's post-football life has meant that he has become a role model for, not only Aboriginal gay men, but gay men more generally as he has shared his coming out journey and gone on to be a community leader vitally interested in the sexual health and wellbeing of gay men throughout Australia. At the time of the launch, Casey said "It's a big responsibility, and if people are going to be honest and share their stories with me, then I need to be honest about who I am too."

**7 Community Support**

Many clients continue to live independently at home thanks to coordinated care from our Community Support team in partnership with the HIV team at Bolton Clarke (formerly RDNS).

Peter, (not his real name) 52, has been HIV positive for more than 20 years and a VAC client for 11 years. His physical health has declined following a recent cancer diagnosis. Mental health and behavioural issues limit his capacity for group social engagement, such as that provided at the Positive Living Centre; so Peter receives individual support including medical transport, shopping help, and home visits from nurses, volunteers, and VAC Home Care workers. The care team have developed an engagement strategy for workers and volunteers to best work with Peter. Good communication and consistency with clear boundaries and feedback has allowed a sustainable service despite the client's challenging behaviours. This is an example of the value of the formal partnership between VAC and Bolton Clarke as well as the crucial contribution of our experienced staff and volunteers.

**8 Relationship Violence**

In 2016, we were asked to provide Family Violence Flexi Support Packages to the Victorian LGBTI community. These packages help equip victim/survivors of family violence to exit or remain safe following violent relationships. We were the only statewide service to fully discharge the \$100 000 allotment, demonstrating that relationship and family violence is a major issue for LGBTI people and that community-led interventions are needed. One participant, a 22 year old queer Aboriginal woman, was supported with a package to stabilise her living arrangements in public housing and to access ongoing support services to aid in her recovery from intimate partner violence. Another client, a 29 year old gay man and guardian to his adolescent brother, were assisted to find a stable renting option after exiting violence both in their family of origin and in his intimate partnership.

**9 GLOBE Win for Equinox**

Equinox received the 2016 GLOBE Award for 'A Healthy Community' at the annual event in October 2016. In recognition of the medical and counselling services that Equinox provides to the trans and gender diverse community, the award acknowledged the community-led approach, working with the community to provide specialist, culturally-safe services. VAC was honoured to receive the award and the recognition it gave to the hard working team of medical staff, support staff, and the community advisory group.



**10 Sexperts in the Country**

Being further apart geographically and with limited opportunities to connect with the LGBTI community, reaching gay and bisexual men in the country can be a challenge. Recognising this difficulty, we developed the Sexpert Project. We trained 10 peer volunteers to provide information about a range of topics including HIV prevention and alcohol and other drug harm reduction. The peer volunteers, working within clear guidelines, go onto online hook up applications, to answer questions in a fun, sex positive, and informative

way. These peers are currently based in Bendigo, Daylesford, Woodend, Shepparton and Castlemaine. This technology gives us a greater geographic reach, with men accessing the service from neighbouring communities. The most common topics of discussion are accessing PrEP and local services in country communities. Our peers recently presented the successes and challenges of this project at the Centre of Excellence in Rural Sexual Health Conference.



**if**

**BUDI** lived in Aceh, Indonesia, he could be arrested for being gay, jailed and subjected to public caning. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.



## 11 Be-Longing For It

As a part of Midsumma 2017, we presented 'be-longing for it' - a multi media art exhibition and harm reduction project exploring meth use among gay, bi and queer men. PRONTO! was converted into a dynamic exhibition space exploring real stories of men who have a lived experience of meth use. 'be-longing for it' featured work spanning across mixed mediums of projection, video, print and sound. 'belonging for it' stimulated and challenged the audience to reflect on the meaning of connection and intimacy for gay, bi and queer men in 2017 and their relationship to sex and drug use. The exhibition encouraged conversations on taking care of themselves and each other.

Eight gay, bi and queer men shared their personal stories of using meth and the deeper human experiences connected to their sexuality. The work, using comic illustrations, explored themes of sexual identity, finding community, seeking connection, intimacy, mental health, risk taking behaviours, stigma, drug use, harm reduction, sex, living with HIV, and the desire for 'belonging'. This highly attended exhibition received great feedback from visitors.



## 12 AOD Guidelines for TGD

In 2017, we launched a key document to support the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector — Policy and Practice Recommendations for Alcohol and Other Drug Services Supporting the Trans and Gender Diverse Community (TGD). Developed by VAC in partnership with the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association, the guide supports AOD services to provide safe and affirmative care to members of the TGD community who may benefit from residential treatment services.

The feedback to date has been incredibly positive. One service provider said that the guide had been a tool for change within their service, allowing them to revisit how they allocated their small number of individual rooms to ensure that trans and gender diverse clients are safely and appropriately supported and affirmed. Associated training is also now being delivered, with 30 VAADA clinicians receiving specialist training in line with these documents, and a full Organisational Guide & Report to be released in late 2017.

## 13 L.O.V.E.

We celebrated National Volunteer's Week by joining forces with Switchboard and JOY 94.9 to recognise the contributions volunteers make to our organisations every day and recognising the milestones many volunteers have reached along the way. By giving their time to support the LGBTI community, our volunteers are making a difference for others while making a meaningful change to their own lives.

Accompanied by performances from the Melbourne Rainbow Band and a guest appearance by City of Port Phillip Mayor Cr Bernadine Voss, the event was hosted by Victoria Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLO) Gabby Tyacke and Travis Costelow.

As VAC CEO Simon Ruth remarked, "Without our volunteers, none of us could operate the services we provide to the community. It is only fitting that we celebrate and formally recognise the longstanding contribution volunteers have made."

## 14 Minister for Health Award

The 2017 Health Minister's Volunteer Awards, saw Health Minister Jill Hennessy present the 'Outstanding Lifetime Achievement' award to longstanding VAC volunteer Colin Krycer. The annual awards recognise the work of volunteers who give their time to better the lives of others.

Colin doesn't just volunteer with VAC but has taken an active role in the LGBTI community across a number of organisations. He was there for JOY 94.9's first broadcast. He's been an active member of the AIDS Memorial Candlelight Vigil & Quilt Project Melbourne as well as a director of GALFA (Gay and Lesbian Foundation Australia). Many people would simply know him as the guy working hard behind the scenes on the AV at various community events. He commenced volunteering at VAC with our Community Support Team.

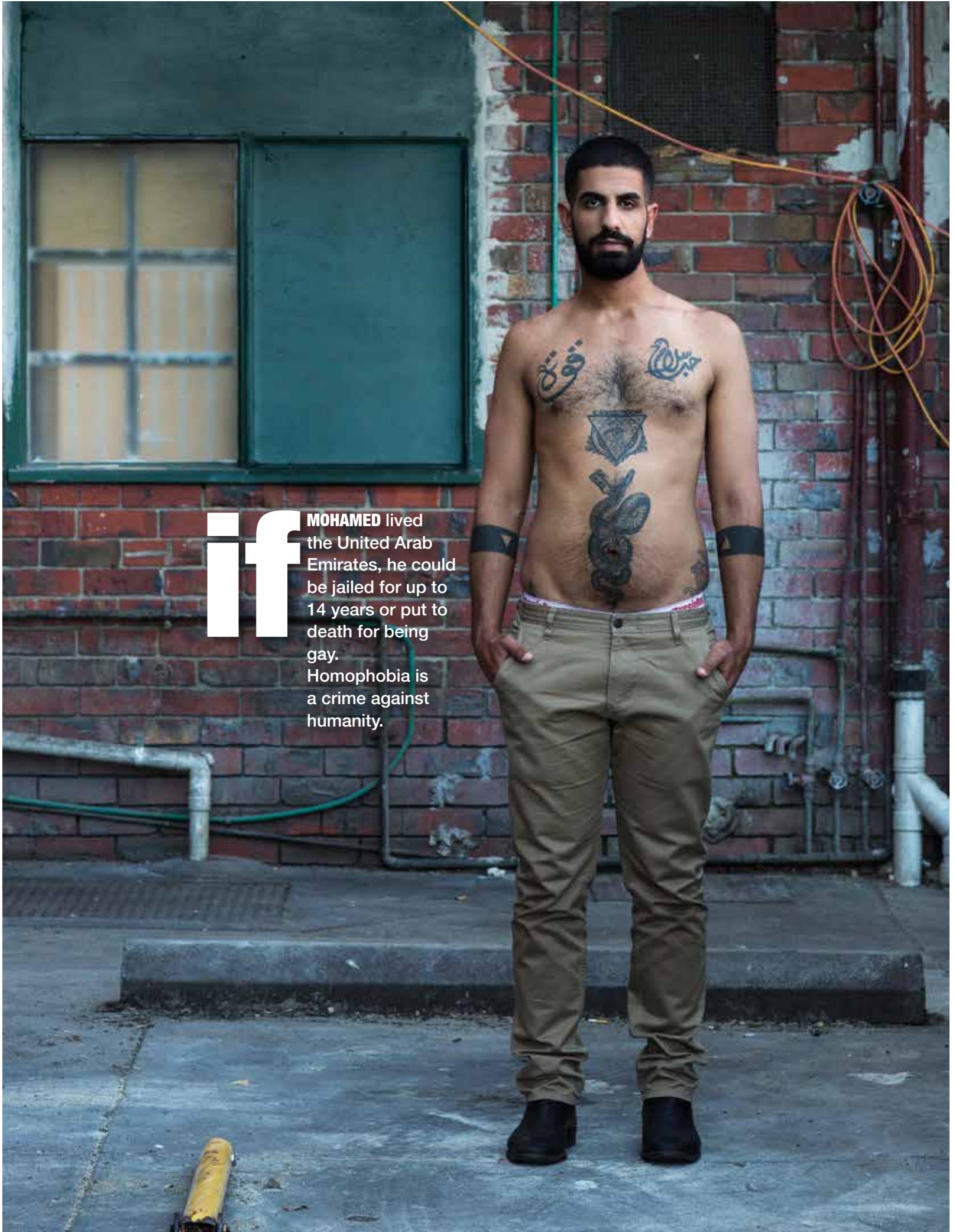
Colin has remained a big supporter of all that we do, celebrating over 30 years as a VAC volunteer.

## 15 My Other Closet

We partnered with MAROPA Productions and Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria in bringing *My Other Closet*, The Cabaret to the stage. Through a series of innovative approaches, this "production" cast a strong light on same-sex domestic violence.

An initial community forum in late 2016 gave way to a mini conference and performance in early 2017 — bringing together the community sector, support agencies, government services, and the general public to unpack the issue and its impact.

This culminated in a powerful theatre season starring Russ Vickery, illustrating the lived experience of same-sex relationship violence. This undertaking and the focus on the "silent epidemic" in gay relationships parallels the growth in VAC's response to domestic violence with increased counselling services, the Revisioning Program, and the Family Violence Flexi Support Packages.



**if**

**MOHAMED** lived the United Arab Emirates, he could be jailed for up to 14 years or put to death for being gay. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.



## 16 Chapel Street Traders

Through our partnership with the Chapel Street Traders Association, we were well placed to help bring about a broad and inclusive response to the 2016 drug overdoses at local venues. Our relationship afforded a practical and community led response between VAC, Star Health, the Liquor Accord, Victoria Police, and Chapel Street Traders. The state government responded by investing funds to develop and support a peer drug and alcohol education program for venue owners as well as security personal and other interested parties in the area. This investment has led to a part time AOD position at VAC to work with Star Health in addressing the issue.

## 17 Beat Safety

Early in 2017, our SAM (sexually adventurous men) Project received anecdotal reports from community members regarding homophobic violence targeted towards men using Melbourne beats, in particular Footscray Park. VAC met with Victoria Police LGBTI Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLO) and formed the 'Beat Safety Project'.

Geo-targeted alerts/warnings were sent to users of apps and websites. SAM Project workers also communicated with users via Squirt, a beat cruising website where surrounding beat listings were updated to include a warning to men using those beats. SAM Project staff and peer volunteers accompanied Footscray Police GLLO officers on their nightly patrols of the Footscray Park beat to engage directly with beat users. They used mobile networking apps to engage directly with beat users and reinforce this important safety messaging. A digital resource was developed for our DownAn'Dirty website and flyers were distributed at various Melbourne sex-on-premises venues.

The community response to the project was excellent, with direct engagement from beat users being positive overall. Most importantly, there have been no further reports of violence or homophobic attacks on men using the Footscray Park beat to date.

## 18 ChillOut Turns 20

For the 20th anniversary of Australia's leading country pride celebration, we hosted a bigger line up in Daylesford than ever before. In the lead up to the festival, the Lavish Lunch at Belvedere Social was a joint fundraiser between VAC and ChillOut. Over \$20,000 of auction items were donated by local businesses and supporters. Attendees were treated to a moving performance from Michael Cormick and raised approx \$8,000 for VACountry.

Once the festival was underway, we hosted the Baywatch Pool Party. With over 230 attendees turning up, the Melbourne Surge Water Polo Club drove up to volunteer their time running the BBQ and assisting in the launch of the Drama Downunder country campaign. Victorian Water Polo brought "Bumpa Ball" to the party with members from the LGBTI community getting wet to play alongside the Surge players while special guests Dirk Caber and Jesse Jackman hung out poolside for photo opportunities. The following day, VAC was well represented during the pride parade with people marching behind our new rainbow banner. Later on, volunteers and staff gave out more than 450 showbags at Carnival with info and collateral on our various campaigns and services as well as safe sex packs. PRONTO! was once again on site to offer peer facilitated rapid HIV tests.

## 19 Hello Emen8

An exciting new area of work for VAC is the National Gay Men's Education Program, developed and implemented in partnership with ACON. Launched in May 2017, Emen8 is a new project funded by the Australian Government to create online sexual health resources for gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM).

With a focus on HIV, the vision is Emen8 to be the pre-eminent Australian website to promote the sexual health of gay men and other MSM.

Initially, we anticipated that 30,000 unique users would visit the site in the first three months. This audience was achieved in just over six weeks! Emen8 has now attracted over 80,000 unique users, well exceeding all targets.



## 20 Becoming Fearless

We live in a world that can be disapproving and hostile towards same-sex attracted people - myths and stereotypes are sometimes more prevalent than positive representations. Without even being aware of it, we can sometimes buy into this negativity and internalise it. FearLESS is our therapeutic group for same-sex attracted people who feel impacted by homophobia. It is facilitated by professional counsellors and aims to provide a respectful and safe environment to explore experiences of homophobia and their impact on identity and relationships.

Over the course of this year's group, participants have shared their individual

experiences of homophobia and the subtle and more overt ways it affected their self worth and relationships. Participants described feeling supported and affirmed by other group members, which increased their confidence to engage in the therapeutic process. Participants reflected that hearing the similarities and differences in people's experiences allowed them to appreciate the ways in which they had been imprinted by homophobia as well as the ways in which they had managed to transcend its effects. Participants described developing increased self-compassion and an appreciation of the strength and resilience within their community.



**if**

**GRANT** and his partner wanted to be married in Australia and have their relationship recognised legally, they couldn't.

If they wanted to raise children, in the eyes of many, they would be doing them harm simply because they were gay parents.

Homophobia is a crime against humanity.

## THE FUTURE OF PREVENTION

We're starting to see promising signs. Surveillance data tells us that HIV notifications are dropping, in particular the number of newly acquired HIV infections. The findings from the *2017 Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey* indicate an increased community confidence in biomedical prevention strategies, whether that be pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or an undetectable viral load. Still, there is work to be done. We need to continue our efforts in health promotion and the facilitation of the community dialogue around HIV.

### PrEP-X

Soon after TGA approval of PrEP in Australia, July 2016 saw the official launch of PrEP-X. The expansion of the VicPrEP study was an exciting announcement that created a stop-gap solution for Victorians to access this game-changing tool in HIV prevention until PrEP could be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The community demand exceeded expectations with PrEP-X quickly becoming the fastest enrolled PrEP trial worldwide. VAC responded in January 2017 with an announcement of an additional \$100,000 to the trial to help clear the growing waitlist. This was soon matched by the state government announcement in March 2017.

Meanwhile through our partnership with Shine SA and SAMESH, we helped pave the way for PrEP-X to expand to South Australia in April 2017. At the time of publication, PrEP trials are now underway across Australia including New South Wales, Queensland, the ACT, Western Australia, and Tasmania. These trials play a vital role in facilitating community access

to PrEP until the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee decides to add PrEP to the PBS.

### U = U

More and more research has come in to fortify the consensus of leading health researchers and community health organisations that people living with HIV (PLHIV) who have been on treatment for at least six months and sustained an undetectable viral load (UVL) have a negligible risk of transmitting HIV. Most recently, the Kirby Institute's *Opposites Attract* study, the largest study to analyse HIV transmission risk among homosexual couples with differing HIV status, found that HIV positive men on treatment with an undetectable viral load did not pass on HIV. The science far outweighs the stigma. We signed onto the U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable) campaign along with over 400 organisations from over 60 countries.

Victoria has now updated their HIV Strategy for 2017-2020, built around four key pillars: prevention, testing, treatment, and the elimination of stigma and discrimination. While we're making incredible progress in the first three pillars, stigma remains on the biggest issues for people living with HIV. Helping shift perception of HIV starts with the conversations we have and the dialogue we continue to foster within the community.

### COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

With these huge advances in HIV prevention and treatment, ensuring the community understands and accurately shares this information is vital. This past year we launched Emen8 in partnership with ACON. Emen8 is an online site

with sexual health and wellbeing content integrated into lifestyle content that is engaging and shareable amongst Australia's gay men, bisexual men, and men who have sex with men. Amongst articles on travel destinations and style tips, you find information on PrEP, UVL, condoms, and negotiating safe sex.

In Victoria, we have been fortunate to have a largely positive response to these advances in HIV prevention and treatment. We haven't seen the same backlash toward PrEP that occurred in places like the United States. However, the majority is not enough, we need to ensure everyone understands the changing landscape of HIV.

For instance, PrEP is often seen as simply a daily pill for HIV prevention. Many point to the fact that PrEP only protects you from HIV and no other sexually transmitted infections. This is certainly true, however, PrEP as a HIV prevention strategy is more than just taking a daily pill. Current guidelines for prescribing PrEP recommend quarterly sexual health screening – a rate much higher than the average. This frequency of screening means the time between transmission and treatment of any STIs is greatly reduced, helping to minimise the risk on onward transmission. Condoms are and will remain part of the mix. In fact, this past year, we distributed more condoms than ever before.

In fact, one of the secondary benefits to these advancements in HIV prevention is making the conversations around basic sexual health topical again – allowing us to reiterate the importance of regular testing and all the tools for prevention.

All of these factors are working together



A PERSON LIVING WITH HIV WHO HAS AN UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOAD DOES NOT TRANSMIT THE VIRUS TO THEIR PARTNERS

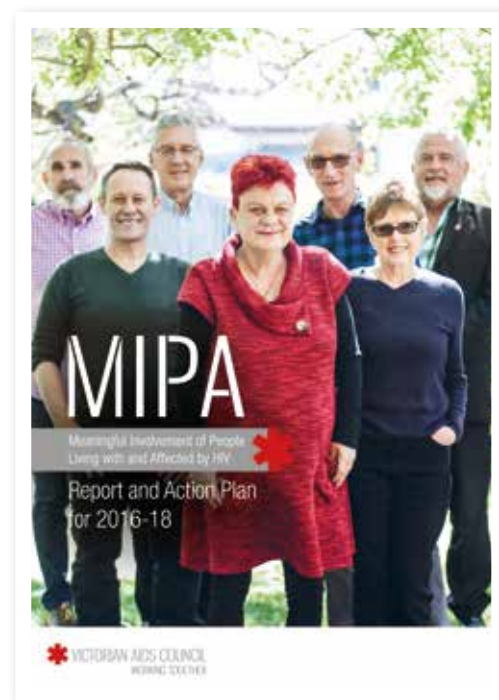
– and we're seeing results. The *2017 Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey* findings recorded the highest ever level of HIV testing which has increased over time to 90% of men in the survey - continuing the upward trend over the last several years. In addition, the results show nearly threefold increase in the uptake of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and over 97% of men living with HIV on treatment having achieved an undetectable viral load (UVL). Hopefully, we're not far now from a future where we see an end to new HIV infections and PLHIV living free from discrimination and stigma.



**if**

**HEATHER** lived in the USA, her health insurance company could force her to pay thousands of dollars every month for her HIV medication. That's if she was lucky enough for them to be covered in the first place. HIV stigma is a crime against humanity.

## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES



THE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH AND AFFECTED BY HIV REPORT AND ACTION PLAN FOR 2016-18

### THE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH AND AFFECTED BY HIV (MIPA)

This year VAC has continued our commitment to the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV (MIPA) as vital to an effective HIV response. VAC's MIPA Committee is comprised of community members and staff representatives across the organisation. This team oversees the implementation of VAC's *MIPA Report and Action Plan 2016-18*, which outlines VAC's formal review process and identifies our goals for further development.

Amongst the work undertaken this year the Community Support Team has introduced an additional HIV Peer Support Worker who visits socially isolated community members and aims to increase community engagement. VAC has continued our work in partnership with Positive Women Victoria to resource a Women's Peer Support Worker as the role takes on joint client work at our Positive Living Centre (PLC).

In addition, the Rewired 2.0 Program

which is co-delivered by HIV positive peer volunteers, was presented at the AIDS 2016 Conference in Durban. This peer support program targets gay and bisexual men who want to address their methamphetamine use, and the therapeutic program is unique globally.

### RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The vision for our first 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was to recognise the Traditional Owners of this land, to learn from and work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in prevention of harm and contribute to a holistic approach to healing, health, and wellbeing. The Reflect RAP allowed us to focus on building internal and external relationships as well as raise awareness with our stakeholders to ensure there is a shared understanding and ownership of our RAP within the organisation. Through the Reconciliation Action Plan Program, over the last two years we have been working on the Reflect RAP. We implemented protocols across all our sites around Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country. All VAC sites also have Acknowledgement

plaques. All staff have attended cultural safety training which will be updated in our new RAP. During the last two years, we have developed and built up community partnerships through our Peer Indigenous Project. This project received specific funding to work with and develop relationships in the Southern Region of Melbourne. The project has strong links with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO). During NAIDOC and National Reconciliation Week we organised internal events in addition to supported events in the community. A highlight of our Reflect RAP was a cultural training day with Arweet Carolyn Briggs who talked about local Aboriginal language, culture and traditions. The whole staff team took part in a traditional smoking ceremony with Arweet Carolyn Briggs' grandson.

We will continue our journey of reconciliation through the developed of the second RAP — our 'Innovate' RAP. Our Innovate RAP will see a focus on

working with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to test and trial projects building relationships, showing respect, and improving opportunities. Throughout our Innovate RAP, we will continually raise internal awareness about VAC's commitments to reconciliation by promoting the RAP to staff and providing opportunities to engage with reconciliation activities. During National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June each year) we will be encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other staff members to build relationships with local services and attend and/or organise events.



**if**

**DIMITRI** lived in Dubai, he could face up to 14 years imprisonment or the death penalty for being gay. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.



## VAC AWARDS



### LIFE MEMBER

#### Emeritus Professor Anne Mitchell AO

Anne is a community development worker and an adult educator with over twenty years of experience in the field of sexual health. In 1993, she was one of the founding members of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) and also the founding director of Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria.



### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

#### Human Rights Law Centre

The passionate staff of the Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) work tirelessly to end LGBTI discrimination in the law and to protect and promote the rights of LGBTI people. Among their many achievements, their work has helped to reform adoption laws in Victoria and secured legislation in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory to overturn unjust criminal records imposed on gay men who had consensual sex back when homosexuality was illegal.



### SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

#### Dimitri Christou

Dimitri has been a volunteer with VAC since 2005, initially volunteering in HIV peer support. More recently, he has re-engaged with almost every aspect of our volunteer program. Because of his lived experience and thorough understanding of the HIV landscape he has turned his attention to HIV prevention roles such as VACreach and PRONTO! rapid testing outreach roles at SOPV's (Sex-on-Premises Venues).



### MEDIA AWARD

#### James Hancock

At the ABC, James has given voice to some of the marginalised communities we work with including trans and gender diverse people. His coverage raised the profile of critical gaps in service provision and healthcare, such as the introduction of PrEP. Most recently, his coverage of the DALE website and the experiences of same-sex attracted men in heterosexual relationships brought in over 119,000 views.



### LIFE MEMBER

#### Brian Price

Brian is the Business and Community Services Manager for the Department of Infectious Diseases, at the Alfred. He has held this position for 19 years, during which he has led the establishment of service models that are vital for people living with HIV and those at high risk of HIV infection. He is the Operational Manager of the PrEPX study, which saw 2,000 people enrol into the study within 10 weeks of it opening.



### SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

#### Dean Acuri

In one week, you can see Dean host a fundraiser for VAC's David Williams Fund, cover community news, capture Melbourne's LGBTI communities in photographs, present on air at JOY 94.9, and still go on to perform on stage as his alter ego Frock Hudson. With a large portion of his work being on a volunteer basis, his tireless efforts have made our community a richer one.



### SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

#### Kelly McGowan

Since 2013, Kelly has provided invaluable support for World AIDS Day ribbons each year. Kelly and her team have produced over 30,000 red ribbons, nearly one year's stock! They went well beyond the role of what a corporate volunteering day would entail, nearly every year producing the short fall to ensure that we had the required amount of red ribbons.



### LIFE MEMBER

#### Associate Professor Ruth McNair

Ruth has clinical and research interests in lesbian and bisexual women's mental health, sexual health, same-sex parenting, health care access, health care provider cultural competence training, and cultural issues related to alcohol and smoking in LGBTI communities. She is leading a project on LGBTI homelessness. She is the Co-Chairperson of the Victorian LGBTI Health and Human Services Working group and a member of the LGBTI Taskforce (2015-2018).



### SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

#### Associate Professor Edwina Wright

Edwina is an infectious diseases physician and clinical researcher at the Alfred Hospital and the Burnet Institute. With a strong interest in HIV-associated neurological disorders her work in this area includes studies that address the pathogenesis of HIV infection of the brain and the benefits of different strategies to treat HIV brain infection. She is Chair of the Asia-Pacific NeuroAIDS Consortium (APNAC) and co-Chair of the Australasian National NeuroAIDS Brain and Tissue Bank Project. She is currently involved with the PrEPX Rapid scale-up of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).



### GREIG FRIDAY YOUNG LEADER AWARD

#### Margot Fink

Margot was one of the first members of our Trans and Gender Diverse Advisory Group and provided key advice in establishing Equinox. She was also the former Head of Gender Diverse Projects for Minus18 and their communications coordinator when they were under attack by media scrutinising the Safe Schools program. Margot Fink has become an outstanding role model for young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people.





**if**

**MISH** lived in Sri Lanka, her sexuality would be determined to be 'grossly indecent' and she could be sent to jail for up to 10 years. Households headed by same-sex couples are not eligible for any of the protections afforded to heterosexual couples. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.

## WORKING TOGETHER AROUND THE WORLD

It is true that all the human rights abuses highlighted in this year's annual report make for grim reading, and an even grimmer reality for people living in those countries and regions, but around the world there are a number of dedicated and passionate people working hard to change laws and address stigma and discrimination directed at people living with HIV and LGBTI people.

Those groups and organisations include:



### IRAN

The Iranian Queer Organisation, also known as the Persian Gay and Lesbian Organisation is an advocacy group for LGBT rights in Iran. Due to the situation in Iran, the group operates out of Toronto, Canada.

Website: [irqo.org](http://irqo.org)



### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Kapul Champions was founded in 2012 by local gay and other men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people as the only national organisation advocating on behalf of those people and communities. At the time of writing Kapul Champions has no funding.

Twitter: @kapulchampions



### FINLAND

Seta was founded in 1974 and is the country's leading LGBTI organisation. The organisation runs a highly successful Transgender Support Centre and collaborates with 24 member organisations in addition to human rights organisations and youth and student bodies.

Website: [Seta.fi](http://Seta.fi)



### USA

There are a vast number of LGBTI advocacy groups and organisations throughout the United States. Among them, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)'s stated mission is (in part) to '[amplify] the voice of the LGBT community by empowering real people to share their stories, holding the media accountable for the words and images they present, and helping grassroots organizations communicate effectively.' Website: [glaad.org](http://glaad.org)



### YEMEN

Because same-sex activity is punishable by death in Yemen, there are no LGBTI advocacy groups operational in the country. However the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) campaigns tirelessly for LGBTI human rights around the world, including Yemen, by bringing attention to human rights abuses and laws that criminalise LGBTI people.

Website: [ilga.org](http://ilga.org)



### RUSSIA

The Russian LGBT Network's mission is to, 'promote equal rights and respect for human dignity, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. We unite and develop regional initiatives, advocacy groups (at both national and international levels), and provide social and legal services.'

Website: [lgbtnet.org](http://lgbtnet.org)



### CHINA

Beijing LGBT Center is a non-profit, service-oriented activity space that provides a platform for the advancement of China's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. The Center offers a variety of activities and programs that achieve three main goals:

- advocate for equal rights and acceptance within greater Chinese society,
- promote the culture and history of our community, and
- provide safe, accredited foundational services to LGBT individuals.

Website: [bjlgbtcenter.org.cn](http://bjlgbtcenter.org.cn)



### JAMAICA

J-FLAG is a non-profit NGO that is in the business of promoting social change in furtherance of the wellbeing of the members of the LGBT community, through a range of internally directed and externally focused tools including: public education, crisis intervention and empowerment; research; rights-based advocacy; legal aid and legal reform.

Website: [jflag.org](http://jflag.org)



### INDONESIA

Arus Pelangi was formed in 2006 in Jakarta and is the largest organisation advocating on behalf of the LGBTI community in Indonesia. Arus Pelangi's mission is to:

- build awareness, empowerment and strengthen vulnerable and oppressed LGBTI people,
- have an active role in encouraging policy reforms that protect the rights of LGBTI people, and
- take an active role in building public awareness through empowerment processes to encourage community acceptance of LGBTI people.

Website: [aruspelangi.org](http://aruspelangi.org)



### SRI LANKA

Equal Ground is a not for profit that advocates on behalf of LGBT people, based in Colombo.

Website: [equal-ground.org](http://equal-ground.org)



### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

Although there are no formal LGBTI advocacy organisations in the UAE, brave individuals are striving to support LGBTI people via social networking. UAE LGBT Rights describe themselves as a group of thinkers, citizens who are working to address human rights abuses in the region. They describe their mission in the following way:

'To raise awareness, educate the public and allow open dialogue about the Universal Rights that belong to the LGBT community of the United Arab Emirates

To decriminalize Homosexuality, same sex relationships, or sexual activity between consenting individuals of the same sex

To abolish Article 354 of the Federal Penal Code and all other U.A.E. laws that discriminate against those persecuted for their natural, sexual orientation

To end all forms of invasive treatment, psychological and medical procedures which have no scientific basis and are at odds with the international community and all psychological associations around the world

So basically our mission is love, live and let live.'

Facebook: [facebook.com/pg/LGBTRightsUAE](https://facebook.com/pg/LGBTRightsUAE)



### AUSTRALIA

The Victorian AIDS Council is the oldest AIDS council in the country. We deliver a range of services and programs to advance the health and wellbeing of LGBTI communities. Our vision is: 'A future without HIV. A world where all sexually and gender diverse people live with dignity, with equal rights, and participate fully in our society.'

Website: [vac.org.au](http://vac.org.au)



### SINGAPORE

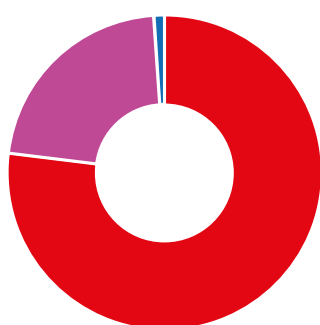
The Pelangi Pride Centre is a volunteer run centre that offers support, information and networking to the LGBT communities of Singapore.

Website: [pelangipridecentre.org](http://pelangipridecentre.org)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

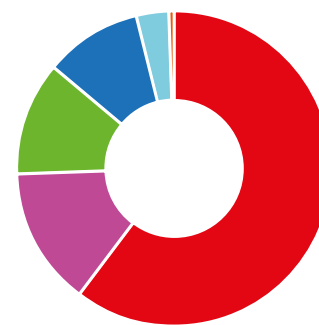
### REVENUE BREAKDOWN

- Grant income 77%
- Operating income 22%
- Investment income 1%



### EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

- Operating expenses 10%
- Employee costs 61%
- Campaign expenses 14%
- Client support expenses 12%
- Professional expenses 3%
- Other expenses 0%



#### Revenue breakdown

Grant income	7,999,327
Client fees	1,250,570
Donations, fundraising and bequest income	919,513
Membership fees	3,825
Other revenue	87,897
Interest income	98,847
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>10,359,979</b>

#### Revenue summary

Grant income	7,999,327
Operating income	2,261,805
Investment income	98,847
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,359,979</b>

#### Expense breakdown - Detailed

Operating expenses	1,067,207
Employee costs	6,346,320
Campaign expenses	1,487,032
Client Support expenses	1,204,488
Professional fees	340,934
Other expenses	41,548
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,487,529</b>

VICTORIAN AIDS COUNCIL INC.

Summary Statement of Profit or Loss for the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>	10,359,979	8,822,718
<b>Less: expenses</b>		
Operating expenses	(1,067,207)	(921,922)
Employee costs	(6,346,320)	(5,437,572)
Campaign expenses	(1,486,032)	(1,394,018)
Client support expenses	(1,204,488)	(790,116)
Professional fees	(340,934)	(190,980)
Other expenses	(41,548)	(27,143)
	(10,487,529)	(8,761,751)
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(127,550)</b>	<b>60,967</b>

Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,359,420	3,499,870
Receivables	548,475	205,244
Other assets	106,042	142,446
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>4,013,937</b>	<b>3,847,560</b>
<b>Noncurrent assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	628,603	162,740
Total noncurrent assets	628,603	162,740
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>4,642,540</b>	<b>4,010,300</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Payables	384,791	346,196
Provisions	888,992	618,643
Other liabilities	842,838	650,564
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,116,621</b>	<b>1,615,403</b>
<b>Noncurrent liabilities</b>		
Provisions	35,102	26,940
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<b>35,102</b>	<b>26,940</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,151,723</b>	<b>1,642,343</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>2,490,817</b>	<b>2,367,957</b>
<b>Members funds</b>		
Reserves	250,410	-
Accumulated surplus	2,240,407	2,367,957
<b>Total members funds</b>	<b>2,490,817</b>	<b>2,367,957</b>

The above summary financial information has been extracted from the audited financial statements.

No audit opinion has been issued in relation to the summary financial statements. These should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements that are available to the members on our website [www.vac.org.au/financials](http://www.vac.org.au/financials)

### Summary Statement of Changes in Members Funds for the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Reserves	Accumulated surplus	Total equity
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2015</b>	-	2,306,990	2,306,990
Surplus for the year	-	60,967	60,967
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	-	60,967	60,967
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2016</b>	-	<b>2,367,957</b>	<b>2,367,957</b>
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2016</b>	-	2,367,957	2,367,957
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	(127,550)	(127,550)
Revaluation of property, plant and equipment	250,410	-	250,410
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	250,410	(127,550)	122,860
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>250,410</b>	<b>2,240,407</b>	<b>2,490,817</b>

### Summary Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Grants received	8,207,175	8,082,786
Fees received	1,001,484	897,061
Donations and bequests received	914,243	730,556
Membership fees	3,825	5,070
Interest received	98,847	112,788
Payments to suppliers and employees	(10,094,826)	(9,133,647)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>126,748</b>	<b>694,614</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	3,369	2,148
Payment for plant and equipment	(270,567)	(61,884)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(267,198)</b>	<b>(59,736)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of cash</b>		
Cash at beginning of the financial year	3,499,870	3,298,713
Net increase in cash held	(140,450)	201,157
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	<b>3,359,420</b>	<b>3,499,870</b>

The above summary financial information has been extracted from the audited financial statements. No audit opinion has been issued in relation to the summary financial statements. These should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements that are available to the members on our website [www.vac.org.au/financials](http://www.vac.org.au/financials)

## THANK YOU!

- ACON
- AFAO
- ALFRED HEALTH
- ALGA
- ANZ
- ASHM
- AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
- BARBA
- BENDIGO AND DISTRICT ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE
- BENDIGO COMMUNITY HEALTH
- BRAND PRINT
- TIERNAN BRADY
- STEPHEN BRIGHT
- BURNET INSTITUTE
- CATHOLIC AIDS MINISTRY
- JOHN CAVILL
- CHAPEL STREET TRADERS ASSOCIATION
- CHINA BAR
- CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO
- CITY OF PORT PHILLIP
- CLAYTON UTZ
- CLUB 80
- VIRGINIA CUMMINS
- DAVID LEE PERERIA
- DEANATION
- DRUMMOND STREET SERVICES
- EAGLE LEATHER
- JACO ERASMUS
- NADINE EZARD
- LUKE GALLAGHER
- GAMMA NSW
- HAMPSTEAD DENTAL
- MARGARET HELLARD
- HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS
- JENNY HOY
- IMAGINARIUM PHOTOGRAPHY
- JON JACKSON
- JBWERE
- JOY 94.9
- RICHARD KEANE
- PAUL KIDD
- COLIN KRYCER
- SHARON LEWIN
- LATROBE UNIVERSITY
- LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA
- LUCREZIA & DE SADE
- JUDITH LUCY
- MAC COSMETICS
- DAVID MARR
- RUTH MCNAIR
- MELBOURNE GAY & LESBIAN CHORUS
- MELBOURNE HEALTH
- MELBOURNE RAINBOW BAND
- MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY
- MELBOURNE SURGE
- MINUS 18
- MISS BOSSY BOOTS
- MONASH HEALTH
- NAB
- PATRICK NOLAN
- NTAHC
- RORY O'NEILL
- DAVID OWEN
- OZ SHOW BIZ CARES
- BEN PEDLEY
- PENCIL NECK PRODUCTIONS
- POSITIVE WOMEN VICTORIA
- RAINBOW NETWORK
- ZINA SOFER
- SHINE SA
- SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
- STAR HEALTH
- SWITCHBOARD VICTORIA
- THE LAIRD HOTEL
- TRANSGENDER VICTORIA
- TURTLE COVE
- UNITING CARE REGEN
- VACCHO
- VAHS
- VAADA
- VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT
- VICTORIA POLICE
- VIIV HEALTHCARE
- WET ON WELLINGTON
- WHAT FROGGY BAKES
- BETH WILSON
- EDWINA WRIGHT
- Y GENDER
- YSAS
- ZOE BELLE GENDER COLLECTIVE

PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA CUMMINS

**if** IRENE was discovered to be a lesbian living with her partner in Singapore, her partner would not be acknowledged. If they wanted to adopt children, it would be illegal for them to do so. Homophobia is a crime against humanity.

if

**CHARLOTTE** lived in Chechnya, she could be subjected to violent harrassment and, with the approval of the government, details of her identity, including her passport and phone number, could be published on the internet to target her as a trans woman. Transphobia is a crime against humanity.

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