

# HIV and CALD communities

## Strengthening the health promotion partnership

SiREN Symposium 2016

# AFAO's CALD work

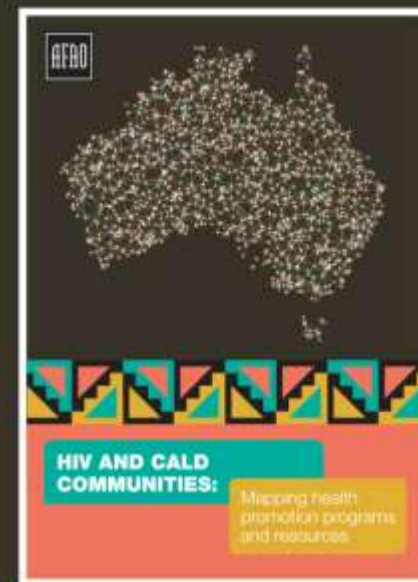
- 2009 – current: African Australian Communities Project
  - Briefing and discussion papers
  - Mapping of HIV health promotion
  - National forums
- 2015 – ongoing: CALD communities
  - Mapping of HIV health promotion
  - HIV and Mobility Forum

**OUT NOW!**

## HIV and CALD communities: Mapping health promotion programs and resources

This new resource for service providers and community organisations lists over 70 initiatives addressing HIV issues among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

Download from [bit.ly/map-15](http://bit.ly/map-15)  
or request a hard copy from [mail@afao.org.au](mailto:mail@afao.org.au).



Australian Federation of  
AIDS Organisations  
PO Box 51 Newtown  
NSW 2042

[www.afao.org.au](http://www.afao.org.au)

## The mapping aims to support organisations that work with CALD communities on HIV-related issues

### Each listing includes:

- summary of activities
- program rationales, aims and objectives
- Information about outcomes & evaluation
- links for downloads
- contact details



# Be more informed about the 'big picture'

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# Get inspiration & ideas for new activities



- Inform planning
- Provide supporting evidence



**MEN**

**Gay Asian Proud**

**PRIORITY GROUP**  
Gay Asian men residing in Melbourne on a permanent or temporary basis (including international students). The group is also open to members' non-Asian partners and friends.

**TYPE**  
Social support group.

**DURATION**  
Ongoing since 1987.

**LOCATION**  
Melbourne Metropolitan area.

**REASON FOR THE PROGRAM**  
Gay Asian men are a unique population in the LGBTI community consisting of individuals from diverse nationalities, ethnicities, and religious backgrounds. Despite this diversity, many gay Asian men experience sexual racism in the Australian gay sexual scene. Furthermore, many of these men also encounter homophobic fear both from their cultural communities and the wider Australian society.

As a result, some gay Asian men feel socially and sexually alienated, while at the same time having to deal with heteronormative family expectations and gender norms. Some have chosen to distance themselves from their cultural communities to embrace their sexuality, while others choose to fulfil their family's expectations while secretly engaging in same-sex sexual practices.

The lack of support services available for these men heightens feelings of marginalisation, self-hatred, Asian men (unlike of their position in both the wider LGBTI community and their cultural communities). All of these factors can have a negative impact on their well-being. Low self-esteem, internalised prejudice, depression, anxiety and body image are some issues that affect gay Asian men, which can reduce their self-efficacy to communicate and practice safe sex, thus increasing the chance of HIV and STI transmission.

**AIMS**

- Provide a supportive social environment for gay Asian men, their non-Asian partners and friends, to counter social isolation on the basis of race and sexuality.
- Increase gay Asian men's confidence and self-acceptance by combating internalised prejudice, which can assist them to make informed decisions to maintain their health.

**ACTIVITIES**  
Social connections enhance these men's sense of belonging and increases their self-esteem and self-worth. The Gay Asian Proud group:

celebrates their sexuality and diverse cultural backgrounds. The group meets monthly in a supportive social environment. Activities include gym (hi, dance, cardio), going to the movies and festivals, and outings to gay commercial venues.

**RESOURCES**  
Promotional materials can be requested via the VAC website: [vac.org.au/gay-asian-proud](http://vac.org.au/gay-asian-proud)

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**  
The group was initiated by gay Asian men as part of a VAC project for gay Asian men. Members are involved in translating social activities and play an important role in welcoming and supporting new members.

**EVALUATION/OUTCOMES**  
The immediate outcome for members is feeling connected with other gay Asian men. This is especially valuable for those who are newly arrived in Australia.

Members have expressed that being in the group helps build their self-worth and self-confidence in being gay and Asian.

Members also appreciate the group's cultural sensitivity in celebrating their unique lived experiences relating to sexuality and cultural identity. Members feel that they belong to a community, which courses their feelings of isolation.

**PARTNERS**

- Yellow Ribbon is social support group for Asian lesbians and their non-Asian partners and friends.

**FUNDED BY**  
Victorian Department of Health & Human Services

**CONTACT DETAILS**  
Victorian AIDS Council (VAC)  
Dush Sulejmanovic  
03 9665 4700  
gap@vac.org.au  
[vac.org.au/gay-asian-proud](http://vac.org.au/gay-asian-proud)

**Talk Asian**

**PRIORITY GROUP**  
Gay Asian men, including international students and second and third generation Asian migrants.

**TYPE**  
Identity workshop.

**DURATION**  
Ongoing since 2011.

**LOCATION**  
Melbourne Metropolitan area.

**REASON FOR THE PROGRAM**  
The Gay Asian Proud project identified that members would benefit from exploring issues such as sexual racism, internalised homophobia, inter-cultural communication, coming out, and culturally specific information on sexual health.

These topics are rarely discussed in the wider LGBTI community which remains dominated by middle-class Anglo Australians. Talk Asian provides a safe space for gay Asian men to discuss these issues.

**AIM**  
Talk Asian aims to enhance gay Asian men's understanding of various issues specific to their lived experiences.

**ACTIVITIES**  
Talk Asian meets monthly and is facilitated by the Gay Asian Proud committee using a format based on peer education and adult education principles. It provides a culturally specific learning environment to talk about safer sex for HIV and STI prevention.

The group discusses different topics each month. Learning occurs through interactions between members who share stories and wisdom based on their lived experiences.

**RESOURCES**  
Promotional materials can be requested via the VAC website: [vac.org.au/talk-asian](http://vac.org.au/talk-asian)



# Identify potential partners

## ACTIVITIES

A bilingual resource was created as a poster and website, with the use of Chinese proverbs encouraging education to Sydney's growing culture of HIV awareness, regular testing and condom use.

Campaign messaging and collateral were designed by an indigenous partner, which included Chinese community members, convened by ACORN's Asian Project, the CALD Gay Men's Action Group, Local Health District HMPH Units, research institutions and a community advisory group.

The campaign was promoted through social media and other online engagements, as well as via traditional printed media (both gay and Chinese language press).

3,500 pamphlets and 600 posters were distributed through LHD contacts, sexual health clinics, GP services and partner organisations, with another 500 distributed through gay venues and at community events.

The project also participated in gay-community events and venues in 2014 (Mand'Gua Parade, Mudgee DRH, Arg.



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## RESOURCES

- Poster and pamphlets/leaflets
- Website

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The project is implemented by the Project Team in partnership with the target community. Community members have been involved with all aspects of the program as equal partners from the start, including the needs assessment, campaign message development, translation, imagery production/photography and designing the social media strategy.

## EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

Strong community partnerships and consentive has ensured clear and culturally-relevant messaging, especially on the sensitive topics of HIV, sexuality and sexual health. The campaign benefited from the cultural currency brought to the table by community members, for example by the use of colloquialisms and language in Chinese messaging through posters and websites.

The project also had strong sector partnership support. Local Health Districts and the Centre for Sexual Research and Health (CSRH) (NSW) provided institutional support and financial and human resources.

Our experience with the program will change our focus on engagement with social media channels including Chinese platforms such as Weibo and Weixin to ensure more effective targeting of newly arrived gay men.

The response has been encouraging. Both community members and service providers use the messages shared out from regular health promotion campaigns. Service providers have indicated that the campaign has stimulated more enquiries about HIV and especially about testing services, from the target groups. There has been no formal evaluation as the campaign is still ongoing.

## PARTNERS

- ACORN
- Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service
- Sydney Local Health District HMPH Unit

- South Eastern Sydney LHD HMPH Unit
- Centre for Sexual Research in Health (CSRH) (NSW)
- Sydney Sexual Health Centre
- Kinross Road Center
- RPA Sexual Health
- Short St Clinic, Kogarah

## FUNDED BY

ACORN, with funding contributions from LHDs, NSW Health.

## CONTACT DETAILS

ACORN Health  
 Mr Fu, Teh  
 info@acorn.org.au, asia@acorn.org.au  
 www.org.au



## Gay Community Event Partnerships

### PRIORITY GROUP

Asian gay men

### TYPE

Community event (partnership/engagement program)

### DURATION

Ongoing since 2011

### LOCATION

Sydney metropolitan focus

### REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Asian gay community events are key venues for engaging with the wider community, particularly across the diverse ethnic and cultural spaces that the community inhabits. The Asian Project annually supports a number of events, both to support community building initiatives led by the community itself and as a platform for HIV/STI health promotion.

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# Order/download resources

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### International Student Health and Wellbeing Fact Sheets

#### PRIORITY GROUP

International students in South Australia

#### TYPE

Resource Factheets

#### DURATION

Published 2014

#### LOCATION

Adelaide metropolitan region

#### REASON FOR THE RESOURCE

The International Student Health Resource was developed as a key recommendation of the South Australian Health in All Policies (HAP) International Student Health and Wellbeing project. It was found that international students are often unaware and unfamiliar with the systems and structure of social support available to them, and also lack an understanding of our complex health system.

It is important that international students receive appropriate support and know what health and wellbeing services are available to them while studying in South Australia because all individuals deserve the opportunity to maximise their learning potential and should enjoy a positive educational experience.

#### AIM

- Assist international students to better understand and navigate the health system, with particular reference to South Australian services.

#### ACTIVITIES

The Health Resource is a series of easy to understand fact sheets answering some frequently asked questions regarding the physical, psychological and sexual health needs of international students.

The Fact Sheets cover:

- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- Doctors and Hospitals
- Medications, the Dental and Allied Health Services
- Emotional Wellbeing
- General Health and Wellbeing
- Sexual Health (including information on STIs and HIV).

#### RESOURCES PRODUCED

The Fact Sheets can be downloaded at: [sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthinallpolicies](http://sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthinallpolicies)  
Hard copies are also available on request.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A wide range of individuals and agencies across the health and tertiary education sectors, including a focus group of international students, contributed towards the development of the resource.

This partnership approach ensured the structure and framing of the document was applicable to the needs of international students, and allowed for consideration of language in the context of the topics covered within each of the factheets.

#### EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

An impact and outcome evaluation has not been completed; however, feedback from international students and the tertiary/VET education sectors has been positive.

Given the high use of tablet technologies by international students, it may have been beneficial to develop an app to increase the uptake of the information contained within the factsheet series.

#### PARTNERS

- Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (his portfolio now sits in the South Australian Department of State Development)

#### FUNDED BY

SA Health

#### CONTACT DETAILS

South Australian Department for Health and Ageing

Carmel Williams, Manager, Strategic Partnerships, Public Health Services  
☎ 08 8226 6227

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🌐 [sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthinallpolicies](http://sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthinallpolicies)



# Induct new staff

## SERVICE PROVIDERS

### HIV training for professionals

#### PRIORITY GROUP

Professionals who work with migrants, such as immigration agents and settlement grant officers.

#### TYPE

Training

#### DURATION

Approximately eight hours, either as a one day course or four 2 hour sessions

#### LOCATION

Metropolitan Perth

#### REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The WA AIDS Council (WAC) has built a strong rapport with community leaders and members from a range of cultures, religions and backgrounds. The main focus of WAC's community engagement is capacity development for key groups, networks and individuals so that they are better able to influence appropriate responses to HIV, sexual health and related health issues in their communities.

Training for professionals and service providers is conducted when requested.

WAC has established a strong relationship with 'champions' through our community development work. We have found that cold-calling agencies to offer training is not effective; however, champions who are already connected with WAC are usually committed to addressing HIV/sexual health issues and will identify a need and advocate within their service for the training.

#### AIMS

Community development goals:

- Increase social influence and cultural norms supportive of reduced stigma around HIV and related issues

- Increase community understanding regarding individual rights and health responsibilities

Training goals:

- Raise awareness of HIV related facts and 'bust myths' about outdated information
- Raise awareness of cultural influences on sexual health and service provision and challenge participants' 'cultural lens' in regards to sexual health
- Empower participants with accurate information, skills and understanding to become HIV educators in their workplace and communities.

#### ACTIVITIES

The training is based on existing professional development training programs, which are tailored to meet the needs of the specific group or agency.

- One day training session was conducted for 25 immigration agents in 2012
- Four 2 hour training sessions were conducted for 12 settlement grant officers in 2014.

#### EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The 2014 sessions were evaluated and showed positive results, including improved understanding of HIV and sexual health as well as broader community benefits, as highlighted by participants' statements:

'Great training and information that can change and shape people's lives.'

'As Settlement Grant Officers we need to educate our clients about HIV/AIDS - we need to educate our communities as well as our families.'

'The information was very helpful and it really helped me in my personal and my work life, as I can apply the information to both.'

#### FUNDED BY

WA AIDS Council (WAC)

#### CONTACT DETAILS

WA AIDS Council

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Community Development Team Leader  
☎ 08 9492 0000  
✉ [rwnham@waids.com](mailto:rwnham@waids.com)  
© [waids.com](http://waids.com)



### Your Cultural Lens

An online training resource in cross-cultural communication for sexual health and blood borne viruses

#### PRIORITY GROUP

Clinical and community based health professionals and people working with GAD communities

#### TYPE

Online, video based interactive training

#### DURATION

Ongoing since 2014

#### LOCATION

Online with face to face training available in Perth

#### REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

Evidence community consultation and a needs assessment established a strong need for medical and allied health professionals to adopt cultural humility when working with GAD patients or clients.

Cultural humility focuses on the development of respectful partnerships. It requires GPs and other professionals to commit to self-reflection and cultural inquisitiveness.

A strong rationale for the training is available on request.

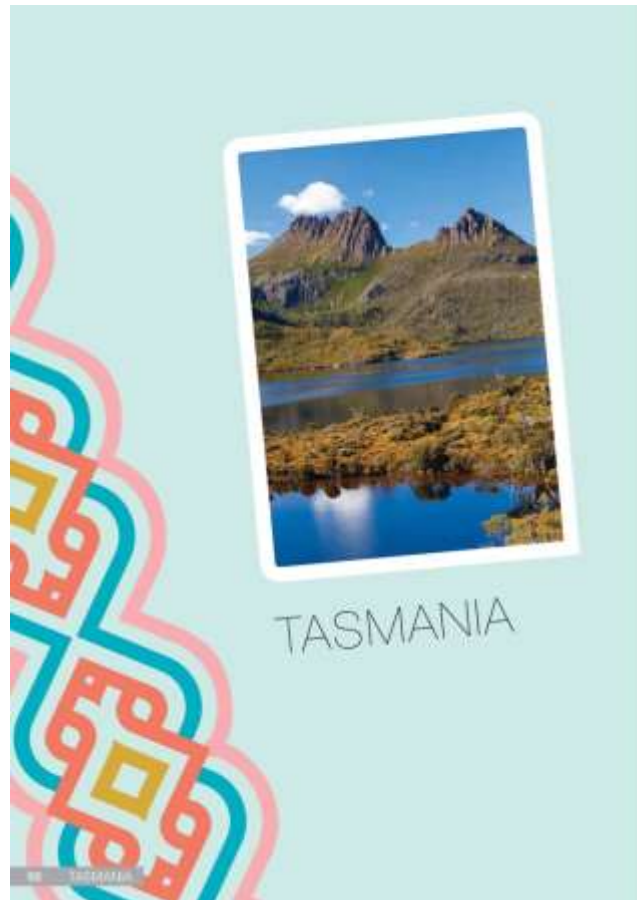
#### AIMS

Increase the number of health professionals who have completed 'Your Cultural Lens' and are able to communicate sexual health messages to people in a culturally sensitive way by adopting the following framework:

- Know your own culture – recognise you are looking through the lens of your own culture
- Embrace differences – avoiding stereotypes and assumptions about others is the key to starting up a communication exchange
- Cultural exchange – be curious about what you can learn from another and what they can offer you to improve cultural competency



# Find contacts and services interstate



SERVICE	ROLE	CONTACT
<b>TASMANIAN COUNCIL ON AIDS, HEPATITIS AND RELATED DISEASES (TASCAHHD)</b>	TasCAHHD has been providing care and support for people with HIV for over 25 years. Support is also provided for the partners, family and carers of people living with HIV.	Sabine Wagner, CEO ☎ 03 6234 1242 ✉ ceo@tascahhd.org.au 🌐 tascahhd.org.au
<b>REFUGEE MIGRANT LIAISON OFFICER, ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL</b>	The Refugee and Migrant Liaison Officer is a full time position based at the Royal Hobart Hospital with the aim of assisting the acute care system to appropriately and confidently provide services to refugee and migrant patients accessing care.	Jerry Forward ☎ 03 6222 8126 ✉ jerryforward@rth.tas.gov.au
<b>REFUGEE HEALTH SOCIAL WORKER, LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL</b>	The Refugee Health Social Worker provides a range of social work services to communities who arrived in Australia as asylum seekers and refugees and currently live in northern Tasmania. This includes direct client work, advocacy, training, community development, policy and program development.	Susan Neighbour ☎ 03 6777 4289 / 0409 537 322 ✉ susan.neighbour@rth.tas.gov.au
<b>SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE TASMANIA</b>	Sexual Health Service Tasmania is a state-wide service with offices in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport. The service provides clinical, counselling and education services related to sexual health and HIV.	Dr Louise Owen ☎ 03 6233 3557 ✉ louise.owen@rth.tas.gov.au
<b>RED CROSS BI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM</b>	The Bi-cultural Community Health Program supports refugee background communities in developing their health literacy. The program also builds the Tasmanian health sector's competency to provide appropriate health care to this population.	Xavier Lane-Mullins ☎ 03 6235 6501 ✉ xlanemullins@redcross.org.au



# Forum Goals

1. Enhance understanding of issues related to HIV prevention, treatment and support for migrant and mobile populations
2. Build partnerships (state and national) between diverse stakeholders working with these populations

## Forum Goals (cont.)

3. Consider best practice health promotion activities for migrant and mobile populations, and formulate recommendations for the development of activities under Activity 4 of the BBV and STI Prevention and Education Programme
4. Inform future HIV health promotion research related to migrant and mobile populations.

# ‘So what?’

- Fantastic work being done
- Community control/peer-leadership is vital
- Funding uncertainty a significant obstacle

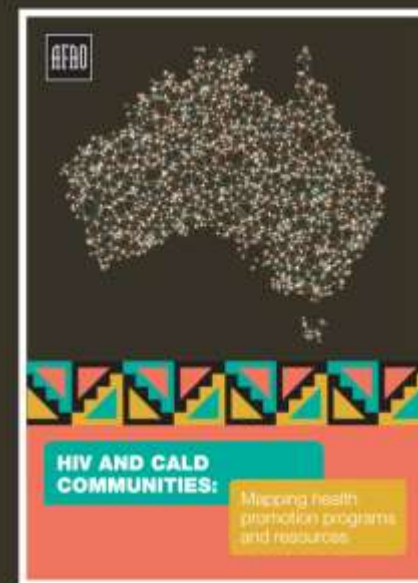
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