



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS

Leading the community response to HIV

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015–2016**



The Australian delegation at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS, UN Headquarters New York, June 2016. Front row (L–R): Head of Delegation, Sharon Appleyard, First Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Protection, Department of Health; Australian Government Representatives Catherine Meehan, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Peter Versegi, Office of Development Effectiveness. Back row (L–R): Adj A/Prof Darryl O'Donnell, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO); Professor Sharon Lewin, Chair, Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (MACBBVS) and Director of the Peter Doherty Institute for infection and immunity, and Cipri Martinez, President, National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA).

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AFAO would like to express its appreciation for the continued support of the Australian Government Department of Health under the Communicable Disease Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Flexible Fund, and the Health Systems Capacity Development Fund; and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).



AFAO is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management. More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct is available from AFAO and ACFID at www.acfid.asn.au or via email at code@acfid.asn.au **Telephone** 02 6285 1816 **Facsimile** 02 6285 1720

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dr Bridget Haire

In 2015–16, AFAO has faced the most challenging year in its organisational history. Not only did changes to domestic HIV funding result in drastic downsizing of the organisation and the loss of our Health Promotion Program, we also faced disruption to the funding of our international program. In addition, we had major changes in our leadership.

In March, AFAO farewelled our Executive Director of almost five years, Rob Lake. Rob has deftly steered the organisation through an extremely difficult period. That AFAO was able to weather this long period of uncertainty, while continuing to provide strong national leadership on HIV is a testament to the resilience and dedication of the AFAO staff, along with Rob's careful planning and marshalling of resources.

In March 2016, our incoming Executive Director (now renamed Chief Executive Officer) Darryl O'Donnell, was initially appointed in an interim role through an arrangement with our member organisation, ACON. Darryl was given the task of leading AFAO through a period of transition and restructure, while the organisation adapted both to the changing epidemic conditions and to the new funding arrangement.

The board set three main priorities for Darryl's initial appointment: achieving funding certainty and, consequently, restructuring AFAO; strengthening our advocacy and political and stakeholder engagement; and, planning for the longer-term security of AFAO, its members and our communities' interests.

The restructuring involved two key areas. Firstly, assessing AFAO's immediate funding situation and the likelihood of various funding scenarios for the period from 1 July 2016, and identifying options for AFAO to pursue further funding avenues; and secondly, proposing to the Board a plan for organisational change (in priorities, staffing and operations), and preparing plans for expected and possible contingencies. The Board was so impressed with Darryl's performance in these areas, that in May 2016, we agreed to offer him the position of AFAO's Chief Executive Officer on an ongoing basis.

The restructuring sadly resulted in seven staff members taking redundancy, and a further two departing the organisation at the end of their contract period. I'd like to acknowledge the service and commitment of each of these dedicated individuals, many of whom have worked in the HIV community sector for many years, and whose work has formed a critical part of the national response to HIV.

Despite the impact of the restructuring process, the AFAO team have done a remarkable job in continuing to lead the national conversation on HIV.

The approval of Truvada-based PrEP by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in May was a significant landmark. The subsequent decision of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee not to list Truvada for PrEP on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has been a disappointment, however, and means that innovative approaches need to be further developed to ensure equitable access to PrEP around the country for those at risk of HIV acquisition. There were also a raft of other notable achievements that are detailed throughout this report.



Bridget Haire and Darryl O'Donnell, National Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference, Sydney, June 2016.



Outgoing AFAO Executive Director Rob Lake departed AFAO in March 2016. Pictured at the AFAO Community Hub, Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference, Brisbane, September 2015.

At the beginning of the financial year, AFAO's international program also faced the prospect of being defunded, due to changes in Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading (DFAT) funding programs. The future of the international program was secured, however, through an ambitious new regional program known as Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition – or SHIFT. This program, which will operate in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia, is currently in the grant-making phase with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. When operative, it will support key population and civil society advocacy by strengthening the capacity of local HIV organisations.

Finally, AFAO has embarked on a process of strengthening its own governance practices, reviewing its rules, objects and corporate structure and developing a structural change agenda. Special thanks to Mark Orr, to Simon Ruth and the board governance committee, and to Peter Grogan and Robert Griew for their tireless work on this process.

While both the AFAO board and staff confronted many challenging circumstances in this last year, the strategic and constructive approach to repositioning the organisation has not only meant that AFAO survived what could have been a crisis, but that it has invested in a restructure to become stronger and more sustainable. ■

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

By Darryl O'Donnell

It gives me great pleasure to offer this report – my first – on AFAO's work in 2015/16. This has been a year of challenges and changes. During it, we've also had successes, and we must celebrate those too.

Rob Lake, AFAO's Executive Director of five years, led AFAO until early March 2016. Rob's leadership of AFAO occurred during a time of tremendous change in Australian and regional responses to HIV. I thank Rob for his leadership of AFAO and for his generosity and guidance as I commenced in the role.

I also thank the AFAO Board for the opportunity they've given me to lead AFAO. We find ourselves, today, at a time of tremendous opportunity in our response to HIV. The availability of effective HIV treatments – and our new understandings that treatment is beneficial at all stages of HIV – allow us to create a future where no-one newly diagnosed with HIV should progress to AIDS.

We've also come to understand the power of treatment as prevention. In a few short years, our long-held understandings of HIV have been turned on their head. We know now that HIV isn't transmitted when people are effectively treated for HIV. But while we know this from science, it will be a long time before the stigma that continues to associated with HIV adjusts to this new reality.

And we have extraordinary new prevention and diagnostic technologies. HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis is effective at levels we could only have dreamed of. Rapid-testing and emerging self-tests also promise to deliver easier access and more frequent HIV testing.

The rapid transformation in our understanding of HIV and the evolution of technologies provides the foundation for the Australian Government's world-leading goal to virtually eliminate HIV transmission by 2020.

But there's a great gulf between the opportunity we are presented with and our shared vision to one day end HIV. To cross the divide will take tremendous effort and energy by all of us in the community, government, research and clinicians. And it's here that AFAO's purpose rests: to lead the community in our own efforts and our work with others to end HIV.

AFAO does so through the strength of its relationships with Australia's state and territory AIDS Councils and with our national members – the National Association of People with HIV Australia, the Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug Users League, the Anwernekenhe National HIV/AIDS Alliance, and Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Workers Association. I thank each of them for their support of AFAO during 2015/16.

For all the promise of new science and technology, HIV remains a profoundly social phenomenon. It is only through community action – taken by AFAO's members and supported through AFAO's leadership – that we can achieve our goals. In this context, it's a tremendous privilege to lead AFAO.

In commencing my role, the Board asked that I lead AFAO through a period of major change, with three priorities each geared to achieve AFAO's vision.

First, to secure AFAO's funding. The end of a major Australian Government contract in June 2016 meant that all aspects of AFAO's domestic program would be severely depleted, spanning our health promotion, capacity building, workforce development, policy, advocacy and communications activities. Internationally, recent year cuts to

Australia's overseas aid budget had ended our HIV programs in Asia and the Pacific.

While 2015/16 has been a tremendously active time for our work in these spheres, the year closed with considerable uncertainty on both fronts. Through efforts in the second half of 2015/16, we were very grateful to receive a lifeline from the Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, to support AFAO's domestic program in 2016/17. The funding we received is less than we'd enjoyed previously and, as a result, we underwent restructuring at year's end, farewelling many valued staff: Simon Donohoe, Linda Forbes, Sally Cameron, Michael Costello-Czok, Danica Gluvakov, Andrew Sajben, Jill Sergeant, Sean Slavin, Terry Walkinshaw. I thank all of them for their contribution to AFAO. This Annual Report catalogues the work of these and all AFAO staff in 2015/16.

Internationally, we achieved a remarkable success in 2015/16 with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria endorsing AFAO's proposal for a USD\$2.3m program to build the capacity of civil society in the region. The Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition program – SHIFT – will support key populations, including gay and bisexual men and transgender people, people with HIV, sex workers and people who inject drugs, to advocate to and work with governments as countries in the region increasingly transition to self-funding of their HIV responses. With this endorsement, AFAO has entered a grant-making phase, with the program to commence from 2017.

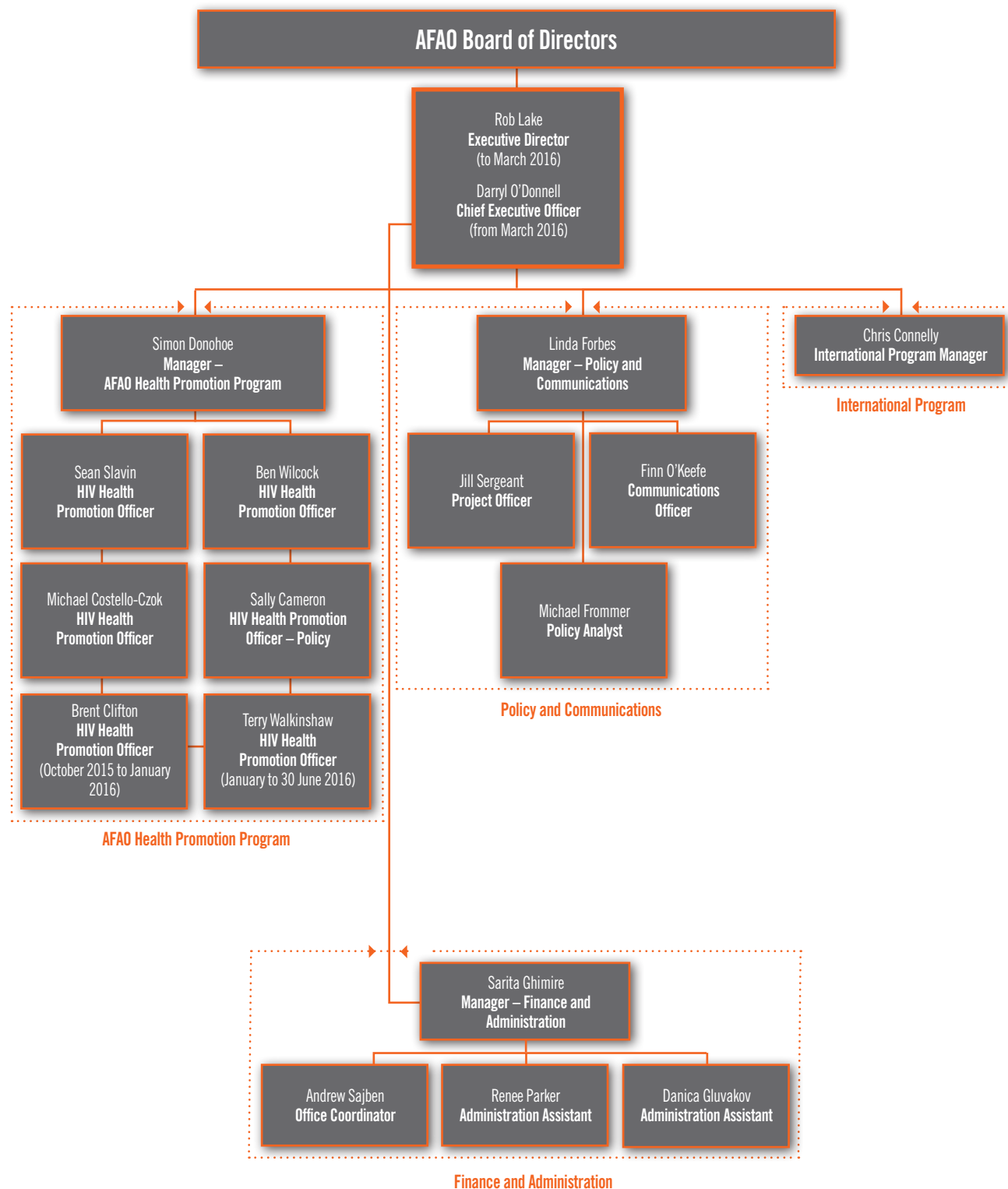
The Board's second priority for me was to strengthen AFAO's political engagement and influencing, including through the 2016 Federal Election. For the first time in many years, AFAO created a survey of political parties of HIV issues for our communities and used this as a platform for engagement with political stakeholders and parties in the lead-up to the election. We received responses from each of the parties, including important commitments on the development of an eighth National HIV Strategy and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis. More generally, we are intensively building relationships across the Parliament and with advisors and officials to ensure that HIV receives the attention it needs and continues to receive bipartisan support. These relationships, built in better times, provide foundations for tough discussions, when needed. Our development of *HIV in Australia: 2016*, a simple snapshot of today's HIV response, provides an invaluable tool for working with those whose support we seek. Importantly, it also gives a framework for telling a contemporary story of HIV, which emphasises a history of success of which we should be proud, while also acknowledging that there is a growing gap between where we are, and where we should be, given the opportunities available to us.

The Board also asked that I look to the long-term to secure AFAO's future and, in doing so, that of its communities. In commencing this, we have prioritised AFAO's own governance, beginning with an exploration of 'HIV in 2020' and 'AFAO in 2020' at the June Members Meeting. As an outcome of these discussions, and intensive work by the AFAO Board, AFAO embarked on a series of important reforms to its governance, including changes to its Rules, that have continued successfully after the close of the 2015/16 year.

None of us would have wished for the major changes we saw in 2015/16 because of funding reductions. But with change comes opportunity, and AFAO ended the year strong through its restructuring, the determination, passion and expertise of our staff, and the support of our Board and members. I thank each of them for their support, and look forward to the continued strengthening of AFAO as we fight to achieve our goals in 2016/17. ■

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS (AFAO)

ORGANISATIONAL CHART AT 30 JUNE 2016



AFAO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

AFAO NATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

napwha national association of
people with HIV australia

napwha.org.au



www.scarletalliance.org.au



facebook.com/anwernekenhe.usmob



www.aivl.org.au

STATE-BASED AIDS COUNCILS



www.ntahc.org.au



www.qahc.org.au

a fao



Western Australian
AIDS COUNCIL

www.waaid.com



www.acon.org.au



www.vac.org.au



www.aidsaction.org.au



www.tascahrd.org.au

AFAO AFFILIATE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

PositiveLifeNSW
the voice of people with HIV since 1988

www.positivelife.org.au



www.bgf.org.au



New Zealand AIDS Foundation
Te Tūāpapa Mate Āraiore o Aotearoa

www.nzaf.org.nz

STAFF FAREWELLS

Due to funding changes, AFAO's organisational restructure means we will be a much smaller organisation in 2016/17.

This year, we sadly said goodbye to nine AFAO colleagues. CEO Darryl O'Donnell said, "The team we farewell has made an inestimable contribution to AFAO's work and to the community response to HIV. For some of them, this has been over decades. Individually, they have brought passion, far-reaching expertise and deep commitment to their roles. I wish everyone of them the best for their futures, and I know you will as well."



Office Coordinator Andrew Sajben is AFAO's longest serving staff member. Since 1997, as part of the AFAO admin team, Andrew has been instrumental in making sure the office runs smoothly, coordinating travel, meetings and events, and being available to answer queries and meet the needs of our members. He's pictured here supporting sex worker rights at AIDS 2014, with Janelle Fawkes (Scarlet Alliance).



Jill Sergeant is AFAO's second longest serving staff member. Since 1998, she has worn many hats – most recently, as Project Manager for AFAO's African and CALD Communities projects; and the AFAO website. She's also been one of the faces behind the scenes for our social media profiles. She's pictured here with Max Amolloh from our African Reference Group.



Simon Donohoe (pictured here with our Financial Manager, Sarita Ghimre) has been Manager of the Health Promotion team since 2004. In this role Simon has presided over more campaigns and resources than we can count; not to mention consulting with members via the Education Managers Forum, driving health promotion capacity building and training initiatives for our members and, of course, managing an awesome team of health promotion officers.



Linda Forbes (pictured with Finn O'Keefe) began at AFAO as a Policy Analyst in 2009 and has been managing the Policy and Communications team since 2010. Among her many achievements in this role, which include developing the program for members meetings and AFAO's Community and Advocacy Hub at various conferences, she's championed our flagship publication, *HIV Australia*.



Michael Costello-Czok (pictured, at left, with our CEO Darryl O'Donnell) worked in AFAO's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander project for many years. More recently, he came back on board to organise the 2016 National Gay Men's HIV Health Promotion Conference.



Danica Gluvakov has been on our Admin team since 2009, working behind the scenes on travel, events, finances, filing, support for our International programs and much, much, more.



Sally Cameron (pictured with Policy Analyst Michael Frommer) has been with the Health Promotion team since 2012. She's worked on the Women Living Well campaign, the HIV and stigma resource, and most recently, translations of key info on some of our HIV health promotion websites (out soon). Sally has also worked in our policy team and as a contractor – most notably on HIV criminalisation issues.



Sean Slavin has worked on the Health Promotion team since 2013, and led the development of the National Gay Men's HIV Health Promotion Conference in 2014. Sean has also worked on health promotion policy issues and most recently, he's developed one of our newest campaigns, Together for Better.



Terry Walkinshaw was only with AFAO for six months, but put that time to good use, developing a health promotion website for young gay men. Terry's pictured here (at left) with admin team members Andrew Sajben and Renee Parker.

By Linda Forbes, Manager



From left: Linda Forbes, Jill Sergeant, Finn O'Keefe and Michael Frommer

AFAO's Policy and Communications team provides expert advice on HIV-related policy issues, and undertakes policy analysis and advocacy regarding Australia's response to HIV. Our policy work continues to be guided by the principles and priorities of the Seventh National HIV Strategy, as we seek to proactively address emerging issues affecting HIV priority populations, as well as responding to issues driven by the Commonwealth's policy and legislative agenda.

The *Seventh National HIV Strategy 2014–2017* (the National Strategy), along with the *AIDS 2014 Legacy Statement*, agreed to by all Australian health ministers, commits to virtually eliminate new HIV transmissions by 2020. The National Strategy includes a range of crucial priority actions that must be implemented if Australia is to meet its commitment to achieve this goal, in line with the UNAIDS's Fast-Track 90-90-90 target.

As well as guiding our work, these priorities frame our input into development of the Implementation Plan for the National Blood Borne Virus (BBV)/Sexually Transmissible Infection (STI) strategies and our submissions to inquiries, input into consultations, and analysis of emerging issues identified by AFAO and its members.

Throughout 2015–16, the AFAO Policy and Communications team undertook analysis of key HIV and health policy issues, providing comments and advice to government, engaging in consultations and contributing submissions to Parliamentary and departmental inquiries. The team also contributed advice on AFAO's input to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (MACBBVS) and the Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infection Subcommittee (BBVSS).

Throughout the year, we also continued to provide the AFAO membership and other stakeholders with expert advice and resources, and assisted with programming national workshops and forums on key issues.

In 2015–16 the team also maintained its core activities of:

- producing AFAO's flagship magazine, *HIV Australia*
- maintaining AFAO's website
- managing the organisation's social media presence, and
- contributing to AFAO's engagement with the media – including by developing and maintaining our online HIV Media Guide.

Submissions and briefings

Over the year, the policy team's submissions and input to consultations have included:

- submission to NSW government review of the *Public Health Act 2010* (NSW)
- submission to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee on Truvada as PrEP
- submission to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee's Inquiry, Future of Australia's aged care sector workforce
- Letter to Therapeutic Goods Administration consultation on Proposed Performance Requirements and Risk Mitigation Strategies for HIV Tests

- Submission to Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce
- Submission to the Office of the Information Commissioner Inquiry on PCEHR (Information Commissioner Enforcement Powers) Guidelines 2015.

Briefing papers for members and other stakeholders included:

- 2016–2017 Federal Budget Briefing
- Briefing Paper on providing comments to PBAC on HIV PrEP
- 2016 Federal Election Survey Responses
- Briefing paper on SA and WA legislation providing for mandatory testing of alleged offenders for BBVs
- Briefing Paper on Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce Consultation
- Background Briefing on HIV and Australia: a short history.

AFAO National Policy Officers Network (ANPON)

ANPON provides networking opportunities and support for policy officers and other AFAO Member Organisation staff involved in HIV policy work. This includes giving participants opportunities to discuss current activities and emerging issues, identify opportunities for upcoming work and identify potential areas of mutual interest for collaboration. Throughout the year, AFAO held regular ANPON teleconferences and hosted a national ANPON workshop in May 2016.

HIV and CALD communities

AFAO continues to support the development of a community-led response to HIV prevention, care and support among African Australian communities. In 2015/16, this included convening regular teleconferences of the AFAO African Reference Group, which has facilitated the development of networks of African community leadership and of HIV sector/multicultural health organisations.

In 2015, AFAO broadened this focus to include work with a range of other culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. AFAO's resource *HIV and CALD communities: Mapping health promotion programs and resources* lists over 70 health promotion programs and resources that have been developed to engage with CALD communities around HIV prevention, awareness and support. The main audience for the mapping resource is CALD service providers and community organisations working with CALD communities, many of whom use it to inform planning for similar programs and resources. This unique national resource was launched September 2015 at an African community meeting in Brisbane, and continues to be widely utilised.

On 30 May 2016, AFAO hosted a health promotion forum on HIV and Mobility in Sydney. Over 60 people attended from 38 organisations, services, networks and research bodies connected with the HIV and multicultural health sectors to discuss the health promotion needs of people from mobile populations – including migrants, refugees, long-stay temporary visa holders, and people who travel to high HIV prevalence countries to holiday, work or visit family.

The Forum goals and program were developed in consultation with a reference group composed of representatives of AFAO Member Organisations and key stakeholders from the multicultural health sector, including members of AFAO's African Reference Group. The program had a dual focus of building capacity for participants, and informing future health promotion and policy work at a national level. Presentations included updates on the HIV and Mobility Roadmap for Action and surveillance data, a discussion of the implications for health promotion of Medicare ineligibility, and considerations for engaging CALD communities.

Members Forums

Two successful AFAO Members Forums were held in November 2015 and May 2016. These forums provide an essential platform to engage the AFAO membership on a range of issues, including the development and delivery of HIV health promotion, discussion of effective and evidence-based policy representation, as well providing space to discuss member's expectations of AFAO's capacity into the future, in the context of AFAO's smaller organisational structure. Forum participants included Member CEOs, program managers, health promotion and education staff, and staff involved in policy analysis.

Sessions covered:

- enhancing effective government relations
- PrEP advocacy across jurisdictions
- HIV self-testing
- HIV and mobility
- HIV in 2020
- AFAO and the community response in 2020.

Planning is already underway for AFAO's next Members Forum in November 2016.

Website and social media

Website traffic grew substantially over the year, with the number of visitors and the number of pages viewed increasing by 24% and 20% respectively. A range of factors contributed to this increase, including high profile media coverage of Charlie Sheen's HIV disclosure, World AIDS Day, and a 24% increase in traffic via social media. The number of people accessing the site on mobile devices increased significantly (up by around 40%), with most visitors arriving due to searches for specific content. *HIV Australia*, information about HIV statistics and transmission, and news pages were also popular.

In March 2016, AFAO's Website Project Officer, Jill Sergeant, initiated a redevelopment of the AFAO website, which we anticipate will be completed in early 2017.

A review of the AFAO blog (<https://afaotalks.blogspot.com>), found that while individual blog posts are popular and enable AFAO to produce content that is more informal than that published on the website, maintaining it is a strain on staff resources. Therefore from late 2015, few posts have been published. As a result, while individual posts have performed well, overall traffic has diminished by around 15% over the previous period. The most popular posts during this period were a report back on AFAO's African faith leaders forum in July 2015, our guide to community comment on the Charlie Sheen case, a report back on the AFAO Hub at ASHM, and Darryl O'Donnell's opinion piece on PrEP.

Content on AFAO's popular HIV Media Guide website was reviewed in the latter half of 2015 and early 2016. The Guide proved to be a useful resource to address stigmatising media reporting in relation to Charlie Sheen's HIV disclosure. Staff produced and distributed infographics for members and stakeholders to use on social media to direct followers and the media to information on best practice reporting and non-stigmatising

language. This resulted in a massive spike in traffic to the site. Over a 12-month period over 14,000 people viewed more than 25,000 pages on the site.

AFAO continued to build on our strong social media presence, closing the year with almost 10,000 Facebook page likes and almost 900 Twitter followers. In addition to our concentrated response to media on Charlie Sheen's HIV disclosure, we maintained an active social media presence at key HIV events and forums including World AIDS Day 2015, the 2016 Federal Budget, AFAO's National Gay Men's Health Promotion conference, and the 2016 Federal election.

In September 2015, the efforts of AFAO's Communications Officer, Finn O'Keefe, saw AFAO listed among the most influential and active on Twitter at the 2015 HIV & AIDS conference, in both top 10 by tweets and top 10 by mentions. In June 2016, with funding support from the Peter Doherty Institute for infection and immunity, AFAO maintained an active social media presence during the 2016 UN High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS in New York, producing over 80 tweets, 11 Facebook posts, two blog posts, a joint media release and an online gallery of photos.

Media

In 2015–16, AFAO's media strategy remained focussed on ensuring that journalists are well resourced to provide accurate and sensitive media reports on HIV and related issues. Our best practice HIV Media Guide remains a highly regarded referral tool, and team ensured that information in the guide was routinely revised and updated throughout the year.

We engaged external consultants, Mountain Media and CapitalHill Advisory, to assist in media monitoring and proactive reporting of key issues, including around the launch of the latest HIV surveillance data. A key message successfully disseminated through our media channels this year was that although rates of new HIV infection in Australia have stabilised since 2012, more work is needed if the Australian HIV partnership is to achieve global HIV treatment targets by 2020.

In November, news about Charlie Sheen's seroconversion received wide coverage from global news outlets. AFAO sought to ensure that the issue was handled sensitively by the Australian media, disseminating a custom media toolkit on stigmatising language, both to journalists and via social media, and collating news reports about the issue on the AFAO blog – a resource which AFAO members found extremely valuable.

As a result of these efforts, numerous news reports in Australia and globally made reference to the AFAO Media Guide, successfully reinforcing the message that journalists reporting HIV need to use non-stigmatising language and be aware of best practice.

Throughout the year, media interest in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) once again remained high, stimulated by sustained community interest as well as by announcements and roll-out of expanded PrEP trials in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. In May 2016, following approval of Truvada by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), AFAO was very successful in generating wide media coverage about the need to make PrEP accessible by getting it listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

For a list of HIV-related media coverage including comment from AFAO, see AFAO's website (www.afa.org.au).

HIV Australia

It was another impressive year for AFAO's flagship publication, *HIV Australia*. In 2015–16, the magazine's print circulation remained strong, at around 3,200 copies, with website and social media statistics continuing to show that articles were read and shared online long after publication, far extending the reach of the printed magazine.



HIV Australia covers from 2015/16.

We produced three thematic editions of *HIV Australia* over the 2015–16 period:

■ **Volume 13.2: Expanded horizons for HIV treatment and prevention (July 2015)**

This highly topical edition explored the changing landscape of HIV treatment and prevention in the light of new understandings about early treatment, treatment as prevention (TasP) and PrEP. The edition examined the headline findings of the START study on early HIV treatment, and teased out a range of diverging perspectives on PrEP and TasP from diverse stakeholders and communities, including people living with HIV, sex workers, people who use drugs, health promoters, researchers and GPs.

■ **Volume 13.3: Fire in the belly: the call to action on HIV from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (December 2015)**

Launched at the HIV Summit in Brisbane as part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV Awareness Week (ATISHAW), and guest edited by Michael Costello-Czok and James Ward, this landmark edition celebrated the history and the future of the HIV response among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The edition commemorated the 21st anniversary of the Anwernekenhe National HIV Alliance, and showcased images and outcomes from the Anwernekenhe 6 conference in Alice Springs. The magazine stimulated discussion around key issues canvassed at these events, and continues to be used as an important advocacy tool for increased Commonwealth support for responses to HIV among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

■ **Volume 14.1: HIV, policing and the law (April 2016)**

Formally launched at the AFAO National Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference in April 2016, this edition looked at the impact of policing and criminal laws on response to HIV and other blood borne viruses (BBVs). Contributors highlighted the ways that laws and policing practices can help or hinder responses to BBVs, emphasising the key role police play as actors in the HIV response. Many articles focused on the urgent need to implement needle and syringe programs (NSPs) in the Australian prison system as a key gap in Australia's evidence-based responses to BBVs.

AFAO has received excellent feedback about the strength and utility of each of these three editions, both as educational resources and as political advocacy tools.

Staffing

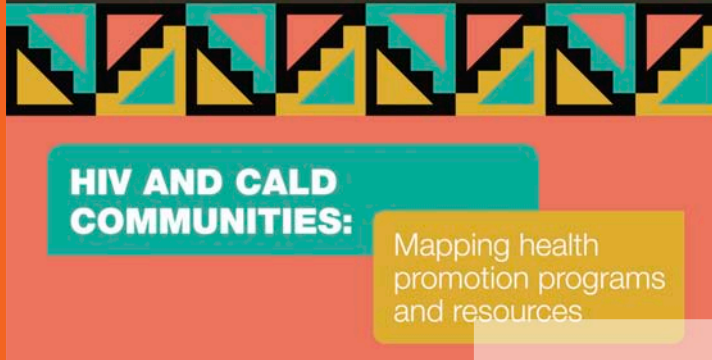
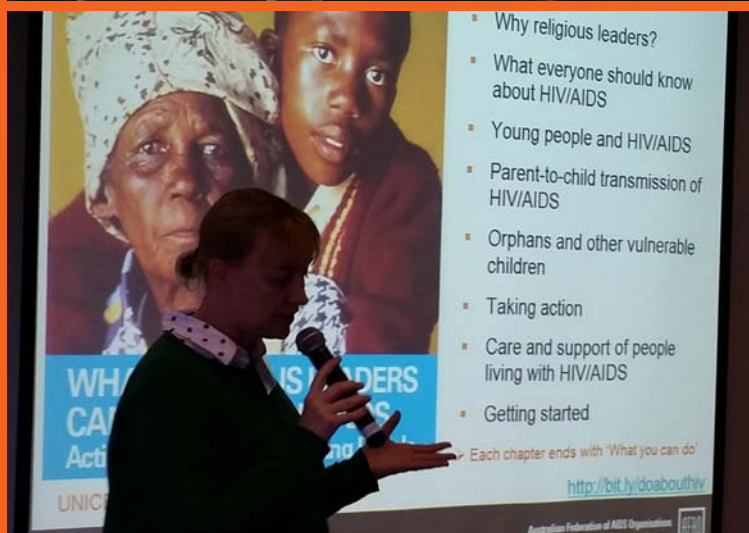
Due to funding cuts following a competitive tender process, AFAO implemented an organisation-wide restructure at the end of the financial year. As a result, the Policy and Communications team bid a sad farewell to two long-serving staff members – Policy and Communications Manager, Linda Forbes and Website and Project Officer, Jill Sergeant.

Linda Forbes commenced as an AFAO Policy Analyst in 2009, and began managing the Policy and Communications team in 2010. Her many achievements include driving AFAO's policy program and providing advice across the sector, and developing and implementing countless AFAO members meetings and forums, as well as co-editing AFAO's flagship publication, *HIV Australia*. With her strong commitment to equity and non-discrimination, AFAO continued to advocate against HIV-related criminalisation including the recently introduced mandatory HIV testing laws, for important social security supports, and for AFAO's work (led by Jill Sergeant), in support of African community responses to HIV.

Jill Sergeant was AFAO's second longest serving staff member, having commenced work at AFAO in November 1998. She has worn many hats during this time – most recently, as Project Manager for AFAO's African and CALD Communities projects, and as webmaster for AFAO's website.

As well as leading AFAO's African project, among her many achievements over the past 18 years, Jill has been instrumental in supporting ICT capacity development across the sector through years of work as Chair of the Making Links Conference on technology and social action. She also implemented and managed AFAO's social media presence since its inception, working alongside AFAO's Communications Officer, Finn O'Keefe.

Both Linda and Jill have contributed greatly to the work of the HIV sector as a whole, and will be keenly missed – both among the AFAO membership and the remaining AFAO staff. ■



Pictured clockwise from top left: AFAO African Reference Group, Back row (L-R): Wa'el Sabri (NSW), Alison Coelho (VIC), Zhihong Gu (Qld), Richard Ezomoh (NSW), Max Amolo (Qld) Pauline Burke (ACT), Catherine Chakulunta (WA), Phil Bilombe (WA), Chris Lemoh (VIC). Front row: Jill Sergeant (AFAO), Deepa Gajarr (Qld), Gwamaka Eliudi (NSW), CeCe Braima (SA), Oliver Maboreke (NSW), and Tapuwa Bofu (VIC); AFAO Policy and Communications Manager Linda Forbes presenting at the Anwernekenhe conference, Alice Springs, Darwin, November 2015; Sally Cameron presenting at the African Faith Leaders Meeting, July 2015; AFAO and National LGBTI Health Alliance standing in solidarity with rainbow young people on Wear it Purple Day 2016, AFAO, August 2016; the front cover of AFAO's *HIV and CALD Communities: Mapping health promotion programs and resources*; and AFAO staff take a stand against homophobia, biphobia, intersexphobia and transphobia on #IDAHOT2016. Find out more about IDAHOT at: <http://idahot.org.au>



Program staff: Chris Connelly. **Program contract staff:** Wattana Keiangpa (Office Coordinator) – Sept 2015, Jeeraporn Pakornthadaphan (Logistics and Coordination Officer) – Sept 2015, and Tim Leach (PNG Program Adviser) – Dec 2015.

Early in the year, AFAO's international program concluded our long running regional capacity building initiatives under the Australian aid program funded Regional HIV Capacity Building Program. Despite demonstrating strong results in its component projects, the overall program was not renewed under funding cuts to the Australian aid program. The two AFAO Initiatives were the JumpStart MSM and Transgender Networks Capacity Strengthening Initiative and the Community Advocacy Initiative (CAI). Within these initiatives, AFAO provided peer capacity building, technical support and grant funding for community organisations in Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with regional networks APCOM and APCASO respectively.

JumpStart

A partnership between AFAO and APCOM, JumpStart began in December 2012, aiming to strengthen the capacity of networks of men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people across Asia and the Pacific. In the last year of the Initiative, JumpStart shifted focus from sub-regional to country level networks.

APCOM used JumpStart as a platform to increase access to strategic information, by developing multiple advocacy, policy and technical materials for use by civil society around the region, including Policy Briefs, Technical Briefs (the *Headlight* series), case studies of community organisations (the *Spotlight* series), and case studies on individual community leaders and advocates (the *LimeLight* series).

Under JumpStart, AFAO and APCOM collaborated to conduct capacity assessments of sub-regional networks, and national networks and community-based organisations operating in seven countries across the region, including Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. An assessment tool called the RapApp was developed to facilitate discussion with key representatives from the target organisation in 14 areas of organisational and technical capacity. The RapApp identifies organisational strengths and weaknesses, and facilitates development of a technical support plan.

An evaluation of JumpStart since 2012 was conducted, which found it was highly successful in achieving its aims, and made a series of recommendations for the initiative going forward:

1. It is a strategic and logical initiative considering the HIV context in Asia and the Pacific, the needs of MSM and transgender organisations and the stage in development of APCOM. The initiative is a timely and appropriate intervention, which is based on clear rationale and strong needs.
2. If evaluated as a pilot project, it performed well and made strong progress towards its stated goal and objectives, with concrete results at regional, sub-regional and country levels.
3. A key strength of JumpStart was its systematic approach to capacity building, which is based on a well-conceived package of support that combined high quality strategic information, tried and tested tools, peer support/mentoring, and straightforward project management.
4. Another strength of the project is the peer-based and partnership approach, based on strong inter-personal communications.

5. JumpStart was a vital initiative for APCOM. It enabled the organisation to build expertise in technical support provision and advocacy, learn in greater detail the needs and dynamics of its constituency, strengthen its relationships with direct project partners, and build its credibility and profile among civil society in Asia and the Pacific.
6. There remains a large and growing need for JumpStart. However, it will be important to focus on how best to achieve impact and support sustainability among MSM and transgender organisations and networks.

APCOM has continued to use the tools and materials from JumpStart, adapting them into new programs and project proposals.

Community Advocacy Initiative (CAI)

The CAI program was implemented in partnership between AFAO and APCASO and ran from 2011–2015. In its final phase, the initiative took a strong focus on HIV financing, using the Investment Framework (IF) – a model for allocation of funding for effective, evidence-based and human rights focussed responses to HIV – as a guide. In this final phase, the program work was tailored to country context and opportunities for advocacy around financing. CAI partners included key national civil society organisations in Cambodia (HACC – HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee), China (CHAIN – China HIV/AIDS Information Network), Laos (LaoPHA – Lao Positive Health Association) and Vietnam (SCDI – Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives).

The Initiative worked with these country partners to adapt the IF to national contexts. In the final year of the initiative, the focus of country activities included: in China to explore the experiences of civil society organisations in accessing financing, and feeding this into design of the new government mechanism for funding civil society; in Cambodia to develop a national report on the IF through a series of consultation meetings, and facilitate a community consultation on the Global Fund country dialogue process; in Laos to support additional community input to the Global Fund concept note development; and in Vietnam to input civil society concerns into the revision of the National Health Insurance Law to enable stronger coverage of HIV services, and to ensure easier access by key populations.

The evaluation conducted on the Initiative identified the following findings:

1. CAI had a robust rationale (to enhance civil society capacity to engage in HIV financing processes and advocacy using the IF), was a very timely initiative and set relevant goals and objectives that were well achieved.
2. CAI achieved different types and levels of results in the four countries that it supported. However, all were significant – representing a step change for the civil society response to HIV in that context.
3. The regional components of CAI brought added value to the country work, while also strengthening the expertise, reputation and niche of APCASO in Asia and the Pacific and internationally.



In late April 2016, the Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition (SHIFT) regional program, a collaboration of AFAO, APCASO and APCOM, received the welcome news that the Global Fund had endorsed the program to move into grant-making phase.

4. CAI's high quality principles, processes and relationships – based on partnership, peer learning and straightforward program management – were as important as its products.
5. CAI's work to build the capacity of civil society on the IF and HIV financing brought invaluable side benefits. Notably, these included enhanced civil society ability to engage in: Country Dialogue processes under the Global Fund's New Funding Model (in Vietnam and Lao PDR); and national discussions on domestic financing for HIV (in Cambodia and China).
6. In 2015 and beyond, CAI's support is more relevant than ever, especially in countries transitioning away from international funding for HIV. There is a need for thorough documentation of the Initiative, as well as the identification of opportunities for APCASO/AFAO and others to scale the project up or replicate it.
7. CAI produced invaluable lessons learned that should be incorporated into the future work of APCASO/AFAO and others working in this field.

Experiences from CAI continue to inform APCASO's work in its new initiatives, and strongly contributed to the development of the SHIFT program (outlined below).

Kapul Champions

Kapul Champions was established in 2012 as the national network to represent men of diverse sexualities and transgender people in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The network works to mobilise its communities, raise awareness and access to services for HIV and health-related issues, and to advocate for the human rights of its members. AFAO has supported the organisation since its inception with technical and funding support under the Australian aid program. The technical support component from AFAO was unfortunately cut at the end of 2015 as part of realignment of the Australian aid program in PNG.

During the year, Kapul Champions developed a new poster campaign 'Test and Treat' using some of its members for the campaign photos. This was launched at the national World AIDS Day event, with exposure to high level stakeholders in the HIV response in PNG. Kapul Champions then took the posters to regional locations of PNG through its regional representatives and connections with clinics and non-government organisation (NGO) offices, as well as online through its social media presence.

A further key achievement was the development of a submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, a global process working to review country human rights situations and progress. The submission was in preparation for the country hearing for PNG. In the submission Kapul Champions outlined the key human rights and health issues of men of diverse sexualities and transgender people in PNG, including the issues of criminalisation of sex between consenting same-sex adults under the Criminal Code Articles 210 and 212, and the lack of recognition of the gender identities of transgender people in PNG. The situation related to criminalisation of sex work was noted, along with the severe stigma and discrimination, violence and limited access to employment and education affecting men of diverse sexualities and transgender people. The country hearing resulted in a number of countries urging PNG to revoke criminalisation of same sex relations, however the PNG country representative noted a need for further national discussion before any revisions could be considered.

Kapul Champions was also successful in joining the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), a key platform for raising advocacy issues in relation to key populations for PNG.

In the second half of the year after AFAO support was phased out, Kapul Champions was auspiced under a PNG-based NGO office, however its funding sustainability looks uncertain in the face of another round of program and administrative revisions to the Australian HIV and Health Program in PNG.

AFAO acknowledges the huge efforts of Kapul Champions President Parker Hou, Board members and staff Mactil Bais (Program Manager) and Nick Evera-Morea (Senior Program Officer) for their efforts in a challenging operating environment.

Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition (SHIFT)

A key activity of the international program this year has been conducting the regional dialogue, concept note development and grant making process for a Global Fund regional program called the Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition (SHIFT) program. Funding support to conduct these activities was received from the Australian aid program, UNAIDS Technical Support Facility (TSF) and the Global Fund.

HIV financing is a critical issue in the Asia region. Shifts in funding priorities and commitments from donor countries, as well as



Midnight Poonkasetwattana, APCOM Executive Director, speaking at the UN High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS. APCOM is a partner of AFAO for our international work.

graduation of many countries in the region to middle income status has created uncertainty around the continuity of international donor funding. Asia has made gains in treatment coverage and service delivery for key populations, however large and sometimes escalating epidemics remain among key populations in middle-income countries.

In this context, transition to domestic government funding and sustainability of the HIV response are crucial to ensuring the end of AIDS by 2030, and the achievement of the UNAIDS Fast Track Strategy.

Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition (SHIFT) will run 2017-2018 working in transition countries in Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The program will be implemented by AFAO as Principal Recipient in partnership with APCASO and APCOM as regional Sub-Recipients, and four country Sub-Recipients.

The program aims to ensure countries have sustainable, cost effective, and strategically allocated funding for their HIV responses covering key populations and civil society. Each country is at a different stage of the transition process, and the program will be tailored to each country context, challenges, and opportunities. The program will collaborate with existing transition and sustainability initiatives from government, civil society and development partner stakeholders, and complement existing work being conducted.

Priority program areas include: transition planning; allocative efficiency; adequate fiscal space for HIV programming; sustainable funding mechanisms for community service organisation (CSO) and key population (KP) networks; Universal Health Coverage (UHC); and the cost of criminalisation.

The program is in the final stages of grant making process, and AFAO aims to initiate activities in January 2017.

UN High-Level Meeting

In June 2016 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly held a High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS. Darryl O'Donnell, AFAO CEO was invited by the Australian government to join the country delegation, which enabled greater community input to the Australian contribution to the meeting. AFAO also collaborated with APCOM

to develop a Policy Brief outlining the issues for MSM related to the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration for the meeting, aiming to support greater MSM community engagement with governments around the declaration.

Durban

AFAO also joined the International AIDS Conference 2016, held in Durban in July. The conference is the global biennial gathering of key government, civil society and technical partners in the HIV response. AFAO organised and joined a number of sessions on financing to present the SHIFT program and lessons from Asia and the Pacific, as well as Australia, in collaboration with APCASO, APCOM, the Global Fund Advocates Network Zone and the UNAIDS Community Dialogue Space. We also joined APCASO to launch the CAI Evaluation report.

Thanks to departing staff

AFAO international program would like to thank the hard work and dedication of our small team. We particularly wish to thank Khun Wattana Keiangpa (Office Coordinator) and Khun Jeeraporn Pakornthadaphan (Logistics and Coordination Officer) who shifted to work full-time with our partners APCOM and APCASO respectively during the year, as well as Tim Leach (PNG Program Adviser) for his ongoing dedication to supporting Kapul Champions. AFAO also wishes to thank Don Baxter in his role as International Program Adviser. ■



Pictured clockwise from top left: AFAO International Program Manager Chris Connelly speaking at the Bangkok Regional dialogue, Global Fund concept note, Bangkok, Thailand, November 2015; Don Baxter, Durban, July 2016; NAPWHA President Cipri Martinez with Head of the Australian Delegation Sharon Appleyard (Department of Health) and AFAO CEO Darryl O'Donnell at the United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting (HLM), New York, June 2016; Chris Connelly at the AFAO Regional Dialogue Consultation Workshop, Bangkok, November 2015; the Australian Delegation to the UN HLM (L–R): Peter Versegi, Office of Development Effectiveness; Cipri Martinez (NAPWHA), Sharon Appleyard (Head of Delegation), Department of Health, Sharon Lewin, Doherty Institute; Finn O'Keefe, AFAO Communications Officer and Darryl O'Donnell, AFAO CEO.

AFAO HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAM

By Simon Donohoe, Manager



From left: Simon Donohoe, Sally Cameron, Sean Slavin, Terry Walkinshaw, Michael Costello-Czok, Ben Wilcock

Following AFAO's unsuccessful tender for the continuation of our health promotion work, this has been a year of unprecedented change for the organisation, seeing the end to AFAO's 30-year health promotion program.

At the end of the financial year, with the program's contractual obligations complete, the Health Promotion Program team was disbanded. Manager Simon Donohoe and team members Sally Cameron and Sean Slavin departed the organisation, and contractors Terry Walkinshaw and Michael Costello-Czok completed their contract terms. Remaining team member Ben Wilcock continues at AFAO, in the new role of Senior Capacity Building and Projects Officer.

Staff farewells

Simon Donohoe has been Manager of the AFAO Health Promotion Program since 2004. In that time, he has overseen development of innumerable AFAO health promotion campaigns and resources.

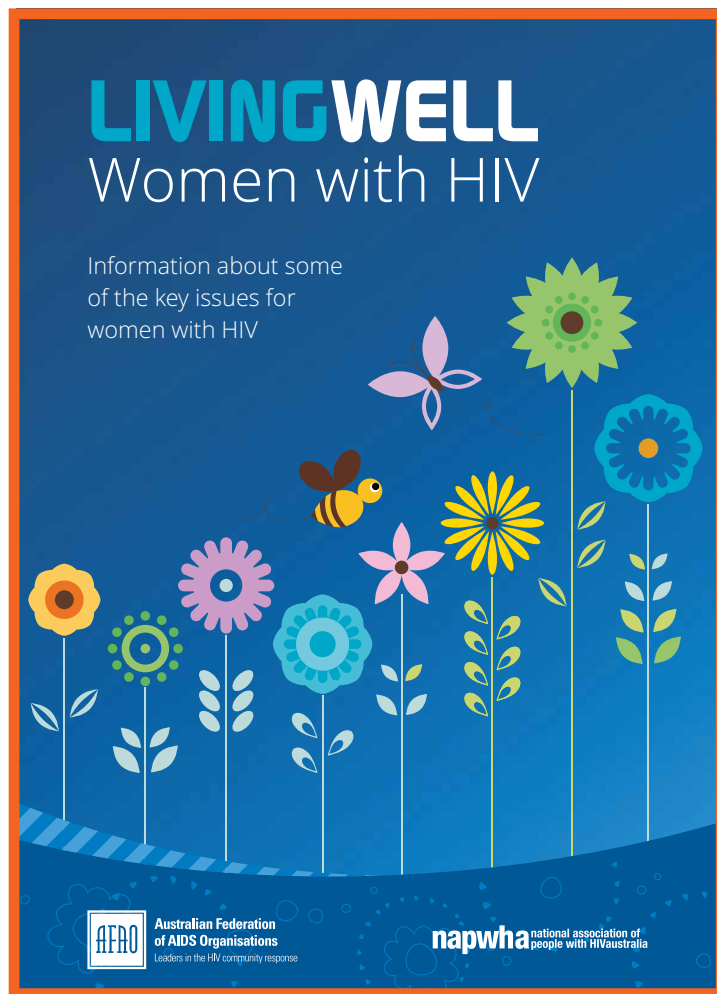
In addition to managing AFAO's health promotion staff, Simon's tireless work steering the program, consulting with members via AFAO's Education Managers Forum, driving countless capacity building and training initiatives for our members, and being available to handle ad hoc queries – both within AFAO and among the broader AFAO membership – has been invaluable. Simon and his staff team will be keenly missed.

Sally Cameron joined the Health Promotion team in 2012, after years of ground-breaking policy work for AFAO on a contract basis, most notably in the area of HIV criminalisation. In her policy-focused role on the Health Promotion team, she produced campaigns including *Living Well: Women with HIV*, the *HIV and Stigma in Australia: A Guide for Religious Leaders* and, most recently, community-language translations of a selection of HIV health promotion websites (to be released in 2016/17).

Sean Slavin worked with the team since 2013. He was instrumental in driving the 2014 National Gay Men's HIV Health Promotion Conference program, and also took the lead on many health promotion policy issues on behalf of AFAO, including treatment as prevention (TasP) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Most recently, he oversaw the development of one of AFAO's final health promotion campaigns, *Together for Better*, and undertook a six-month consultation with AFAO's members and other experts to identify the key health promotion challenges relating to TasP and its place within ongoing combination HIV prevention efforts.

Michael Costello-Czok led AFAO's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander project for many years, before joining the Anwernekenhe HIV Alliance full time as Executive Director. More recently, he returned to AFAO in a part-time contract capacity, where he was responsible for organising the 2016 National Gay Men's HIV Health Promotion Conference.

Terry Walkinshaw joined AFAO for a period of six months, from January to June 2016. In this relatively brief period he led some important pieces for work for the team, including the development of *OutSpoken*, AFAO's multimedia health promotion campaign for young same-sex attracted men, launched at the end of the financial year. Prior to Terry coming on board, Brent Clifton from ACON also work for a brief period in this role.



The front cover of the *Living Well: Women with HIV* booklet.

Campaign work

Living Well: Women with HIV

AFAO celebrated the inaugural National Day for Women Living with HIV (9 March 2016) with the launch of the substantial women-specific HIV resource, *Living Well: Women with HIV* (<http://www.womenlivingwell.org.au>). Women make up about 10% of people living with HIV in Australia, and there remains a strong demand for women-specific resources to supplement the many community education materials that assume a male audience as their default.

Originally developed as *Treat Yourself Right* (way back in 2000), the text has undergone a major makeover. Adapted for both print and web, *Living Well: Women with HIV* reflects some of the ways the world of positive women has changed, not the least of which is the impact of highly effective antiretroviral therapy. The resource title recognises that many women with HIV are living great lives, with treatments providing a sense of long-term optimism. The new title also reflects the reach of the internet. Both intuitive and pragmatic, the name is designed to show up quickly on any search.

Gender differences can significantly impact the progression of HIV infection, how HIV is best treated and the range of side effects

people experience. *Living Well: Women with HIV* offers wide ranging information about living with HIV, disclosing HIV status, having sex, taking treatment, caring for your body, having children, keeping well and getting support. It addresses many of the specific issues faced by women with HIV including increased risk of thrush, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), human papillomavirus (HPV), cervical cancer and osteoporosis. The resource also addresses issues associated with pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding.

Development of Living Well benefited enormously from the input of many positive women including those who participated in focus testing. A special thank you goes out to Femfatales (the National Network of Women living with HIV) for their input on content and also their advocacy to ensure the resource is available in both electronic and print versions.

Community translations project

AFAO's Health Promotion Program extended its reach through a project delivering translations of four AFAO websites: Taking a Look, Get PEP, HIV Tests and Treatment and Next Steps. These original sites are now being made available in Thai, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, French and Plain English.

The community languages were chosen following discussion with HIV community service providers and a scoping of available data, including epidemiological data from the national HIV surveillance system. The French translations are particularly important as there is very limited Australian HIV health promotion information available in French, despite there being many French speakers at risk, including African French speakers.

The sites will each offer a 'factsheet' synopsis of key points on the main sites as well as referral to support services and links to other resources in each specific language. Some additional text has been added, including information on TIS (the Telephone Interpreter Service) and information for people who are not eligible for Medicare.

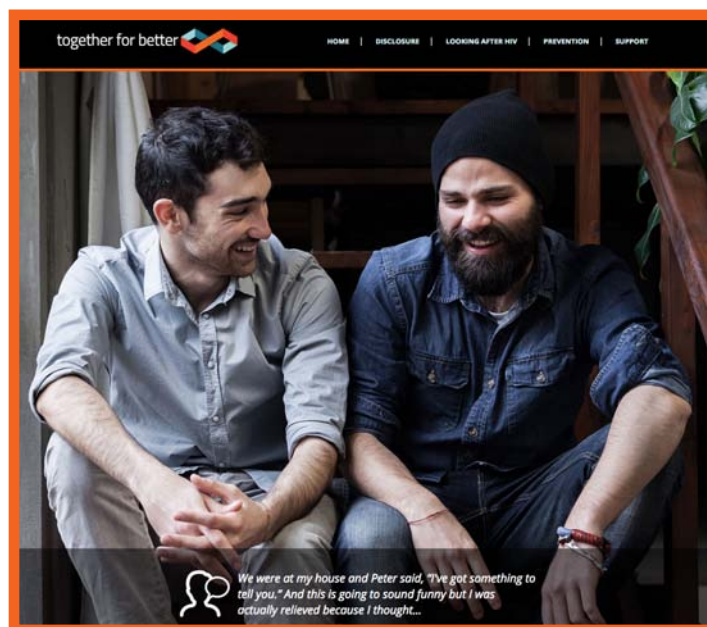
The somewhat complicated project involves four websites (of three sections each) translated into five languages with separate focus testing of each language. Feedback has been very positive. It's hoped the final product will reach the target audiences in their language on their terms – increasing health literacy and providing greater understanding of HIV.

Together for Better

Together for Better (www.togetherforbetter.org.au) is an online resource for gay men about serodiscordant relationships. It provides information about HIV and relationships and uses attractive imagery to challenge stigmatising assumptions some gay men may have about these relationships. The site avoids the term 'serodiscordant' because formative evaluation found it has little appeal or relevance for the target audience.

The website provides information under the headings of disclosure, managing HIV, and prevention. These topics were developed on the basis of the interviews with couples. Health information is balanced with quotes from couples about how they deal with particular issues in real life.

The target audience for the resource includes: gay men (both HIV-negative and HIV-positive) currently in or contemplating a serodiscordant sexual relationship; and all single gay men, both HIV-positive and HIV-negative. The aims of the resource are to: provide a set of skills to serodiscordant couples to better manage HIV in the context of their relationships; increase awareness of the very low risk of HIV transmission in relationships where treatment is used effectively; increase knowledge of treatment as prevention; and increase the perceived acceptability of a serodiscordant relationship among single gay men.



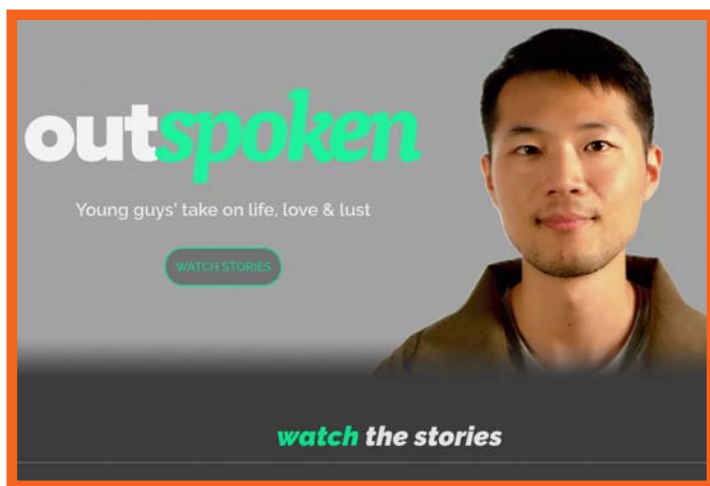
The home page of the *Together for Better* website.

GRUNT

GRUNT is ground-breaking HIV prevention and sexual health campaign aimed at transgender men who have sex with cisgender men, produced by The Peer Advocacy network for the Sexual Health of Trans Masculinities (PASH.tm) and AFAO. This Australian-first campaign included a booklet, website, poster series and a set of social media images. The campaign was launched in the latter half of 2016.



One of the poster series from the GRUNT campaign.



The home page of the OutSpoken website.

OutSpoken

In recognition of the vital need to cater to the needs of young gay and other same-sex attracted men, in 2016 AFAO engaged video production agency JJ Splice Films to produce an innovative multimedia health promotion campaign called OutSpoken. The campaign features videos of five young gay and same-sex attracted men sharing their stories. They discuss a range of topics including coming out, meeting people and relationships, sexual health, HIV prevention, stigma, testing and sexually transmissible infections (STIs). OutSpoken is based around the website www.outspoken.org.au, and is accompanied by a series of promotional posters and short videos to be shared on social media.

The Drama Downunder

The Drama Downunder is a nationwide campaign produced by AFAO, designed to encourage gay men to become more savvy about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and to get regular sexual health checks. In June 2016, AFAO launched our latest phase of the campaign, with four new eye-catching poster designs in the campaign's much loved humorous and engaging style.

National Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference

In April 2016, AFAO held the 2016 National Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference, attended by over 100 health promotion staff from right across the AFAO membership. This biennial conference has been hosted by AFAO for over two decades and continues to be the key event in the HIV community sector calendar.

This year's conference theme 'New Challenges, Big Ideas' asked how we as a sector can work to optimise the national HIV response through implementation of new technologies, supported by existing HIV prevention tools.

The conference looked at the changing HIV prevention and treatment landscape, how organisations are gearing up for new service models in areas such as HIV testing and PrEP, and how this work aligns with reaching the 2020 targets. Conference sessions were complemented by a series of skills-building workshops and networking events. AFAO plans to hold another health promotion conference in 2018, subject to funding. ■



One of the latest Drama Downunder posters.



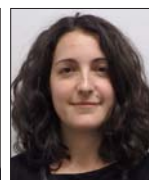
AFAO CEO Darryl O'Donnell giving a keynote address at the National Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference, Sydney, June 2016.



AFAO's Linda Forbes, Finn O'Keefe and Ben Wilcock at the National Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference, Sydney, June 2016.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

By Sarita Ghimire, Manager – Business Operations



Pictured above: Sarita Ghimire, Andrew Sajben, Renee Parker and Danica Gluvakov

The Finance and Administration team provides a range of support and services to AFAO staff, Board and AFAO's Member Organisations. Over the year, our team consisted of Sarita Ghimire, Manager – Finance and Administration, Andrew Sajben, Office Coordinator, Renee Parker and Danica Gluvakov, Administration Assistants.

It has been an exceptionally busy year, and due to funding cuts and staff restructuring, a sad and difficult one at times. The financial year ended with an emotional farewell to nine staff from across the organisation, including two valued members from our team – Andrew Sajben and Danica Gluvakov. Andrew was AFAO's longest serving staff member, having been with the organisation for the last 19 years; Danica had been with AFAO for six years. AFAO and our members will greatly miss their expertise, knowledge and friendly nature. Moving ahead, Renee and Sarita are continuing to manage the business operations services for a newly restructured and smaller AFAO.

Our transition to XERO, a cloud-based accounting system, was successful and efficient. Our daily financial processes are more streamlined, and reporting tools are far easier for staff and external stakeholders, including our auditors, to access. This also makes the process of providing financial reporting to AFAO management and Board easier. Plans are underway for our international team in Bangkok to begin using XERO for managing their projects in the coming months.

This year saw a range of improvements to our systems and processes, guided by the recommendations of an administrative review conducted by an external consultant. We are progressively strengthening our human resources management systems and are now maintaining a central online database of staff personnel, using EnableHR software. Over the next few months we will continue this process of revising and updating AFAO's HR-related policies and procedures.

As part of our transition to a smaller AFAO structure, we have consolidated our on- and off-site archives and most of AFAO's historical documents are now being transferred to the Noel Butlin National AIDS Archive Collection, Canberra.

Besides these changes, from next financial year we are also preparing to adopt the National Standard Chart of Accounts and related data dictionary – a tool recommended for non-profit organisations and funding agencies, including government departments. We believe that it will provide consistency for coding accounting categories, and will assist with streamlining our reports to funding agencies.

AFAO's financial management support to our project partners, Kapul Champions in Papua New Guinea and APCOM based in Bangkok, has concluded with the completion of our Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) projects. This year, our team also provided assistance to the international program's Global Fund SHIFT program concept note and budget development process, which has now successfully reached the Grant Making phase.



Terry Walkinshaw, Andrew Sajben and Renee Parker, National Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference, Sydney, June 2016.

As usual, all the statutory reporting and lodgings – such as the Annual Return, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Return, Financial Audit and Acquittals, Insurances, Activity Statement to Australian Tax Office – were all compliant with the requirements.

Throughout the year, the team played an integral role in the smooth running of a huge range of events. This included AFAO Board meetings and the Annual General Meeting, AFAO Members meetings as well as the African Reference Group meeting, Faith-Based Leaders meeting, the National Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference, the HIV & Mobility Health Promotion Forum, the National Policy Officers Network, Education Managers Forum, and many more.

Mike Hogan, our IT Consultant, continued to maintain IT-related services for staff and other stakeholders with assistance from Simon Donohoe, Manager of the AFAO Health Promotion Program. AFAO decided to migrate to a cloud-based IT management system, and the process was commenced this financial year. With Simon Donohoe departing from AFAO at the end of June, Renee has taken over the IT upgrade process, and is working closely with Mike Hogan to complete the migration soon.

With a smaller but revitalised AFAO, we again look forward to another challenging and busy year. We are committed to maintaining outstanding support to AFAO and all our stakeholders. ■

THE AFAO BOARD



Bridget Haire, President

Bridget Haire is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Australia where she studies ethical aspects of infectious diseases. Her research includes PrEP, HIV criminalisation and neglected tropical diseases. She has a strong commitment to the community sector and has worked in HIV and sexual and reproductive health in a range of different roles for more than 20 years. Bridget is a consultant for the Australia-China Human Rights Technical Co-operation Program on sexual and reproductive health rights for the Australian Human Rights Commission, and is a member of the Global Emerging Pathogens consortium. She has a Masters of Bioethics (Hons) and a Doctorate on standards of care in HIV prevention research.



Simon Ruth, Vice President

Simon Ruth is Chief Executive Officer at the Victorian AIDS Council (VAC). Prior to arriving at VAC, Simon spent twelve years at Peninsula Health where he was Director of Complex Services, overseeing a range of programs including alcohol and drugs, youth services, aged care, subacute programs and Aboriginal health. He has also worked for the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul Society and Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS). Simon has a keen interest in improving health services for PLHIV and the LGBTI communities. Simon is a member of the Victorian Health and Human Services LGBTI Advisory Committee. Simon is a current board member of VicHealth, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, and is a past board member and President of the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA).



Andrew Burry, Treasurer

Andrew is the Chief Executive Officer of the WA AIDS Council. Between 2007 and 2012 he was General Manager of the AIDS Action Council of the ACT. Prior to that, he spent two years as a fundraiser with the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre. Andrew's prior professional background in commerce includes the biotechnology, finance and advertising sectors. He has tertiary qualifications in marketing and finance. Andrew lectured marketing students for two years at Monash University, whilst also working as a volunteer announcer and current affairs presenter with JOY FM 94.9. Andrew has been involved with the ALSO Foundation and the Melbourne Queer Film Festival, and was a foundation member of the Board of the National LGBTI Health Alliance.



Joanne Leamy, Secretary

Joanne has served on the Board of Queensland AIDS Council since 2008 and became President in late 2012. Joanne is a Registered Nurse with over 20 years nursing and research experience in the fields of sexual health, HIV and hepatitis C. She holds an MA (Nursing) and has held sessional teaching positions at James Cook University, Griffith University and taught at University of Queensland HIV Courses. She is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Joanne has a teenage son and has undertaken various volunteering activities in her LGBTI community.



Chris Gough, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

Chris Gough is a strong advocate of harm reduction and firmly believes in consumer guided and driven programs. Classically educated as an entomologist, he transitioned to social health, working first in crisis accommodation and then entering the field of drug and alcohol and blood borne virus (HIV, hepatitis C, hepatitis B) prevention. This involved development and implementation of community development projects including front line needle and syringe program (NSP) outreach, peer education projects and policy work with the NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA). Chris is currently Manager of Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA), and also works as a Health Education Officer at Sydney's Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC), Uniting (formerly Unitingcare). He sits on the Board of AIVL (ex-officio), NUAA, the ACT Tobacco Alcohol and Other Drug Association (ATODA) and is a member of the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD).

Neville Fazulla, Anwernekenhe National HIV Alliance (ANA)



Neville is the current Chair of the Anwernekenhe National HIV Alliance (ANA). He is also Chair of PATSIN (Positive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Network) and the Co-chair of the ATSIHAW (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV Awareness Week) committee. Neville is of both Aboriginal (Western Arrernte and Yawarrarwarka) and Afghani descent. He has been actively involved for many years in social justice, human rights and the response to HIV in Australia and internationally within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and the non-Aboriginal community. Neville has have worked in both leadership and peer education roles in the HIV response and was involved in the establishment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project Officers in AIDS Councils within Australia.



Mish Pony, Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Worker Association

Mish Pony has been involved in the sex worker rights movement and LGBTIQ health for a number of years, starting as a queer officer at the University of Sydney and a facilitator of ACON's Fun & Esteem project. Mish was the Trans Sex Worker Representative for Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association 2009–2010, and 2011–2013, and International Spokesperson in 2010–2011. They are currently the Administration Officer for Scarlet Alliance; and are a collective member of Camp Out Inc., an organisation that puts on an annual camp of LGBTIQ teenagers. Mish has facilitated numerous workshops on trans*, queer and sex worker issues, as well as presenting at conferences around Australia. Mish also runs a trans woman zine distro in their spare time and is part of a collective establishing a queer, women-focused land project in the Hunter Valley.



David Menadue OAM, National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA)

David has served in a range of governance roles with HIV sector organisations in Victoria and nationally. These include being Vice-President and Board Member of Victorian AIDS Council for numerous terms since 1989, former President and Board Member of People living with HIV/AIDS Victoria (now Living Positive Victoria), Board member of AFAO and former President and current Board Member of NAPWHA. David is a former school teacher, retired since the nineties after several AIDS-defining illnesses. He has a particular interest in the service and policy needs of people living with HIV as they age. He was awarded an Order of Australia in 1995 and is the author of an autobiography, *Positive*.



Kim Gates, Ordinary Member

Kim has been employed with NTAHC since November 2012. Kim was initially employed as the Deputy Director and was promoted to Executive Director in March 2014. She holds a degree of Master of Indigenous Health, and has over 15 years' experience working in the areas of blood borne viruses, justice, Indigenous health and drug and alcohol in the non-government sector and the Commonwealth and Territory governments. Kim has extensive governance experience, and is passionate about improving health outcomes for Territorians, particularly Aboriginal people.



Karen Price, Ordinary Member

Karen Price has more than 18 years' experience working at senior levels in the health sector in federal and state government roles, as well as senior positions in the tertiary education and not-for-profit sectors. Karen has lead and managed significant pieces of policy and programmatic work across HIV, mental health, ageing and aged care and drug and alcohol sectors. Karen is an investigator on a number of research grants, and has a strong focus on strategic partnerships. Currently, Karen is the Deputy CEO of ACON – NSW's leading community-based HIV prevention and LGBTI health organisation.



Finn O'Keefe, Staff Representative

Finn O'Keefe is Senior Communications Officer at AFAO. Since 2008, he has worked as an editor of *HIV Australia*, as well as coordinating the production of many other print and online AFAO publications, including the annual report. He has over ten years' experience working in communications roles for various peak bodies and art and cultural organisations, and more than ten years' experience as a freelance audio producer for community film, TV and radio. He is also a Board Director at Queer Screen. Finn holds a Bachelor of Communication (Media Arts and Production), from the University of Technology, Sydney.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Andrew Burry

For a number of reasons, not least being financial, this year has been remarkably challenging. For most of the year, funding beyond 30 June 2016 was uncertain, however it was evident that in quantum terms it would be significantly less than AFAO has received in recent years. The Board's policy over recent years for prudent management of funds, together with ensuring modest and regular surpluses, ensured that the situation was able to be managed with a degree less urgency than might otherwise have been the case.

By the beginning of 2016, it became clear that it would be impossible to avoid redundancies. The Board's decision to make provision for these redundancies two years ago, meant certainty for all staff that sufficient cash was set aside to meet all entitlements, even in the event of the entire organisation winding up.

The Board anticipated that under the circumstances that had emerged it would be difficult to maintain an operating loss under \$75K.

The actual result for the year was an operating deficit of \$17,549. The costs for the seven positions that became redundant amounted to \$210,878, giving a comprehensive deficit of \$228,427. This was an excellent outcome, and it is important to acknowledge the work of Manager, Business Operations, Sarita Ghimire, the management team and all staff in producing this result while continuing to deliver the programs and activities of the organisation at very high quality.

The year ahead remains difficult and the Board has budgeted on a break-even basis. AFAO remained in robust financial health and had net equity \$650,909, with the majority of this held in cash. AFAO consequently has resources available from which to invest in its future, including in its international program. ■

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

In accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* the Board of Directors report as follows:

Board of Directors

The names of the Directors in the office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Bridget Haire – National President

Joanne Leamy – Secretary

Chris Gough

David Menadue

Mish Pony

Alison Coelho (Co-opted Director up to Nov 2015)

Heath Paynter (Co-opted Director from Jan 2016–June 2016)

Darryl O'Donnell – Ex Officio (from March 2016)

Simon Ruth- Vice President

Andrew Burry - Treasurer

Neville Fazulla

Kim Gates

Karen Price – Co-opted Director

Finn O'Keefe – Staff Representative

Rob Lake – Ex Officio (up to March 2016)

DIRECTORS' REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE 2016

	Board Meetings	
	Number Eligible To Attend	Number Attended
Burry, A	10	10
Coelho, A	3	2
Fazulla, N	10	7
Gates, K	10	9
Gough, C	10	7
Haire, B	10	10
Lake, R (Ex Officio)	5	5
Leamy, J	10	10
Menadue, D	10	7
O'Donnell, D (Ex Officio)	3	3
O'Keefe, F	10	10
Paynter, H	6	6
Pony, M	10	8
Price, K	9	7
Ruth, S	10	9

Principal Activities

The Principal Activities of the Federation during the financial year were:

- To stop the transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and generally to promote the health of groups at higher risk of HIV
- To assist people and households affected by HIV and AIDS by provision of material, emotional and social support;
- To educate and promote information, actions and awareness that minimises the risk of transmission of HIV; and
- To oppose discrimination against people living with or affected by HIV.

Significant Changes

No Significant Changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The deficit of the Federation for the year ended 30 June, 2016 amounted to \$228,427 (2015 surplus of \$70,551). This was mainly due to a long-standing contract coming to an end, resulting in seven positions becoming redundant. The cost of payouts was included in Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income amounting to \$210,878 which was the major factor for deficit of \$228,427 this financial year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors by:



Darryl O'Donnell

Chief Executive Officer



Andrew Burry

Treasurer

Dated this 16 day of September 2016



LBW & PARTNERS

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
ABN 80 618 803 443

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Telephone (02) 9411 4866 Fax (02) 9412 1143
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Web www.lbw.com.au

PARTNERS

George P Rochios
Mark W Willock
Rupa Dharmasiri
Alan M Perrott

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, as the auditor of Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2016, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Rupaninga Dharmasiri
Partner

LBW & Partners
Chartered Accountants
Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

DATED this *16th* day of *September* 2016



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under Professional Standards Legislation



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

ANALYSIS
INTERPRETATION
PLANNING

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	613,856	1,082,732
Financial Assets	5	737,464	457,655
Trade and other receivables	6	56,831	109,324
Security deposits and prepayments		16,640	17,080
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,424,791	1,666,791
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	64,498	83,492
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		64,498	83,492
TOTAL ASSETS		1,489,289	1,750,283
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	162,257	353,696
Grants in Advance	9	114,598	180,926
Provisions	10	548,549	290,910
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		825,404	825,532
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	12,976	45,415
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		12,976	45,415
TOTAL LIABILITIES		838,380	870,947
NET ASSETS		650,909	879,336
EQUITY			
Reserves	12	119,122	330,000
Retained earnings	11	531,787	549,336
TOTAL EQUITY		650,909	879,336

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
REVENUE			
Grants			
Commonwealth Funds – Dept. of Health	2	2,193,139	2,163,004
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2	372,294	887,894
Investment income		28,014	35,137
Other income		199,338	141,902
TOTAL REVENUE		2,792,785	3,227,937
EXPENDITURE			
International Program expenditure including salaries		473,811	883,905
Domestic Programs			
Domestic programs expenditure		545,059	550,138
Staffing		1,406,555	1,136,572
Administration		595,787	586,771
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		3,021,212	3,157,386
EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE		(228,427)	70,551
Other Comprehensive Income		—	—
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(228,427)	70,551

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2014	722,107	86,678	808,785
Excess of revenue over expenses	70,551	—	70,551
Transferred to or (from) Reserves	(243,322)	243,322	—
Balance at 30 June 2015	549,336	330,000	879,336
Excess of revenue over expenses	(228,427)	—	(228,427)
Transferred to or (from) Reserves	210,878	(210,878)	—
Balance at 30 June 2016	531,787	119,122	650,909

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	Inflows (Outflows) 2016 \$	Inflows (Outflows) 2015 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Australian Government Grants received		2,142,099	2,214,044
Interest Received		28,014	35,137
Other Grants/Income		608,837	1,027,896
Project Grant Costs		(1,052,105)	(1,317,234)
Payments to Employees and Suppliers		(1,915,912)	(1,928,829)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		(189,067)	31,014
Cash flow from investing activities			
(Increase) decrease in term deposits		(279,809)	378,751
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(279,809)	378,751
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(468,876)	409,765
Cash at beginning of year		1,082,732	672,967
Cash at end of year	4	613,856	1,082,732

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 16th September 2016 by the Board of Directors.

Basis of Preparation

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated has applied AASB 1053 from 1 July 2015. This standard establishes a differential financial reporting framework consisting of two Tiers of reporting requirements for preparing general purpose financial statements, being Tier 1 Australian Accounting Standards and Tier 2 Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements. The Federation being classed as Tier 2 continues to apply the full recognition and measurements requirements of Australian Accounting Standards with substantially reduced disclosure in accordance with AASB 2010-2 and later amending Standards, as relevant.

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards-Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2013*. The Federation is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

a) Income Tax

As a charitable institution for the purposes of Subdivision 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, the Federation is exempt from income tax.

b) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The Federation measures some of its assets at fair value on a recurring basis.

Fair value is the price the Federation would receive to sell an asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability in an orderly (i.e. unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market values may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset or liability. The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to Note 1(f) for details of impairment).

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Federation and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in profit or loss during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Leasehold improvements and furniture	20.00%
Office equipment	33.33%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing net proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they occur. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

d) Leases

Leases of fixed assets, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset (but not the legal ownership) are transferred to the Federation, are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recognising an asset and a liability at the lower of the amount equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the Federation will obtain ownership of the asset or ownership over the term of the lease.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as expenses on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

e) Financial Instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the Federation commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (ie trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss" in which case transaction costs are recognised immediately as expenses in profit or loss.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest method, or cost.

Amortised cost is calculated as the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments and any reduction for impairment, and adjusted for any cumulative amortisation of the difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount calculated using the *effective interest method*.

(i) *Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss*

Financial assets are classified at "fair value through profit or loss" when they are held for trading for the purpose of short-term profit taking, derivatives not held for hedging purposes, or when they are designated as such to avoid an accounting mismatch or to enable performance evaluation where a group of financial assets is managed by key management personnel on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy. Such assets are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in carrying amount being included in profit or loss.

(ii) *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

(iii) *Held-to-maturity investments*

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the Federation's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

(iv) *Available-for-sale investments*

Available-for-sale investments are non-derivative financial assets that are either not capable of being classified into other categories of financial assets due to their nature or they are designated as such by management.

(v) *Financial liabilities*

Non-derivative financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial liability is derecognised.

Impairment

A financial asset (or a group of financial assets) is deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events (a "loss event") having occurred, which has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset(s).

In the case of available-for-sale financial assets, a significant or prolonged decline in the market value of the instrument is considered to constitute a loss event. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss immediately. Also, any cumulative decline in fair value previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified into profit or loss at this point.

In the case of financial assets carried at amortised cost, loss events may include: indications that the debtors or a group of debtors are experiencing significant financial difficulty, default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; indications that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation; and changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate with defaults.

When the terms of financial assets that would otherwise have been past due or impaired have been renegotiated, the Federation recognises the impairment for such financial assets by taking into account the original terms as if the terms have not been renegotiated so that the loss events that have occurred are duly considered.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual right to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the related obligations are discharged or cancelled, or have expired. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

f) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Federation assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard (eg in accordance with the revaluation model in AASB 116). Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other Standard.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Federation estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

g) Employee Benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the Federation's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Federation's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

Other long-term employee benefits

Provision is made for employees' annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any re-measurements of obligations for other long-term employee benefits for changes in assumptions are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The Federation's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Federation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

h) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

i) Trade and Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from third parties. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment. Refer to Note 1(f) for further discussion on the determination of impairment losses.

j) Revenue and Other Income

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the Federation obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the Federation and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the Federation incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

The Federation receives non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in profit or loss.

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

k) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

l) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

m) Trade and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liabilities outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Federation during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

n) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Federation has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

o) Foreign Currency Transactions and Balances

Foreign currency transactions during the year are converted to Australian currency at the rates of exchange applicable at the dates of the transactions. Amounts receivable and payable in foreign currencies at balance date are converted at the rates of exchange ruling at that date.

p) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated in the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Federation.

(i) Key Estimates

Impairment

The Federation assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the Federation that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

(i) Key Judgements

Employee benefits

For the purpose of measurement, AASB 119: *Employee Benefits* (September 2011) defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related services. As the Federation expects that all of its employees would use all of their annual leave entitlements earned during a reporting period before 12 months after the end of the reporting period, the Federation believes that obligations for annual leave entitlements satisfy the definition of short term employee benefits and, therefore, can be measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid to employees when the obligations are settled.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 2: Revenue and Other Income

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Commonwealth Funds:		
Dept. of Health - Health Peak and Advisory Bodies Program	362,970	409,506
Dept. of Health - Communicable Disease Prevention and Service Improvement Program	1,830,169	1,753,498
	<hr/> 2,193,139	<hr/> 2,163,004
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Funds		
DFAT PNG MSM Project	209,450	233,035
DFAT Regional HIV Capacity Building Program	90,561	563,647
DFAT Australian Awards Fellowships (AAF)	—	91,212
DFAT Bridging Fund for AFAO International Program	72,283	—
	<hr/> 372,294	<hr/> 887,894

Note 3: Auditors' Remuneration

Remuneration of the auditor of the Federation for:

— Auditing or reviewing the financial report: paid to Masselos Grahame Masselos	—	22,000
— Auditing or reviewing the financial report: paid to LBW & Partners	16,450	5,000
	<hr/> 16,450	<hr/> 27,000
Other services paid to LBW & Partners	—	400
	<hr/> —	<hr/> 400

Note 4: Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash at bank	430,903	979,664
Short-term bank deposits (up to 3 months)	182,253	102,368
Cash on hand	700	700
	<hr/> 613,856	<hr/> 1,082,732

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	613,856	1,082,732
	<hr/> 613,856	<hr/> 1,082,732

Note 5: Financial Assets

Held to maturity investments – Term Deposits	737,464	457,655
	<hr/> 737,464	<hr/> 457,655

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 6: Trade and Other Receivables		
Member Organisations	18,226	3,951
International Program	—	102,321
Health Sector Organisations	18,000	1,790
Other miscellaneous	20,605	1,262
	<hr/> 56,831	<hr/> 109,324

Note 7: Property, Plant and Equipment

Office furniture at cost	4,496	47,299
Accumulated depreciation	(1,859)	(41,133)
Total office furniture	<hr/> 2,637	<hr/> 6,166
Leasehold improvements		
At cost	113,714	113,714
Accumulated depreciation	(51,853)	(36,388)
Total Leasehold Improvements	<hr/> 61,861	<hr/> 77,326
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<hr/> 64,498	<hr/> 83,492

Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Leasehold Improvements \$	Office Furniture \$	Total \$
Balance at the beginning of the year	77,326	6,166	83,492
Disposals	—	(1,914)	(1,914)
Depreciation expense	(15,465)	(1,615)	(17,080)
Carrying amount at the end of year	<hr/> 61,861	<hr/> 2,637	<hr/> 64,498

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 8: Trade and Other Payables		
CURRENT		
Trade payables	144,492	268,911
GST Payable	(14,833)	22,049
PAYG Tax	16,974	17,585
Superannuation and Employee Benefits	15,624	8,680
APCOM HIVOS Fund balance	—	36,471
	<hr/> 162,257	<hr/> 353,696

Note 9: Grants in Advance

Health Department Grants – Commonwealth and State	—	51,040
International Program Grants	84,085	129,886
Other Grants	30,513	—
	<hr/> 114,598	<hr/> 180,926

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 10: Provisions		
Employee Benefits		
Current – Annual Leave, Long Service Leave and Accrued Salaries	337,671	290,910
Current – Provision for Redundancies	210,878	—
	<hr/> 548,549	<hr/> 290,910
Non-Current	<hr/> 12,976	<hr/> 45,415

The provision relating to employees with 5 or more years of service is recorded as a current liability and the provision relating to employees with 0 to 5 years of service (i.e. not statutorily liable), is treated as a non-current liability pursuant to negotiated employment contracts of AFAO staff. Based on past experience, the Federation expects the full amount of annual leave balance to be settled within next 12 months. Further, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the Federation does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlements.

The provision for redundancies was created to account for seven redundant positions effective from 1st July, 2016. The full amount was settled to employee in early July 2016.

Note 11: Retained Earnings

Retained earnings at beginning of year	549,336	722,107
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	(228,427)	70,551
Transfer (to) from Redundancy Reserves	210,878	(243,322)
Retained earnings at the end of the year	<hr/> 531,787	<hr/> 549,336

Note 12: Redundancy Reserve

Opening balance	330,000	86,678
Transfer (to) from retained earnings	(210,878)	243,322
Balance at end of the year	<hr/> 119,122	<hr/> 330,000

Note 13: Financial Risk Management

The Federation's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, receivables and payables. The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139, as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	613,856	1,082,732
Trade and other receivable	6	56,831	109,324
Held to maturity investments – term deposits	5	737,464	457,655
Total financial assets		<hr/> 1,408,151	<hr/> 1,649,711
Financial liabilities			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost:			
Trade and other payables	8	162,257	353,696
Total financial liabilities		<hr/> 162,257	<hr/> 353,696

The Treasurer's overall risk management strategy seeks to ensure that the Federation meets its financial targets, while minimising potential adverse effects of cash flow shortfalls.

Financial assets pledged as collateral

Term deposits amounting to \$30,000 and \$45,000 (2015: \$30,000 and \$45,000) have been held by the bank as security for AFAO Newtown office lease and staff payroll respectively.

Fair Values

Cash, Trade and other receivables, and Trade and other payables are short-term instruments in nature whose carrying amount is equivalent to fair value.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 14: Economic Dependency

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated is reliant upon continuing government funding to operate as a going concern.

Note 15: Key Management Personnel Compensation

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Key management personnel compensation	654,526	579,552
	<hr/> 654,526	<hr/> 579,552

Note 16: Operating Lease Commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements

Payable – minimum lease payments

– not later than 12 months	115,974	138,032
– between 12 months and 5 years	39,037	156,709
– greater than 5 years	—	—
	<hr/> 155,011	<hr/> 294,741

Note 17: Events after the Balance Date

- a) No material events that affect the Federation or these financial statements have occurred since balance date requiring disclosure.
- b) The financial report was authorised for issue on the 16th September, 2016.

Note 18: Federation Details

The registered office of the Federation is:

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated
 Level 1
 222 King Street
 Newtown NSW 2042

Responsible Entity's Declaration

In the opinion of the Board of Directors of Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated:

- a) The financial statements and notes of Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - i. Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
- b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Darryl O'Donnell
Chief Executive Officer



Andrew Burry
Treasurer

Dated this 16 day of September 2016

**LBW & PARTNERS**

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
ABN 80 618 803 443

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PARTNERS

George P Rochios
Mark W Willock
Rupa Dharmasiri
Alan M Perrott

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS
INCORPORATED**

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in accumulated funds and reserves and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the responsible entity's declaration.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The directors of the Federation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards-Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Federation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the director, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



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INTERPRETATION
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PARTNERS

George P Rochios
Mark W Willock
Rupa Dharmasiri
Alan M Perrott

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED

OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report of Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated is in accordance with the requirements of the with Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and , including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Federation's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Rupaninga Dharmasiri

Partner

LBW & Partners

Level 3

845 Pacific Highway

CHATSOOD NSW 2067

Dated this 20th day of September 2016



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DISCLAIMER

The additional financial data presented in the attached detailed income and expenditure statement is in accordance with the books and records of the Federation which have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our statutory audit of the Federation for the year ended 30 June 2016. It will be appreciated that our statutory audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial data and we give no warranty of accuracy or reliability in respect of the data provided. Neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person (other than Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Incorporated) in respect of such data, including any errors of omissions therein however caused.

Rupaninga Dharmasiri
Partner
LBW & Partners
Chartered Accountants

Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

Dated this 20th day of September 2016



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AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue		
Grants		
Commonwealth Funds – Department of Health & Ageing	2,193,139	2,163,004
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	372,294	887,894
Investment Income – Interest	28,014	35,137
Other Income	199,338	141,902
	2,792,785	3,227,937
Expenditure		
International Program Cost (excluding Salaries)	335,041	679,624
Domestic Program Costs (excluding Salaries)	545,059	552,996
Administration		
Audit	16,450	27,000
Bank Charges	2,072	2,001
Bad Debt	2,153	—
Contractors Fees	94,375	55,849
Donation/Gift	200	—
Depreciation Expense	17,080	21,591
Employee Assistance Program	5,650	1,785
Insurance	24,500	19,325
Meeting Expenses	19,049	18,060
Office Equipment Expense	10,934	15,082
Postage & Freight	2,716	1,848
Professional Fees	4,180	—
Loss on Disposal of Assets	1,914	—
Rent and Electricity	68,597	84,700
Relocation/Refurbishment Costs	8,309	—
Repairs and Maintenance	41,190	57,777
Resources and Subscriptions	20,019	29,122
Salaries and Wages (including International and domestic)	1,534,421	1,325,582
Staffing On-costs (includes professional development costs)	14,487	19,755
Stationery and Office Supplies	12,798	9,221
Superannuation	115,483	116,801
Telephone, Facsimile and Internet	15,944	13,829
Travel	74,517	77,843
Website	31,763	27,594
WorkCover Compliance	2,311	—
	3,021,212	3,157,386
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(228,427)	70,551



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS

Leading the community response to HIV

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS

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