



ABORIGINAL PROJECT

Keeping you informed of the services ACON offers across NSW to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, sistergirls and HIV+ people.



ABORIGINAL PROJECT UPDATE

A lot has happened for the Aboriginal Project this year. ACON have moved premises (see right), there is a new staff member (page 3) and best of all The First Australians Float won the Say Something Award in the 2011 Mardi Gras parade. This fabulous award would have not been possible without the help, support and dedication from participants, volunteers and community members. We would like to say thank you very much to everyone involved.

So what do we have planned for the rest of the year? Our Health Retreat of course! This year we want you to come and join us for a pre – festive season retreat which will help you in being refreshed and prepared for the coming silly season and the following New Year. The retreat dates are 16 – 19 December and all applications close Friday 9 December 2011. See poster attached for further details.

And that's not all. We have lots more to say so please read on

NEW SYDNEY HOME FOR ACON

On Tuesday 19th October 2011 the new ACON premises here at 414 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills were officially opened. The morning started with ACON CEO Nicolas Parkhill introducing Aunty Millie Ingram, a Wiradjuri woman and cultural representative from the Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program in Redfern.

Aunty Millie then proceeded to enchant us all with a wonderful and heart felt Welcome to Country. This was followed by an impressive opening speech from the NSW Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner.

Come along to our Community Afternoon Tea in our Wellbeing Café on Wednesday 9 November from 2:30pm and check out our new building. RSVP to David on 9206 2113.



From left: NSW Minister for Health & Medical Research Jillian Skinner, ACON President Mark Orr, ACON CEO Nicolas Parkhill, Aunty Millie Ingram, The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP for Wentworth, Don Harwin MLC, President of the Legislative Council.

NEWS IN BRIEF:

New Staff (Page 3)

An introduction by David Oxenbridge

Resources (Page 4)

The Birds & the Birds

However You Wanna See Me, I'm Just Me

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Community Afternoon Tea (Pages 3)

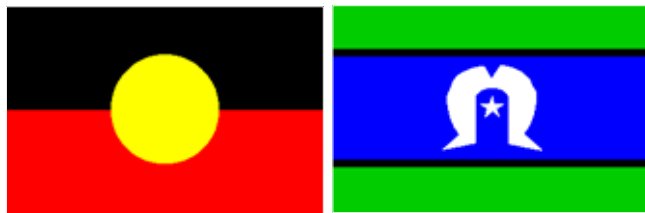
Have you been to ACON before? Interested in the Retreat but don't know who is running it?

COMPETITION

Name the Retreat (Page 6)

Name the Aboriginal health retreat and win a \$200 Christmas hamper.

WHAT WE DO



THE ABORIGINAL PROJECT

In the project we are here for the community, our staff members are Team Leader Meggan Grose and Aboriginal Health Promotion Officer David Oxenbridge.

Together we are working on the 2011 Health Retreat for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people living with HIV.

We will be reinvigorating ACON's Aboriginal Advisory Group, coordinating a community parade entry for the 2012 Mardi Gras parade, developing an Aboriginal women's HIV awareness postcard, and distributing thousands of safe sex packs and sexual health resources.

We would love to hear your ideas and input so please get in touch with the Aboriginal Project and see how you can be involved.

Just visit www.acon.org.au/aboriginal or call 1800 063 060.

CONTACT

MEGGAN GROSE

Aboriginal Project Team Leader

Phone: (02) 9206 2042

Email: mgrose@acon.org.au

DAVID OXENBRIDGE

Aboriginal Project

Phone: (02) 9206 2113

Email: doxenbridge@acon.org.au

ACON

Address: 414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Freecall: 1800 063 600

Web: www.acon.org.au



ACON



PEER EDUCATION GROUPS

ACON provides a range of programs on sex, sexual health, techniques relationships, getting to know the Sydney scene, health and wellbeing.

ACON also has counselling and therapy groups you may be interested in.

Programs available are the Young Women's Project, the Fun & Esteem Project (for guys) and Mature Age Gays (MAG). We can also offer you assistance with travel to attend this group. Just contact Meggan on 9206 2042.

These groups and services are easy to access for everyone in the community, please call us to check them out.

Contact: Reception
Phone: (02) 9206 2000
Freecall: 1800 063 060
Email: acon@acon.org.au

WOMEN'S DAY

The Women & Families Affected by HIV Project offers a women's only group which comes together every third Monday of the month.

Activities are varied and have included art & craft workshops, a walking group, massage therapy, HIV treatment updates and yoga sessions.

All activities and meals are provided free of charge. Why not call today and find out what's happening at the next Women's Day.

If you need assistance with travel to attend this group please contact Meggan on 9206 2042

Contact: Women & Families Project
Phone: (02) 9206 2000
Email: family@acon.org.au



NEW STAFF



AN INTRODUCTION TO DAVID OXENBRIDGE

Hello to all! I was born in Kununurra in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia. My Grandfather, Grandmother, Mother and Uncle were taken to Oombulgurri Mission in WA. Her mob on her father's side was originally from the Gidja nation around Turkey Creek. My Australian father is from here in Sydney.

In my early childhood I lived a semi-traditional nomadic lifestyle with my family in and around the Kimberley's as well as visiting Sydney for the first time at 18 months old.

I have enjoyed travelling this beautiful country of ours throughout my life and for the past 8 years I have been living back here in Sydney.

I have been working in this position as the Aboriginal Health Promotion Officer for the ACON Aboriginal Project since June 2011.

Totally looking forward to meeting more of the community.

OPPORTUNITY

ACON ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Aboriginal Advisory Group meets once every 3 months to advise ACON on improving Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander people's access to our programs and services.

Please visit our website www.acon.org.au/aboriginal and click on the 'Get Involved' tab to apply to join this group.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



IN MEMORY

2010- 2011 has been a very sad time in the life of the Aboriginal Project. We have lost two staff members, Michael Blakeney - Campbell and Cassandra Anderson. They will be deeply missed and greatly admired for their work with the Aboriginal Project.

EVENT

COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA

Have you been to ACON before? Interested in the Retreat but don't know who is running it?

Come along for some yummy afternoon tea made in house at our Wellbeing Café and meet the Aboriginal Project team. Have a tour of our new building and pick up some info about our Retreat, our programs and our services.

What: Afternoon Tea
When: Wednesday 9 November 2011 from 2:30pm until 3:30pm
Where: Wellbeing Café Ground Floor
ACON 414 Elizabeth St Surry Hills

Contact: David Oxenbridge
RSVP: doxenbridge@acon.org.au
Freecall: 1800 063 060



HIV WELLNESS PROGRAM CALENDAR



REGULAR PROGRAMS

CONDOM PACKING GROUP

Shane and David run a table dedicated to making "safe packs" that are distributed throughout Sydney. Join the group to help us continue this important work of the Wellbeing Café.

EDEN GARDEN GROUP

Keith and his band of volunteers meet every Thursday morning. Come and make some new friends, learn some gardening skills and hopefully get some sun (remember your Vitamin D levels). Eden Garden is located in the grounds of the Uniting Church 56A Raglan St Waterloo.

IN-REACH SERVICES

BGF

A staff member from the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation is available weekly at the Monday Luncheon Club in the Wellbeing Café to answer any questions or issues around the services they offer their clients. This includes practical support, referrals as well as financial counseling and advice. Please ask staff for the dates they are available, alternatively contact BGF direct.

HALC

An HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) staff members attends the Tuesday Breakfast every 2nd Tuesday from 10am -12pm to answer your legal questions. This is conducted in a confidential space. Please check the calendar to see which dates they are in attendance. Clients are seen at a first come first served basis so please see reception to have your name put on the list.

HIV WELLNESS PROGRAM CLIENT SUPPORT

The Treatments and Client Support Officer is available on Wednesdays between 12pm – 2pm to provide information around new developments in services and treatments, make appointments with you and assist with referrals.

For more information

Contact: The HIV Wellness Program
Phone: (02) 9206 2000
Email: hwp@acon.org.au

RESOURCES



THE BIRDS & THE BIRDS

The Birds & the Birds: The Lesbian Sex Workbook is the first booklet of its kind for young, same-sex attracted women.

The booklet contains important and helpful information about sex between women, and how to look after your sexual health and wellbeing as well as your partner/s.

This resource is in a workbook style.

For more information

Contact: The Young Women's Project
Phone: (02) 9206 2197
Email: youngwomen@acon.org.au

ACON RESOURCES

ACON produces a range of publications including campaign posters, booklets, pamphlets, postcards and other information resources on a variety of issues around HIV/AIDS as well as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender health. ACON also has a selection of female and safe sex packs available.

If you would like to order any of our resources, you can call (02) 9206 2000 or access an order form online at: <http://www.acon.org.au/get-involved/Get-Info/Publications>

HOWEVER YOU WANNA SEE ME, I'M JUST ME

This booklet features stories of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander gay men, lesbians and sisters and hope to contribute to combating homophobia and transphobia.

These are real stories that will leave you with inspiration, strength and admiration for our brothers, sisters and sisters of Australia.

A must read and need resource.



You can download copies from:

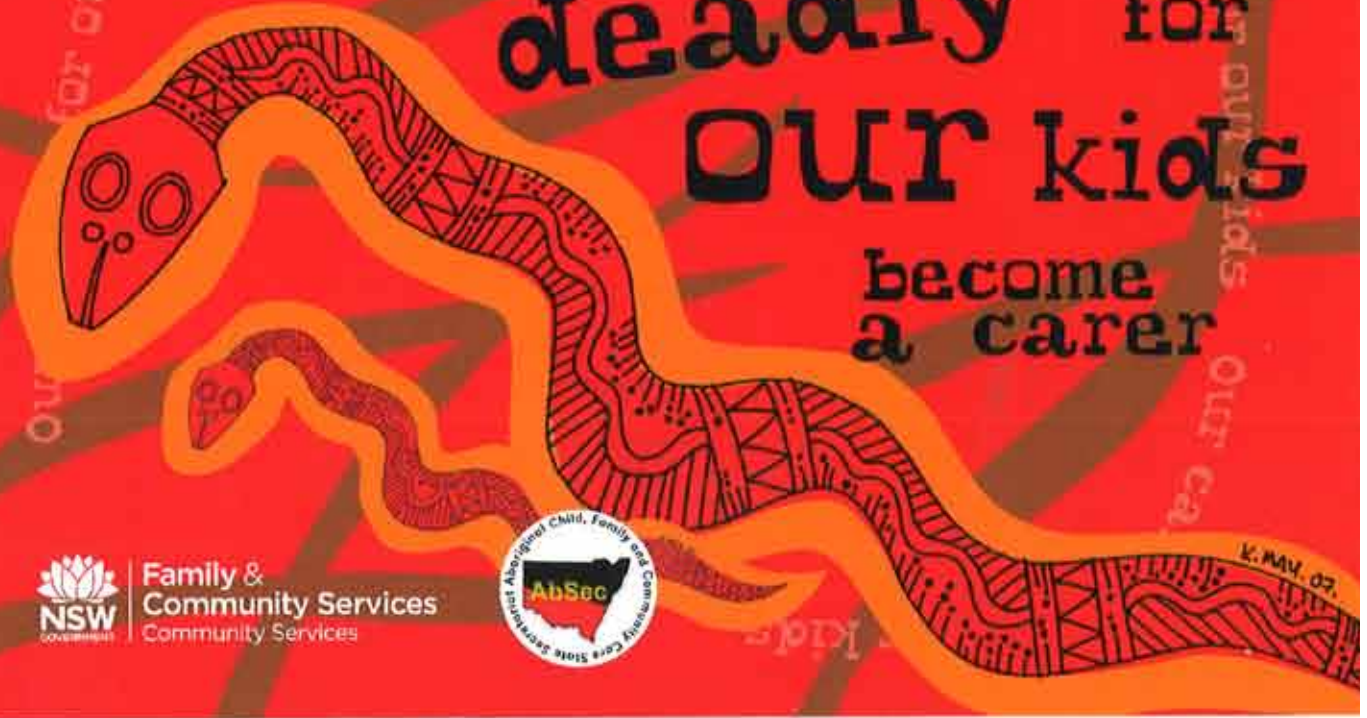
www.acon.org.au/aboriginal or call us at the Aboriginal Project and we can send you copies.

our carers for our kids

our carers for our kids

Do something deadly for OUR kids

become a carer



Family & Community Services
Community Services



K.MAY.07

Become a carer

Aboriginal carers provide Aboriginal kids with a safe and caring home. This helps kids stay connected with their culture and community.

You don't need to have lots of money or a big house – but you do need to have a safe and tidy home and love kids. Anyone over 18 years of age can apply to become a foster carer.

There are different types of carers – kinship carers, foster carers, and support carers who look after children for a shorter time.

Carers play an important role in the lives of Aboriginal children. Our kids need love and support to grow up strong and healthy.

www.community.nsw.gov.au/fostercare

There are Aboriginal caseworkers in each region to help support Aboriginal carers. There is also training, foster carer support groups, activities and events for the kids and families and more!

Carers receive a fortnightly allowance to help with the cost of caring for the children in your care.

Why not speak to an Aboriginal caseworker about becoming a carer?

OUR CARERS FOR OUR KIDS

Information session
3rd November 2011 6pm
Redfern Community Centre
29-53 Hugo Street Redfern

Please register interest with:
Jenaya Baxter-Learey - 8303 7644

Our carers for our kids

0111-0175

EVENT



Left:
Brian Doyle and
Christine Blakeney

Right: Ayesha Kazan



Below: Cookie



WALLA MULLA NAIDOC 2011

This year for NAIDOC we spent the day at Woolloomooloo. The ACON Aboriginal Project had a FAB stall at this event. We had a Harley Motorbike Sportster on the day where community members were able to have their photo taken riding on it. They then picked it up from ACON Sydney. This activity was first developed by Vickie Bardon (SHAIDS Lismore) and ACON Northern Rivers for their NAIDOC celebrations a few years ago. Here are some of our great pics.

COMPETITION



NAME THE ABORIGINAL HEALTH RETREAT AND WIN A \$200 CHRISTMAS HAMPER

For many years now the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander retreat for people living with HIV has been called 'the Aboriginal Health Retreat' and it's about time for an upgrade to something more special.

Aboriginal people in NSW living with HIV are invited to submit ideas for a new name for the Aboriginal health retreat. Put your thinking cap on and come up with something you would like the Aboriginal health retreat to be called.

Submit your suggestion before 31 October 2011:

Online through the form at:

<http://www.acon.org.au/communities/aboriginal/news/name-the-health-retreat-competition>

Phone: 1800 063 060

Email: mgrose@acon.org.au

All suggestions will be put on the ACON website from 1 Nov - 1 Dec 2011 where people can vote anonymously for them. The suggested retreat name with the most votes at close of business 1 December 2011 wins.

All personal details about entrants will be kept strictly confidential with only the suggested retreat names being made public. The winner will be contacted privately by the Aboriginal Project on 2 December to discuss delivery of the prize.

More info

Contact: Meggan Grose, Team Leader

Phone: (02) 9206 2042

Email: mgrose@acon.org.au

2011 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Retreat

16 -19 December 2011

Applications are now being accepted for this years Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Retreat. The Retreat is for those living with HIV, and one carer/family member/friend. Children are most welcome.



Have a break before the hectic Festive Season!

Join other Aboriginal people living with HIV for some great food, relaxation, reconnecting back to country, good yarns and the latest information about living well with HIV. There will be sessions outside, lots of free time and an art session. All participants will have their own room and all sessions are voluntary – come to as many or as few sessions as you wish. At the end of the Retreat join us for a very special Festive Season Dinner.

Talk to your community worker or call ACON's Aboriginal Project Team for an application form today as places are limited.

ABORIGINAL PROJECT TEAM

Meggan Grose (02) 9206 2042
mgrose@acon.org.au
Free call 1800 063 069

David Oxenbridge (02) 9206 2113
doxenbridge@acon.org.au
www.acon.org.au/aboriginal

acon
BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S
HEALTH & WELLBEING

wherever sex happens
slip it on



acon

For more info on gay men's health, pleasure and risk, go to:

www.whereversexhappens.org.au