



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

We've been in a whirlwind of activity over the last couple of months here at the Aboriginal Project!

To keep you up to date with what's been happening.....

February 15 - **Fair Day** at Victoria Park the event that kicked off the Mardi Gras Festival. We held a stall promoting our project and upcoming events and there was a deadly performance by the House of BlackSTAR dancers on the main stage!



Meggan & Cassandra at Fair Day Stall



Shaun Edwards at Still Black opening night

February 20 - the **Strong Black Symposium** where a panel discussed the issues and challenges faced by the Indigenous GLBT&S community. It was also the opening night of the **Still Black Exhibition at Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative** which was a great success with over 100 community members attending the event showcasing the amazing artworks of Aboriginal and non-Indigenous artists including Jeffrey Samuels, Tony Albert and Adam Hill.

February 28 – **House of BlackSTAR** dance party held at the Oxford Art Factory featuring an incredible line up of performers... international headliners The Ones and Peppermint, Aboriginal drag diva Ms Brown Shuga, the Gurlz Kandee dancers, comedian Black Sambucca, Miss Ellaneous, Charity Case, DJs Sveta and Silver B. It was a great night of fun, entertainment, and serious leg shakin'!



It was also the launch of our new resource **“However You Wanna See Me, I’m Just Me”** developed by ACON in conjunction with the NSW Attorney General’s Department. The resource hopes to contribute to combating homophobia and transphobia and features stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gay men, lesbians and sistergirls. If you would like a copy please contact Cassandra Anderson at canderson@acon.org.au or on 02 9206 2113



March 7 – Our entry in this years' **Mardi Gras Parade** was **Black: In Darkness All Colours Agree**. The entry featured a float with Peppermint and her dancers who performed live all the way along the parade route wowing the crowds. But the people who really made our entry were the 40-odd community members who came from all around Australia to participate and march showing their pride as proud "out" blackfellas. We also had a number of community supporters including local elders cruising along in a flash red Cadillac gratefully provided by AMS Redfern.

From all of us here at the Aboriginal Project, we would like to say a big THANK YOU to every one who participated for making it such a deadly night and we hope to see you all again next year!

We have included some photos from the night below. To check out more photos from the night visit the web <http://www.acon.org.au/communities/aboriginal/Events/Mardi-Gras>



The Aboriginal Project is currently **recruiting** for two new positions. **Peer Education** officer and **Health Promotion Activities** officer. If you are interested in applying please visit our website <http://www.acon.org.au/about-acon/jobs> or contact us for further details. Be quick! Applications close Friday 27th March.

We are also seeking applications from interested people to **join** our **Aboriginal Advisory Group**. The group assists ACON by providing feedback and input on our education campaigns, events and outreach services, participating in our strategic planning activities and reviewing and commenting on our business plan and staff work plans.

If you have... * knowledge of the NSW Aboriginal gay, lesbian, bisexual, sistergirl or HIV positive communities * experience working in adult education * an interest in Aboriginal programs and services * energy, time and a commitment to attend four, 2 hour meetings a year. We would love to hear from you. Please call Meggan on 9206 2042, email mgrose@acon.org.au visit our website for further information.

The Aboriginal project exists to help NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to minimise the impact of HIV and STIs and to assist those living with HIV to live healthy lives.

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Want to know what's coming up? Bookmark us at
www.acon.org.au/aboriginal