



National LGBT Health Alliance

Sector: Health advocacy, research and programs in relation to sexual and gender diversity

Location: National (Australia), office in Sydney

Who we are

We are a coalition of organisations from across Australia which provide health-related programs, services and research targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other sexuality and gender diverse people (LGBT).

What we do

We work to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBT people by advocating for greater recognition of their health needs as well as the provision of adequate funding for program delivery and research. We work with national legislators and policy-makers, non-government organisations in the health and human rights sectors, the corporate sector, and individuals.

We aim to:

- develop a national agenda for LGBT health and wellbeing
- advocate with one voice on LGBT health needs at a national level
- build political commitment to the support of LGBT health
- improve access to national funding for LGBT health projects
- share information and resources to build capacity in the LGBT health sector
- assist in the identification of social determinants that have health implications for LGBT communities
- work co-operatively

Why we do it

There is evidence of significant differences in the health and wellbeing of Australians according to their sexual orientation and gender identities. LGBT people tend to have disproportionately negative health outcomes. Research suggests that this is related to social determinants, such as experience of discrimination, which is also related to reduced access to appropriate health care.

How we do it

We work to improve LGBT health in different ways, including:

- developing evidence-based policy papers and position statements through national working groups and networks
- using these to lobby federal politicians and other decision-makers, and to advocate for changes in public health policy and greater resources for LGBT health
- helping members of the Alliance to share resources and implement programs and activities in their communities that will improve the health and wellbeing of LGBT people

Our Current Focus

We work across a broad range of health areas, including

- ageing and issues facing older LGBT Australians
- sexual health, including HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- drug, alcohol and tobacco use in LGBT communities
- the mental health of LGBT Australians
- violence and homophobia
- health and wellbeing of people living with HIV/AIDS
- researching LGBT health
- recognising LGBT relationships and removing discrimination
- the link between health and human rights

Where we have come from

- Originating out of community-based organisations with an HIV/AIDS focus, the Alliance is one of the first organisations of its kind in the world. We formally launched at Australia's Parliament House in August 2007.
- Our founding members have played a key role in LGBT health in their respective states and across Australia, particularly leading the community aspect of Australia's successful response to HIV/AIDS. Each of these organisations holds high brand recognition and strong goodwill within the communities in which they work.
- Founding members of the Alliance:
 - AIDS Council of New South Wales (ACON)
 - Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC)
 - AIDS Action Council of the ACT (AACACT)
 - Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria (GLHV)
 - AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA)
 - Victorian AIDS Council (VAC)
 - Western Australia AIDS Council (WAAC)
 - Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC)
 - Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis & Related Diseases (TasCAHRD)
 - Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
- In 2008 we began to put in place legal, organisational and personnel structures to establish an independent, national membership-based organisation. The Alliance is now a not-for-profit public company, governed by a constitution and a Board of Directors.
- In 2009 we will be opening membership to other non-government organisations working within LGBT health and broader LGBT issues, not-for-profit and corporate supporters, and individuals.

For more information, please contact:

Gabi Rosenstreich
Executive Director, National LGBT Health Alliance
PO Box 350, Darlinghurst, NSW 1300, Australia
Phone: +61 2 9206 2054
Fax: +61 2 9206 2069
Mobile: 0437 876 824
Email: gabi.rosenstreich@lgbthealth.org.au
www.lgbthealth.org.au (coming soon!)