



# Annual Report

2008

## **Executive Officer**

This year we have had low but steady numbers of new members, unfortunately as reflected in the latest data, infection rates are continuing to happen across a broad demographic, we continue to bring this to the attention of the Department and raise surveillance issues with the sector. Staff board and volunteers have undertaken professional development activities to enable the service to continue delivering appropriate support and services for both new and existing members with an emphasis on cultural competencies.

The office / drop in space continued to challenge us with very limited space and often overflowing with people. We continue to provide advocacy to individuals on issues of access, immigration and equity. As part of the latter we have representation on numerous boards and advisory committees including a representative seat on PLWHA Board ensuring that heterosexual men and all women living with HIV have a voice and meaningful participation in relevant decisions and policy making at all levels of the HIV sector and broader community.

## **The Chairperson**

Strategic planning this year found the board exploring opportunities for maximizing resources to continue to deliver services support and advocacy. This has been a difficult year for the board, trying to plan for a sustainable future, consulting with Human Services to ensure a suitable outcome in the integrated service model.

With a good understanding of governance and the work to be done board members have undertaken projects, volunteered in support capacities and represented the organization at many workshops, attended training opportunities, taken their place on community reference groups, advisory committees, and boards. Peer based organisations often struggle as we have to engage the board in high levels of participation. This year the board have managed to find a good balance and shared the burden between all serving members. We are fortunate that many board members will nominate again for the board which puts us in a good position for 2009



## **Peer Support Program / Health Promotion Activities**

Care and support are the activities we are funded to provide. Our program involves a range of opportunities for people to meet with others and share their experiences. Regular dinners and social activities allow for people to attend on their own or with family and friends. These events continue to be well attended with feedback allowing us to adapt future events to suit our member's needs.

Alongside support we believe health promotion is essential, providing a range of workshops and events where members and their families can access information and share experiences to give them tools to better manage living with HIV. This has included workshops like myths and facts, getting the most out of your diet, and publication of new resources like sex matters.

Flexibility with staffing has allowed us to continue with two general support workers, one project officer, one day of admin support, and the executive officer who continues to provide support activities when required.

We continue to offer men's only support including specific workshops, one to one support, and social activities like the AFL and lunches. Fridays we have a drop in space staffed by our male support worker and volunteers.

The women's swimming group continues into its third year with different women attending on a fluctuating basis. The St Kilda sea baths support this program allowing women and their children to access the salt water and hot pools.

The AIDS `trust of Australia and the Elton john foundation funded a significant health promotion activity allowing eight people from across the sector the opportunity to tell their own stories in a digital format with the help and support of the Australian Centre for moving image. This project to date has had far reaching outcomes, with requests coming in daily for the stories to be shown in the broader community like, Foxtel, Standard Chartered Bank, Health care training providers, universities and the list goes on.

## **Outreach**

Our support worker attends Melbourne Sexual health Centre meeting and talking with people who are not necessarily engaged or linked in with other services.

Rural outreach continues to play a vital role for those members who are not able to come to Melbourne, our visits to rural areas have reduced this year with limited capacity to get staff or volunteers traveling the long distances. Email and phone contact have become a vital part of supporting our members and their families who live in rural Victoria. Collaboration with the Country AIDS network has ensured that referrals are appropriate and positive people know where to go when they require support.

Fortnightly outreach at the Positive Living Centre involves our staff and volunteers running the pantry shopping which gives our service an opportunity to meet and greet people that don't come along to regular events, the PLC outreach has also proved popular for our members who do not identify as heterosexual and have children. The program has supported newer members to meet staff at the PLC and integrate into programs being offered by the service.

## **Camp Seaside**

Camp this year was at MT Evelyn in the foothills of the Dandenong ranges, the air was fresh and the environment conducive to outdoor activities like the flying fox, archery, high swing and nature walks. The camp was a great success with new families meeting returning families and sharing their experiences and making new friendships.

Camp continues to evolve and grow as we have new families attending every year. The camp no longer relies solely on volunteers and through top up funding we are now able to employ qualified and experienced staff to work with children and their families. This camp would not be possible without the generous support of Brian Haill and the Australian AIDS Fund Inc and this year PLWHA Victoria

## **Collaboration and partnerships**

Partnerships are extremely important to Straight Arrows acknowledging that we are part of a community. We value the sharing of resources and information. We continue to enjoy good working relationships with PLWHA Victoria who embarked on our Digital storytelling project with us and about to undertake an exciting health education project involving weekend retreats for our members.

The Alfred hospital continues to work with us on issues particular to our membership and offer a range of in kind support.

Our long relationship with the Department of human services continues to be strong although at times coming from very different perspectives.

We continue to enjoy and explore partnerships and dialogue with the Country Awareness network, Victorian AIDS council, RDNS and strengthening our cross referral and resource sharing the with Clinical support program of the Multi Cultural Support Service.

Positive women Victoria continue to work with us, sharing of information, recruitment for projects and dialogue about how best to support our members.

## **Philanthropic Support**

As a result of philanthropic support from several long term partnerships, particularly from the AIDS Trust of Australia, Australian AIDS Fund Inc and the William Angliss Trust, we have been able to significantly boost both our support services and health promotion activities.

As we move forward I feel confident that Straight Arrows continue to provide a relevant and innovative service whilst continuing to be a strong voice for heterosexual men and women living with HIV.

Rebecca Matheson  
Executive Officer

## Treasurers Report

The board of directors has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this financial report has been prepared in accordance with standard accounting practices.

In the opinion of the board the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Straight Arrows Inc as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 and its performance for the year.
2. At the date of this statement the board of director's believes that Straight Arrows Inc will be able to pay its debtors/accounts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution by the board and is signed for and behalf of the board of directors by:

Treasurer  
Jurgis Maleckas

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Executive Officer  
Rebecca Matheson

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## STRAIGHT ARROWS PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

	Jul07 - Jun08	Jul06 - Jun07
<b>Income</b>		
Camp Seaside Funding	\$ 10,500	\$ 9,125
Conference Funding	\$ 6,061	\$ 4,725
Donation - general	\$ 1,677	\$ 17,626
Donation - Elton John Project	\$ 20,000	
Donation - Specific Purpose		\$ 210
Govt Grants - recurrent	\$ 97,246	\$ 95,005
Govt Grants - non recurrent		\$ 60,909
Health Promotion Project	\$ 24,000	\$ 30
Interest	\$ 2,181	\$ 1,971
Speakers Bureau	\$ 2,600	\$ 1,270
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 164,264</b>	<b>\$ 190,871</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Office Administration</b>		
Bank, Credit Card charges	\$ 1,337	\$ 1,224
Bookkeeping	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,770
Computer, Photocopier	\$ 573	\$ 2,857
Insurance	\$ 956	
Internet	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,788
Motor Vehicle	\$ 5,166	\$ 6,270
Motor Vehicle Depreciation	\$ 10,000	
Staff Amenities	\$ 202	\$ 706
Office expenses	\$ 4,922	\$ 4,902
Subscriptions, Memberships	\$ 176	\$ 40
Taxi	\$ 250	
Telephone	\$ 2,331	\$ 4,787
<b>Total Office Administration</b>	<b>\$ 29,272</b>	<b>\$ 24,344</b>
<b>Member Support</b>		
Camp Seaside	\$ 6,735	\$ 13,022
Support, Activities	\$ 3,860	\$ 12,877
Health Promotion	\$ 14,736	\$ 13,092
Digital Stories	\$ 17,060	
Elton John Project	\$ 3,333	
<b>Total Member Support</b>	<b>\$ 45,724</b>	<b>\$ 38,991</b>

## STRAIGHT ARROWS PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

<b>Employment</b>	<b>Jul07 - Jun08</b>	<b>Jul06 - Jun07</b>
Volunteer Reimbursements	\$ 2,711	\$ 6,100
Speakers Bureau	\$ 3,258	\$ 3,742
Conferences	\$ 780	\$ 14,265
Staff Development		\$ 8,721
Wages & Salaries	\$ 74,661	\$ 89,768
Superannuation	\$ 6,679	\$ 6,127
Workcover	\$ 1,138	\$ 1,131
<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>\$ 89,228</b>	<b>\$ 129,854</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 164,224</b>	<b>\$ 193,189</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 40</b>	<b>-\$ 2,318</b>

Notes to Financial Statement for the year ending 30th June 2008.

This financial report is a special purpose Financial Report prepared in order to satisfy the financial requirements of the Associated Incorporated Act (Vic) 1981.

The Board of Management has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

## **OUR SUPPORTERS**

Department of Human Services  
The Alfred hospital  
Victorian AIDS Council  
AIDS trust Australia  
Elton John trust  
Australian AIDS fund Incorporated  
William Angliss Charitable trust  
PLWHA Victoria  
NAPWA  
Australian Centre for Moving Image  
Hothouse design  
RDNS  
Positive Women Victoria  
Multi Cultural health and support services  
Heather Morgan  
Alex Nikolovski  
Country Awareness network  
Akki Helma  
Donna Thorneycroft  
TASCARD  
Body Positive  
Melbourne Grammar  
Malmsbury Juvenile Justice Centre  
Bill O' Loughlin  
POZHETS  
Camp Seaside Volunteers