Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples & Country

On behalf of our Members, staff and communities, we acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country from across these lands now commonly known as Australia and Torres Strait Islands. We pay our respects to all Australian Indigenous peoples and their culture.

We acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

And we recognise the value of continuing Aboriginal knowledge and cultural practice, which informs our understandings of history, culture, science and environment.

Honouring our Alliance Elders

We honour the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people whose courage, determination and strengths have helped to make this a more just society for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and their friends and families. We recognise the hurt that continues to impact on us today and we are mindful of this in the way we communicate and work.

The Alliance is grateful to all who have worked to support the improved health and wellbeing of their peers, children, families, friends and country: Their effort and vision has helped to make today’s conversations, innovation and learning possible.

Acknowledgement of our funders

The Alliance gratefully acknowledges the support of the Australian Government Department of Health and Department of Social Services.

Alliance Contact Info

The National LGBTI Health Alliance | P.O. Box 51, Newtown 2042 Australia
info@lgbtihealth.org.au | www.lgbtihealth.org.au
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Reasons for contact:

• Major themes: focus included relationship issues, family issues, mental health and illness, and experiences of loneliness and isolation.

• Other common themes: coming out, explorations of sexual identity/sexuality, gender identity and trans issues, grief and loss, addiction, and seeking referrals to LGBTI-inclusive services.


13,806 total contacts (all calls, webchats and emails)

In this period...

Network MindOUT newsletters were distributed to 11 subscribers.

Webinars were facilitated live to 9 participations, with the recordings of these webinars being viewed an additional 242 times.
### In 2015-2016...

- **Over 4,500** people trained face to face
- **More than 320** training sessions were held Australia wide
- **1,835** completions of the online training module
- **Over 700** aged care facilities and/or service outlets across Australia have had staff attend the face to face training
- **59** people across **4 states** were given intensive training (Champions) to embed LGBTI inclusivity in ageing and aged care facilities

### HEALTH IN DIFFERENCE CONFERENCE 2015

- **317** delegates
  - **Record number!**
- **160** abstract submissions
- **23** scholarships awarded
- **76** presentations
- **7** Keynote presentations uploaded to YouTube
The National LGBTI Health Alliance (The Alliance) is a member based organisation that serves as the national peak health organisation in Australia for organisations and individuals that provide health-related programs, services and research focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people (LGBTI) and other sexuality, gender, and bodily diverse people and communities.

We recognise that people’s genders, bodies, relationships, and sexualities affect their health and wellbeing in every domain of their life.

The Alliance is governed by a Board of Directors from the states and territories of Australia providing core skills that the Board deems necessary to advance the strategic goals of the Alliance as outlined in this plan.
Our Vision
A world where relationships, sexualities, bodies, and genders are affirmed and valued in all their diversity.

Our Mission
We provide leadership and advocacy to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people, their families and their communities across Australia.

We support our member organisations to influence and improve policies and services for LGBTI people, their families and their communities.

We advocate to reduce discrimination, stigma and violence against LGBTI people, their families and their communities.

Our Values
In all aspects of our work, the Alliance upholds the following values:

• **INTEGRITY** – Our ways of working are open, respectful, honest and transparent, we take responsibility for our actions.

• **DIVERSITY** – We seek to understand the diverse circumstances and cultures of the people and communities we work with; we strive to ensure all experiences are respected and recognised.

• **COLLABORATION** – We broaden our impact by working with our partners, members and stakeholders on shared goals to achieve the very best outcomes.

• **INNOVATION** – We consciously reflect and learn to improve our work and achieve our vision through being open to new ideas and fresh approaches.

• **EXCELLENCE** – We do what we do well, and base our work on evidence of need and effectiveness.

• **IMPACT** – We strive to achieve maximum influence to promote the visibility and health and wellbeing of LGBTI people, families and communities.

Our role
Our role is shaped through consultation with our members, funders and stakeholders and the needs articulated by LGBTI people and the communities in which they live and work.

We provide
• **LEADERSHIP** – We are the national peak body representing the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people, their families and their communities and provide a nationally unified voice.

• **ADVOCACY** – We present a nationally coordinated voice that aims to influence and change public policies and programs impacting on positive health outcomes for LGBTI people, their families and their communities.

• **RESEARCH, STRATEGY AND POLICY** – We use evidence and the experiences of individual, their families and communities experience to inform our work, establish our priorities and drive an agenda for change.
Our key stakeholders and members make this Alliance a power house of social change for the wellbeing of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Australians.

The year began with The National LGBTI Health Alliance Health in Difference Conference: an amazing validation of our work and a demonstration of our accomplishments. The Alliance and organisations and networks from Australia and overseas contributed to and attended, Health in Difference for over 300 attendees. The focus, innovation and best practice to support LGBTI Australians, in a dynamic and complex social and political environment generated excitement and engagement throughout the three day conference. Health In Difference 2015 opened with a presentation by the Alliance and hosted by LGBTI Parliamentary Friends at Parliament House. This relatively youthful organisation has come a long way since its launch in Canberra in 2007. I am particularly proud of our reputation with Government Agencies and the respect they have for our knowledge and expertise as well as our consultation with our members.

As an Alliance we have worked with our members to sustain and build capacity through a challenging year.

We continue to provide strong and credible evidence that our work is effective and that investing in the National LGBTI Health Alliance is a strategic move for the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people and their families.

The funding and political environment has changed for us this year, and this annual report shows that we have worked through these changes and that our work, and the work of our partners has continued to build from strength to strength.
This work demonstrates that we are Stronger Together, and that we all have a significant part to play in ensuring that our communities, and the groups of individuals that we work to support are made visible in every aspect of Australian society and culture.

I have been honoured to take the role of chair for these last two terms and I particularly recognise our role as a community owned organisation to support people for whom there are few options. The Alliance is dedicated to increasing the capacity of tiny voluntary organisations and young people who will lead this work in the future and for this focus I acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Executive Director, Rebecca Reynolds and the entire Alliance Team, our Board of Directors across Australia and our many members.

– Susan Ditter
National LGBTI Health Alliance
ORGANISATION CHART 2016

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REBECCA REYNOLDS

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ANDREW LITTLE
Anna Brown
Co-opted Director: Health and Human Rights

Anna Brown has worked with the HRLC since 2011, and has led much of the Centre’s work on LGBTI rights, police accountability, protester rights, and equality law reform. Her work has included strategic litigation to advance marriage equality (Cth v ACT); recognise sex and gender diversity (Norrie’s case), and efforts to strengthen protection of political expression and assembly (Muldoon v Melbourne City Council; Attorney-General of SA v City of Adelaide). Major law reform projects include securing federal LGBTI discrimination protections and ongoing work to expunge historical convictions for gay sex offences in various states in Australia. Anna was named Victorian GLBTI person of the year in the inaugural GLOBE community awards in November 2014 in recognition for her contribution to the LGBTI community. Anna is Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria, Co-Convener of the Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby and on the board of the National LGBTI Health Alliance and ILGA Oceania. Anna was previously an adviser to the former Victorian Attorney-General and Deputy Premier, the Hon Rob Hulls. She has also worked as a Senior Solicitor with the Victorian Government Solicitor’s Office, a Senior Associate with Allens Arthur Robinson and a Federal Court associate.

Philippa Moss
Director for the Australian Capital Territory

Philippa is a HIV activist, professional feminist and best known for her outspoken voice promoting healthy public policy and healthy urban development. Philippa has been a happy resident of Canberra for the past 17 years. Originally from Sydney, she came to Canberra at a pivotal stage in her life. She is a proud mother of two children, a son and daughter in their teens/twenties, who as a Queer parent has always felt part of Canberra’s greater Lesbian, Gay and Queer community. She was recently appointed the Executive Director of the AIDS Action Council (ACT), after acting in the role for the past two years. In 2015 she was awarded the ACT Telstra Business Women’s Award for Purpose and Social Enterprise, along with the Australian Institute of Management’s Not for Profit Manager of the Year (ACT) award.
Dani Wright Toussaint
Director for Western Australia
Convenor: Mental Health Working Group/ MindOUT Project Advisory Group; Member of the Intersex, Trans and Gender Diversity Working Group

Dani has been the WA AIDS Council’s Freedom Centre (FC) Coordinator since 2007 and was a volunteer prior to employment at FC. As FC Coordinator Dani has been the only full time staff member providing FC Services and has worked particularly on developing the FC online services, coordinating the volunteer and staff team and working on evaluation & best practice processes.

Dani has volunteered for Living Proud LGBTI Community Services of WA (formerly GLCS) since 2007, as a Board member and range of other roles.

Dani is a queer person who is passionate about being a new parent and working in the areas of mental health, suicide prevention, gender diversity and promoting the wellbeing and empowerment of young people. Dani is a LivingWorks ASIST and SafeTALK trainer, has a Bachelor of Social Science with Honours and has previous experience in sexual health & relationship education, and working with people with disabilities.

Gai Lemon
Director for Queensland

Director of Healthy Communities Programs with the Queensland AIDS Council, Gai’s career includes an extensive history as an activist on behalf of the LGBT communities in Queensland, and spans several domains including women’s health, disability, sexuality education, blood borne viruses, alcohol and other drugs, adult education and celebrancy, specialising in funeral work.

Author of diverse health and education related publications and articles, Gai has written training manuals for service providers working with marginalised communities including women with disabilities, Indigenous injecting drug users, young injecting drug users and illicit substance users in general, and assisted a specialist community service RTO to devise accredited material for Mental Health, Aged Care, and Community Services Management. She redeveloped mandatory training program for staff of a faith based aged care support service and completed the necessary policy and procedural requirements for the successful, ongoing registration compliance of a RTO.

Her particular interests lie in addressing social inequalities through creative education and community engagement.

Susan Ditter
Chair of the Board 2012–2016

Vice Chair 2011; Director for Tasmania (since 2010)

Susan is an Executive Officer of Working It Out, Tasmania’s gender, sexuality and intersex status support and education service and is also a Board member of GALFA – the Gay and Lesbian Foundation of Australia. Susan sits on a number of Tasmanian Government Strategic Working Groups and has a commitment to engagement, education and inclusion.
‘We are Stronger Together, and we all have a significant part to play in ensuring that our communities, and the groups of individuals that we work to support are made visible in every aspect of Australian society and culture.’ – Susan Ditter
Rob Collins

Co-opted Director: Ageing and Aged Care

Convenor of the LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Advisory Group; Alliance representative to quarterly meetings of the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA)

Robert holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and a Public Administration Diploma, with extensive experience in a broad range of human relations activities, having been employed in various private enterprise organisations and Government administrative positions, including Private Secretary to a Cabinet Minister, Industrial Relations Consultant and Policy and Research Adviser.

He is a qualified Justice of the Peace for Queensland, and volunteers regularly for document witnessing and signing duty in the Brisbane Magistrates Court and Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital.

Robert has a keen interest in social justice advocacy for the LGBTI community and serves as a volunteer with the Queensland AIDS Council for its Seniors Community Visiting Service and Ageing in Diversity Action Group. He is also Convenor of Diverse Voices, a peer-to-peer telephone and online counselling service offering support, referral and information for LGBTI people in Queensland and the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

Janet Jukes

Co-opted Director from Victoria

Janet Jukes is the CEO of LifeWorks Relationship Counselling and Education Services. LifeWorks builds positive, safe and respectful personal and professional relationships by providing exceptional and responsive services to thousands of individuals, couples and organisations across Australia. Janet has extensive experience in the non-government human services sector in management, service delivery and policy in several fields including youth and family services, homelessness, family violence, community legal services, and research.

Prior to taking up her position at LifeWorks, Janet worked for The Salvation Army, Australia Southern Territory, most recently as the Director of EastCare Network which provides residential and support programs in the Melbourne eastern metropolitan region including statutory and non-statutory youth services, educational support for children in care, housing and tenancy management, crisis accommodation, drug and alcohol outreach, support services related to mental health, and intensive case management services for clients in need of complex care.

Demonstrating a strong commitment to training the next generation of professionals in her industry, Janet has worked as an academic at RMIT in the Master of Policy and Human Services Program and Lectured in Youth work at RMIT, the Australian Catholic University and Victoria University.

A Centenary Medal recipient for outstanding service to young people, Janet is also a highly respected community activist with extensive networks in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersex and transgender communities. This activity includes: founding CoConvenor and life member of the Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, and member of the Victorian Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on GLBTI Issues (2000 to 2010) a ministerial advisory body that provided expert advice for law reform recognising GLBTI parenting, equality in relationships recognition, human rights protections, and birth certificate recognition.

Resigned:
Nfanwy Welsh, Phoenix Emma Smith, Luke Gahan, Russell Flynn
The Alliance is a member based organisation. Our members connect us to the experiences and knowledges of LGBTI people throughout Australia. We connect our members to each other and to opportunities for partnership. The Alliance provides a national framework supporting Members to collaboratively pursue our shared objectives.

Our guiding principles

Organisations and individuals who are members of the Alliance are respectful of each other’s differences and the ways in which we work.

Organisations who are members of the Alliance operate in the perceived best interest of the communities with which they work in that:

• health consumers are empowered to control their health needs;
• organisations act from within a framework that supports self-determination;
• organisations operate within a framework of genuine stakeholder engagement;
• organisations operate in a ways that affirm bodies, genders and relationships in all of their diversity through:
  – respectful inclusive language
  – bodily autonomy

Organisations that are members of the Alliance work from within a framework that supports social and human rights and are representative of our communities and their needs.

Our membership comprises organisations and individuals. The organisational members vary greatly in size and scope – ranging from entirely voluntary organisations to State wide bodies which receive government funding. A full list of our current member organisations is available on our website at lgbthealth.org.au/members
Member Organisations

International
• RainbowYOUTH
• Intersex Trust Aotearoa NZ (ITANZ)
• ANZPATH (Australian and New Zealand Professional Association for Transgender Health Incorporated)

National
• AFAO
• Australian Lesbian Medical Association Inc
• Organisation Intersex International Australia

Australian Capital Territory
• ATODA (Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Association ACT Inc)
• AIDS Action Council of the ACT Inc

Queensland
• AISSGA (Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome Support Group Australia)
• Diverse Voices (Gay and Lesbian Welfare Association Inc)
• Feroc Care
• QuAC (Queensland AIDS Council)
• Youth Empowered Towards Independence (YETI)

New South Wales
• ACON (AIDS Council of New South Wales Inc)
• Ambassadors & Bridge Builders International (ABBI)
• CSRH (Centre for Social Research in Health)
• Evergreen Life Care Ltd
• Family Planning NSW
• Hepatitis NSW Inc
• Integratedliving Australia Ltd
• Rainbow Babies & Kids
• The Twenty-Ten Association Incorporated

Western Australia
• Community West
• Living Proud Incorporated
• UnitingCare West (True Colours)
• WA AIDS Council Inc
• Youthlink

Tasmania
• Glenview Community Services Inc
• Rainbow Communities Tas Inc
• St Ann’s Homes Inc
• tasCAHRD (The Tasmanian Council on AIDS Hepatitis and Related Diseases Inc)
• WIO (Working It Out Inc)

Victoria
• Anti-Violence Project of Victoria Inc.
• Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council
• Bisexual Alliance Victoria Inc
• Family Planning Victoria
• Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Victoria
• GLHV (Gay & Lesbian Health Victoria)
• Kildonan UnitingCare
• Lifeview Residential Care
• Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc
• MGA Counselling Services
• On The Line Australia
• TGV (Transgender Victoria Inc)
• VAC (Victorian AIDS Council Inc)
• VGLRL (Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby Inc)
• Zoe Belle Gender Centre

South Australia
• Shine SA
• Uniting Communities Incorporated

Northern Territory
• NTAHC (Northern Territory AIDS & Hepatitis Council Inc)
MindOUT has continued to deliver strong outcomes within the mental health and suicide prevention sector and the model of linking LGBTI experiences to the work of mainstream mental health and suicide prevention services remains highly effective.

A multi layered project, MindOUT worked at National, State and local levels over the past 12 months with valuable guidance and incredible hard work from project partners.

The MindOUT project has continued to explore the intersections of the people and populations under the LGBTI umbrella with a deliberate focus on working alongside workers, leaders and activists from those groups. Our priority populations included young people, people with intersex characteristics and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.

Within the Youth space, the release of Youth Project Report that outlines the outcomes of unfunded and previously un-evaluated suicide prevention initiatives facilitated by 10 LGBT youth organisations across Australia. Project partners were CampOUT, Expanded Horizons (Q Space), Freedom Centre, Minus 18, Open Doors Youth Service, Twenty10, True Colours, Working It Out, Youth Empowered Towards Independence, and Zoe Belle Gender Centre.

With an approach on being led by those with a lived experience, the project this year brought together 10 advocates for people with intersex characteristics for a round-table to discuss areas of common ground and of difference when you or a family member are living with an Intersex characteristic or variation.

This was the first time an opportunity like this had happened and enabled these experts to share experiences and knowledge. It created an outline for future work that the MindOUT project can do when we are focussing on reducing the impacts of negative mental health and suicide within these populations. The group clearly spoke of the need to work with medical professionals to ensure that their work better encompasses people and families who are living with an Intersex experience.

After establishing Tekwabi Gizz from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTI roundtable, we have continued to work collaboratively with this group to ensure that ATSI populations are included in both conversations and the work we do.
A highlight this year was having Tekwabi Gizz open our Health in Difference conference which not only showcased community driven projects, activities and resources that are working to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous LGBTI, Sistergirl and Brotherboy people across Australia, but also made clear to participants of the conference how essential ATSI inclusion and voices are to the work we do.

MindOUT also participated in collaborative relationships with national mental health and suicide prevention organisations to support ongoing sector development and community capacity building. These activities included:

- Mental Health Professional Network in the development and ongoing support of sexuality, gender and LGBTI Mental Health Professional Networks located across Australia, including Brisbane, Gold Coast, Cairns, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart and Perth.

Network MindOUT! supported the broad distribution of information, resources and professional development pertinent to LGBTI mental health and suicide prevention to support the ongoing professional development of practitioners knowledge, confidence and skills in supporting mental wellbeing for their LGBTI service users. In this period, 11 Network MindOUT newsletters were distributed to 964 subscribers, and 9 webinars were facilitated live to 242 participations, with the recordings of these webinars being viewed an additional 288 times.

MindOUT facilitated the Champions project that provides focused and targeted support to mental health organisations to increase their capacity to provide inclusive and accessible services to LGBTI people and communities. During this period 17 organisations located across Australia maintained their commitment as project partners. To increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of staff and volunteers in organisations in this project, in this period 12 professional development training sessions on LGBTI mental health was delivered to 207 participants.

Champion Project partners for this project are Hunter Institute of Mental Health, United Synergies, Neami National, Open Minds, Relationships Australia Queensland, Mental Illness Fellowship Queensland, Artius, Way Ahead NSW Mental Health Association, ARAFMI NSW, Being Consumer Advisory Group, Amity, Relationships Australia Tasmania, The Link Youth Health Service, Advocacy Tasmania, Mental Illness Fellowship South Australia Richmond Wellbeing, and ACT Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services.

Significantly, this year MindOUT facilitated consultation and led the development of a National LGBTI Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy to support a coordinated response to the increased risk of mental ill health and suicide experienced by LGBTI populations, and promote good mental health and wellbeing for LGBTI people and communities. The strategy, that will be released in late 2016, will outline responses to support LGBTI people in current need, to provide interventions to those who are in at-risk categories, and to interrupt the structural factors that contribute to overrepresentation of LGBTI people in mental health and suicide statistics. We thank all of the people who have contributed their time, energy and expertise to this important area of work.
Congratulations
TO ALL
OUR QLIFE
VOLUNTEERS

QLife provides a multi-platform national counselling service for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, their friends and family. The project provides nation-wide, early intervention, peer supported telephone and web based services to diverse people of all ages experiencing poor mental health, psychological distress, social isolation, discrimination, experiences of being misgendered and/or other social determinants that impact on their health and wellbeing.

The volunteers of the partner agencies that make up QLLife Australia have been giving their time to support their communities long before the national project came into being.

They are each skilled and compassionate people, living in either Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth and soon will include rural and regional locations all across Australia.

The strength of the QLLife service is the commitment that each of our volunteers make to give their time simply to be available to listen to other people. Individuals know that by contacting QLLife they are getting in touch with someone who identifies in a similar way to them, or who is willing to hear their thoughts and feelings without judgement. This makes an enormous difference in the lives of many people every year.

Recipient of the Community Development Award at the 2016 LiFE Awards for Excellence in Suicide Prevention

National LGBTI Health Alliance
This volunteer force has been unbroken for over forty years and is a remarkable statement of the resilience of LGBTI communities.

We know that often the highest risk of suicide or self harm for LGBTI people comes at times in their life when they are most isolated from support, either personal or professional. The volunteer force of QLife is actively combating this in the most direct way possible - to be an antidote to isolation, and to provide for people he understanding they simply do not have in their lives. Volunteers make themselves available in significant numbers on public holidays like Christmas and New Years Day: a testament to their unflinching commitment to service consistency.

In her letter of support, Dr Kerrie Buhagiar from ReachOut Australia said “We have found the work of the QLife Volunteers to be highly skilled, respectful of the needs of young LGBTIQQA people and a great way for clients to talk about their experiences of sexuality, bodies and gender expression.”

Many congratulations and thank you to QLife Volunteers, past and present.
QLife continues to grow in reach and recognition across Australia. The 2015-2016 Financial Year has seen greater number of contacts for counselling support and referrals, as well as the growth in requests for information and advice from other organisations, groups and health professionals than ever before.

When extended open hours were introduced in November 2015, people quickly took up the opportunity to contact QLife across more hours, with a steady flow of contacts whenever the lines were open, usually peaking in the evening.

Over the year, demand for phone and webchat counselling steadily grew, with contact attempts exceeding the capacity to respond first time. Even so, this year QLife counsellors responded to more phone calls and webchats than ever before, spent more total time on calls and chats, and kept pace with previous call answer rates despite a big increase in demand.

Family, relationships and connectedness remain the main issues for contacting QLife, with a significant increase in the contacts received where loneliness and isolation were of concern to the person who was reaching out for support. The process of how to talk to family and friends about sexuality (or ‘coming out’) remain a constant topic of conversation for people with the QLife support team. There was an increase in requests from organisations, health professionals and community groups, including speaker requests, LGBTI-related data inquiries, proposals to consult or collaborate on mental health activities, and requests for QLife educational and promotional materials. These requests signal QLife’s increased profile as a specialist LGBTI service, providing LGBTI-specific resources to organisations and health professionals.

As a collaborative project, this year has seen the partner organisations place significant time and energy ensuring that volunteers are supported, that services are robust and that the systems that are in place to operationally support QLife are working effectively. All of these ‘behind the scenes’ activities are undertaken to ensure that anyone reaching out to QLife, can receive the support that they need.

More than this, the increase in activity and escalating demand seen over the year affirms the important role of QLife providing peer support to people across diverse genders, sexualities, bodies and relationships, and to people who also support them. QLife continued to show its strength as a unique and specialised service, available every day, Australia-wide.
QLife Connect
Country Wide LGBTI Regional Community Connections project

The Connect Project engages LGBTI people and allies living in regional and remote areas to contribute their local knowledge to build greater capacity in their own communities, and in QLife’s service to regional and remote areas. A network of Connect Volunteers is making contact with organisations, community groups, networks or individual practitioners in their local area to promote QLife as a resource, and to identify services that could be included on the QLife national database. The Connect project is being implemented by the QLife partners in their state while the QLife Capacity Building Manager is coordinating Connect in the other states and territories.

QLife project partners:

Standing Back Row: Bella (Living Proud), Tarnia (QLife National Team), Jo (formerly QLife National), Leanne (Switchboard), Rebecca (National LGBTI Health Alliance), Emily (Switchboard), Yvonne (Diverse Voices), Fi (Twenty10 incorp. GLCS), Ross (QLife National Team)

Seated in Front: Stella (QLife National Team), Jade (Diverse Voices), Brett (Twenty10 incorp. GLCS)
Silver Rainbow continues to go from strength to strength. This year once again saw a number of fantastic achievements in ensuring that ageing and aged care services are inclusive of our LGBTI elders.

The LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Network is a consultative forum for both the Alliance and for the Department of Health and has been engaged by the Alliance in all consultative documents that have been released for comment. Currently membership includes nearly 32 individuals and organisations from across Australia representing carers, aged care providers (small and large), home care providers, councils, LGBTI people and people living with HIV/AIDS.

The LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Advisory Group consists of 13 LGBTI representatives from every state and territory, COTA, Leading Age Services Australia, the Alliance Board and academics. It provides advice to the Alliance on particular issues around ageing and aged care and their impact on LGBTI elders.

In 2015-2016 both groups were involved in 49 different discussions, call for participants, consultations and submissions. They also assisted the Alliance to develop two fact sheets:

- Choosing an Ageing and Aged Care Service that is LGBTI Inclusive – for consumers
- Developing an LGBTI Inclusive Practice Policy – for providers.

Silver Rainbow Training continued to deliver training across Australia through our partners ACON (NSW), TGV and GLHV (VIC), Uniting (SA), GRAI (WA), NTAHC (NT), QuAC (QLD), WIO/TASCAHRD (Tasmania), Aids Action Council (ACT).

Silver Rainbow with our partners conducted a review of the training manual to reflect the changing needs and increasing knowledge about LGBTI elders. In addition, after community feedback we engaged an Indigenous consultant to develop content on Indigenous Brotherboy and Sistergirl elders and ageing.

Silver Rainbow continues to advocate at a national level through our involvement with the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA), being a part of numerous NACA and Department of Health Advisory Groups and continuing to be a part of the Department of Health National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategy Working Group. The Alliance representative role is to ensure the inclusion of LGBTI issues in discussion and that LGBTI specific needs are considered at all levels from service delivery to policy.
‘The session gave me an insight to the level of discrimination that people from the LGBTI community have endured (and still endure).’ SA

In December 2015 the Gender, Body and Relationships Passport was made available online. It was developed specifically to support Intersex, trans, and gender diverse people and health, ageing and social care services that wish to ensure inclusive care and the best possible health outcomes for intersex, trans, and gender diverse people.

The Alliance’s recommendations around the inclusion of LGBTI in the Core Diversity Subject were endorsed by the Department of Education and Training. The Knowledge Evidence sections of these units now include gender, including transgender, intersex, and sexual orientation/sexual identity - lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual. CHCDIV001 is a core unit for the Health and Community Services Training Packages, which includes Certificate IV in Ageing Support. 533 Registered Training Organisations are approved to deliver this subject.

‘I heard about this training a year ago and it came highly recommended, I am pleased that I have had the opportunity to take part. I feel I have been encouraged and have more confidence to address this topic with the people I support and indeed the colleagues I work with.’ WA

This year we also focused in on palliative care. We worked with Palliative Care Australia to develop a position statement ‘Palliative Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender People and People with Intersex Characteristics (LGBTI)’ which provides clear recommendations and guidance on LGBTI inclusive Palliative Care and End of Life Planning. Palliative Care Australia and the Alliance officially launched the Position Statement on the 8 October 2015 as part of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day.

‘Just wanted to say thanks for organising the LGBTI training today, it really was well worth it, I thought I knew a lot but realised I actually didn’t. Great job, needs to be repeated to all other staff though I think.’ VIC

Silver Rainbow relies on the advice and support of our training partners, LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Advisory Group and Network. We’d like to thank the members for their views, advice and ideas that have meant that Silver Rainbow continues to ensure that LGBTI elders are included across the ageing and aged care sectors. We would also like to thank all the ageing and aged care providers, researchers, health and other services for their ongoing commitment to inclusive practice.

‘It was awesome. It has inspired me to join or be part of any gender identity wellness coordination within my workplace. Thanks.’ TAS

Silver Rainbow Training Partners:
The Alliance has successfully generated community conversations, to conduct national consultations about the lived experiences of a very wide range of people across Australia, to contribute to positive changes to national health policy, and to engage in nuanced legislative and policy efforts.
Highlights for the year:

- Leading community consultation for, developing, development of the Genders, Bodies, and Relationships Passport. The Passport is designed for anyone who wishes to ensure that their genders, bodies and relationships are respected in their interactions with health, ageing and social care services. It was developed specifically to support Intersex, trans, and gender diverse people and health, ageing and social care services that wish to ensure inclusive care and the best possible health outcomes for intersex, trans, and gender diverse people. In the six months that the Passport has been available 265 have been posted to 74 individuals and 13 organisations from every state and territory except the NT.

- Testifying at the Australian Senate Inquiry into the involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people;

- Conducting a national consultation into LGBTI experiences of family and interpersonal violence that led to a widely cited report and multiple national presentations;

- Leading an investigation into discrimination in airport and aviation security that received national media coverage, particularly the abuses encountered by people of trans and/or non-binary experience;

- Working with a number of States and Territories governments and organisations to build knowledge and understanding of inclusive policy and practice for LGBTI people.

- Participating in national advisory groups in ageing and aged care, asylum seekers and refugees, and public health.

- Contributing to the changes that removed gender-specific language to Medicare Benefits Schedule item codes

- Supporting the equitable access to testosterone on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme,

- Ongoing engagement with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on inclusive national data collection

- Participation on the advisory group reviewing the Attorney-General’s Department Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender.

- Gávi Ansara left the Alliance in March 2016 and we are grateful to his contribution to helping the Alliance to shape Australia’s national LGBTI health policies and legislation.
The theme of the conference, Working Together for Health, highlighted the depth and nuances of the work being undertaken across Australia and the Torres Strait and demonstrated a number of innovative and world class projects.

With 317 delegates, including delegates from across the country – city, rural and remote locations, there was a wide range of skills and experience brought to the conference from Activists to Academics, Community workers to government and public servants and policy makers, through to community members and service users.

The conference had four main streams:

• Ageing and Aged Care
• Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
• Intersections
• Practice, Connect, Celebrate

With such a diverse sector and the opportunity to learn, teach and support each other, it is little wonder that there was a keen interest to participate as presenters a to the conference with over 160 abstract submissions.

This resulted in 76 Presentations, 8 workshops, 20 posters, 8 video sessions during lunch time.

There was an innovative living art piece that grew during the conference incorporating participants input illustrating key milestones in LGBTI people’s lives.

A satellite session was held, hosted by the Queer Health Medical Students Network, targeting medical students focusing on LGBTI issues attracting over 50 students.
We were able to optimise the location of the conference, by working closely with the Friends of LGBTI Parliamentary Friends Group who hosted a morning session at Parliament House. There was a good turn out of politicians and heads of both the Health Department and Department of Social Services who attended and heard about the conference, our work and had the opportunity to hear directly from partners of our MindOUT and QLife projects.

A key success of the conference was the high quality, popularity and positive feedback received about our opening speaker and four keynote speakers, these being: Professor Gillian Triggs, Ex Senator Bob Brown, Sekneh Beckett, providing a sensitive insight to the mental health impact of gay sexuality on a Muslim family, Gipsy Hosking and her mother providing an extraordinary example of intersections of sexuality, child rearing, disability and aged care, and finally a dynamic and captivating presentation from Brian Herd on sexuality and ageing.

The website for the conference was fully interactive and allowed participants to explore the program in depth and help plan and individualise their conference itinerary.

**Conference legacy**

The October 2015 edition of the Alliance’s newsletter focused on disseminating the outcomes from the conference. As part of the legacy of the conference, the Plenary opening speech and keynote presentations from the conference are available on YouTube. The conference website healthindifference.org will remain the main site for the storing of the abstracts and power point presentations from the conference.
The Audited Financial Statements for The National LGBTI Health Alliance for the year ended 30 June 2016 have been finalised and are available for download at www.lgbtihealth.org.au/hub. The financial reports covered the National LGBTI Health Alliance as an individual entity that is a not-for-profit Company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The financial statements have been prepared as General Purpose financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

The Auditors have stated the reports are a ‘true and fair view’ of the Company’s financial position as at that date. The Auditors have issued an unqualified audit report.

The National LGBTI Health Alliance has navigated through a significant shift in the financial operations in the company over the reporting period with a small but significant loss of a core funding stream that required the incorporation of alternate strategies to ensure the core work of the organisation continued as alternate funding streams and models were pursued.

Over the Financial Year, the Alliance worked on projects that were funded both by Government and non-Government sources, hosted the national Health in Difference Conference in August 2015 and undertook and completed a Strategic Planning process. The successful completion of the activities resulted in a small overspend at the end of the Financial Year of $23,736. The reported Deficit being $92,736 which comprises an allocation of $25,000 to the Strategic Planning process and $44,000 in non-Government funded activities not yet invoiced.

### FOR THE 2015 – 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR

- **Total operating revenue was** $3,157,192
- **Total operating expenditure was** $3,249,928
- **compared to the 2014-15 financial year, when**
  - **Total operating revenue was** $3,629,426
  - **Total operating expenditure was** $3,716,723

### AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

- **Total Assets of the National LGBTI Health Alliance were** $754,996
  - (2014-15 Total Assets were $1,295,176)
- **Total Liabilities were** $459,243
  - (2014-15 Total Liabilities were $906,867)
- **Total Equity was** $295,753
  - (2014-15 Total Equity was $388,489)

Mark Fuller
Treasurer
Stronger Together for Health

Board Deputy Chair Gina Wilson with the Alliance staff team at the close of Health in Difference 2015.
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?

- A CHANGE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
- BEING ABLE TO TRAVEL
- BLACK, BEAUTIFUL AND PRIDE?
- LOOKING TOWARDS MID 2017!