



I often felt guilty about being busy with work while others have lost their income.  
**LINDY**

When gyms shut down - so did my business. It's a massive challenge to build and maintain a service while holding a community together.  
**SAM**



# A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020







I've had the chance to create a platform that bridges the gaps between the fitness and trans/gender diverse communities.  
**SAM**



My friend's mother is unwell. She can't visit her. Seeing her face that challenge has been tough.  
**CATALINA**







I have been thrilled to host *The Bent Spoon* at this time - it's a fantastic celebration of diversity.  
**CATALINA**

Everyone has struggled to stay connected. Through Rainbow Connection, I have volunteered to call clients and have a good chat.  
**LEIGHTON**



# th\*

**4**

PRESIDENT'S AND CEO'S REPORT



**6**

2020 A FRESH PANDEMIC



**7**

SEX AND COVID-19



**8**

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY



**9**

MILESTONES



**10**

10 STORIES FROM THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH



**12**

AWARDS



**13**

FINANCIAL REPORT







Living with HIV and Type 1 diabetes, I'm happy to reach 66 and have my health.  
**LEIGHTON**



## PRESIDENT & CEO'S REPORT



THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH'S FLAGSHIP SEXUAL HEALTH AND TESTING CAMPAIGN, THE DRAMA DOWNUNDER WAS IMPLEMENTED THIS YEAR WITH MORE DIVERSITY THAN EVER

Today we face a global pandemic brought on by a potentially deadly pathogen. At the start of this pandemic, medical experts struggled to understand how to treat it and how to prevent it. Governments around the world undertook a range of measures to control the outbreak, with varying degrees of success. When you consider our origin story, many aspects of the COVID-19 experience are all-too-familiar. While much of the world compared the 2019 novel coronavirus to the Spanish flu a century earlier, for our communities this stirred living memories of the early response to HIV and AIDS. It was a call-to-action that we were uniquely prepared for.

### BEFORE COVID-19

As Victoria is still only just emerging from strict lockdown restrictions, it seems like a lifetime since we were dancing in close proximity without facemasks in venues and a trip interstate for a pride festival was not out of the question.

This time last year, our annual Northside Bizarre fundraiser for our David Williams Fund and JOY 94.9 was one of the biggest and most successful to date. The street festival at The Laird raised over \$36,000 thanks to the 2,500+ people that joined us on the day. After five successful runs at Midsumma, we took our annual Hypothetical to Adelaide as part of Feast Festival with an all-

queer panel on stage together, including interstate and international visitors alike. Our health promotion campaigns like *What Works*, *Public Cervix Announcement*, and *Drama Downunder* could be seen on tram stops and postcards as people commuted to work. Our advocacy was in full swing with two submissions to the Royal Commission on Victoria's Mental Health System, a call for a Parliamentary enquiry into hate crimes, and continued efforts for drug law reform and an end to conversion practices.

In December, the annual World AIDS Day street appeal saw staff and volunteers take to the streets in both Victoria and South Australia to remind everyone that *HIV Still Matters*. That same month, QuitFlicks, our tobacco cessation project in partnership with Quit Victoria and Melbourne Queer Film Festival, won the 2019 VicHealth Award for 'Preventing Tobacco Use' as plans were underway for the 2020 film festival.

As we developed our Women's Health Strategy, Dykes on Bikes announced Thorne Harbour Health as the beneficiary of their annual Pride for Pillions fundraiser offering one lucky winner a chance to ride with them in Pride March. Throughout the summer festival season, our rainbow Thorne Harbour fans were a hit at Midsumma Carnival, ChillOut, and the Melbourne 2020 International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships.

All the while, we were seeing clients every day for face-to-face counselling, GP visits, rapid tests, and peer support.

### NOW

Today things look a little different. Telehealth appointments have become the norm, and our staff have done a remarkable job at making that transition to ensure our communities did not go without the essential support they needed during uncertain times. Our volunteers adapted to find new ways to support our efforts whether by making facemasks, delivering food parcels, or offering telephone peer support through our expanded Rainbow Connection service. Through Rainbow Connection we now offer support to any LGBTIQ Victorian impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Online engagement was already a daily activity with projects like our digital sexual health initiative at [Emen8.com.au](http://Emen8.com.au) and our online community at [Dale.org.au](http://Dale.org.au) for same-sex attracted men in a heterosexual relationship. However, when physical distancing meant face-to-face encounters posed a health risk, we quickly reimagined almost all our engagements for a virtual setting. From our *Scope* workshops for women to our *Defrosted* group for men who have used meth, our expanded offering of peer workshops and support groups went from meeting room to Zoom. Plus, new groups were developed such as



I've missed being able to exercise. I want to get back in the water to swim and play water polo.  
**MADDIE**



*Conquering COVID* for those who felt impacted by the evolving landscape around the pandemic.

Annual events like L.O.V.E. found innovative ways to keep us connected and a plethora of new events were rolled out including a collection of workshops for LGBTIQ women and the *Transcripts* series focused on trans, gender diverse, and non-binary health. Perhaps one of the most ambitious online event undertakings was Pride-solation. Coordinated by Thorne Harbour Country, the one-day online event streamed over seven hours of content in partnership with 15 LGBTIQ pride festival and community organisations from across Victoria. Other online events like *DownAn'Dirty Live* started to become weekly occurrences. In fact, the Sexually Adventurous Men's project continues to deliver a new instalment of health promotion content online every single week since May 2020. In fact the series has embraced the online format by regularly engaging interstate and international guests and experts.

With so many people online at this time, we've focused on creating more video content in the past several months than ever before. In the early days of the pandemic, we kept the community up-to-date through the Thorne Harbour Health CEO Updates. This included our historic call-to-action: asking our LGBTIQ communities to stop having casual sex during the height of the pandemic in Australia. As our communities grappled with this advice, we posed tricky community questions to Dr George Forgan Smith and had his answers posted online. As facemasks became mandatory, we equipped the community with new DIY skills through the *Crafty Cal* series. We encouraged our communities to get off the couch and into the kitchen to connect with our multicultural communities through *The Bent Spoon*.

### THE FUTURE

As restrictions ease and we adapt to COVID normal, we need to retain some of the adaptations that have benefited the community. Through online content and events, we've been able to reach new audiences regardless of barriers due to geography, accessibility, and bring together our communities in South Australia and Victoria.

We'll also be adjusting to new settings. Our headquarters at 200 Hoddle Street are near completion. In early 2021, we



THE FABULOUS MISS CATALINA HOSTED THE BENT SPOON, WHERE FOOD, PERSONAL STORIES AND CULTURE CAME TOGETHER

plan to offer many of our services out of the Victorian Pride Centre. Meanwhile, we look forward to marking our five-year anniversary in Bendigo with a new home around the corner at 58 Mundy Street. We look forward to welcoming you all to these new sites when it is safe to do so.

In the coming year, we will establish our volunteer hub and release a Women's Health Strategy, both of these made possible through a generous bequest from the estate of Kevin Quinlan. We will continue to work with our partners to end the impact of HIV on our community, including tackling HIV stigma. Our President has hit his term limit and will be stepping aside at the 2020 Annual General Meeting, so the next year will see new leadership as the Board continues

its strong governance of the associations' strategy and assets. We will continue to capitalise on our strengths – our members, our staff, our volunteers and the community who support us – to reduce stigma and discrimination and build a healthy future for our communities.

It has been a year like no other for us, but much like our organisation's early days, we worked together and faced these challenges head on. We did it back then, we've done it again, and provided we don't lose sight of the importance of collective action – we will do it in the future.

CHAD HUGHES, PRESIDENT  
SIMON RUTH, CEO







It has been nice to get outside and discover new walking trails along the Yarra.

**MADDIE**



## 2020: A FRESH PANDEMIC

Fear, stigma and shame. These were the defining characteristics of the emergence of HIV and AIDS in the early 1980's. As we grapple with the current COVID-19 epidemic, it is worth reflecting on the impact HIV and AIDS had on Australia.

### 1985 - FEAR AND DEATH

It is difficult to underestimate the palpable level of stigma that was associated with HIV in the mid 80s, and although stigma at that level has lessened in recent years, it has not gone away. It is fair to say that stigma acted as a disincentive to testing for HIV in the past which, in turn resulted in catastrophic health outcomes for both individuals and the community in general.

It was not uncommon for people to lose partners, friendship networks, relationships with their families and employment due to a positive diagnosis. Stigma would cause people not to seek treatment in a timely manner, resulting in disease progression and death. And even in death, stigma was the driver for families and some friends to deny that AIDS was the cause of their loved ones demise.

Many people merely died 'after a long illness' or 'suddenly' or 'from cancer'. At times, even mourning was driven underground due to the stigma and shame associated with an AIDS-related death.

It was not uncommon at the time, for people to decide that they would not be tested because they, 'didn't want to know' and they feared the ways in which they would be treated if they were found to be positive.

### 2020 - STIGMA AND FEAR

Now we have another global pandemic to contend with, and stigma with all its associated emotional negativities could again hold us back significantly in our efforts to control it.

The restrictions put on the Melbourne public housing complexes during winter are one example of how public narratives can stigmatise affected populations. From the beginning of this action, the towers were described as going into 'hard lockdown' and the buildings having "genuinely explosive potential" for the spread of the virus, according to Victorian Chief Health

Officer Professor Brett Sutton.

The media reports included dramatic images of the looming concrete towers and the flashing lights of police vehicles on the ground. The lockdown was enforced by a significant police presence who were described as 'guarding' the residents and was put in place with immediate effect.

The public perception was not helped by the fact that 'total lockdown' and 'lockdown' are phrases regularly employed when describing prisons and maintaining control over those who have done the wrong thing.

Emma King, the Victorian Council of Social Services CEO was concerned by the police presence, describing the lockdown as looking "like a crime scene." Residents were depicted as confused and lost, without any details of what was happening to them.

This was a population of marginalised people living in a public housing environment that has been stigmatised by the community and the media for decades. Media images showed residents standing at the windows of their apartments looking out helplessly. Many of these people, as Professor Sharon Lewin pointed out, "are in work that's essential, so they are more likely to be exposed to infection."

Many of those who were not in essential work were in other low income jobs or living with a disability. In short, those people who are considered to be at the margins of society. People who have been habituated to stigma for generations.

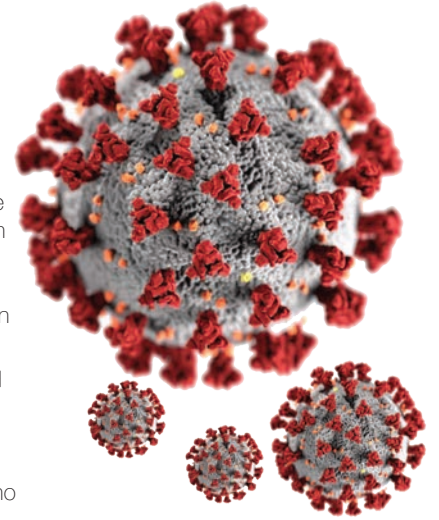
All this makes for a splashy story.

The punitive ways in which this was handled and reported resulted in people being publicly shamed and stigmatised when they were at their most vulnerable. To many of us, who lived through the early days of the HIV epidemic, this scenario seems very familiar.

### COVID-19 AND THE FUTURE

But unlike the early days of the HIV pandemic, the action in the towers aside, there are several elements of the current situation that are positive. Generally speaking there is a sense that we are all in this together, because we are, literally.

We were all subject to the same



COVID-19 SAW THE EMERGENCE OF NEW STIGMAS AIMED AT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

restrictions, the same curfew. We have all been mandated to protect ourselves and others – and it seems that we are doing so, willingly.

In 1985 we had to demonstrate in the streets to fight for HIV treatment and prevention. Now in 2020 the population is living in a world that has been transformed by a blanket awareness of COVID-19, how it is transmitted, how we can avoid it and how we must protect and care for others who are affected by it.

In this country, in 1985 one of the things that was directly linked to our success in the response to the HIV pandemic was the early involvement of the community. We were active participants in care, support, government policy, prevention and research. It is important to remember that legacy when we see the remarkable participation of the community amidst the current pandemic. Out on the streets there is a tangible sense that we are all playing a part, that we all have a role to play in stemming new infections.

If we can learn from the past and build on the sense of a collective community effort and responsibility that is informed by care, sensitivity, sound public policy and personal agency – without stigma, fear or shame – then we will emerge from this crisis as a stronger society.



Coming out and finding acceptance as a trans teacher has been difficult.  
**RICK**



## SEX AND COVID-19

In March 2020, the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and COVID-19 posed a very real threat to the health and wellbeing to our LGBTI communities and people living with HIV. As the Australian public health response started to take shape, it was clear that physical distancing was going to play a major role. Taking into account the needs, motivations, and behaviours of the communities we serve, we asked, "What does this mean for sex?"

Faced with this complex question, we began putting together resources to arm the community with information on how to limit their risk of transmission or acquisition while maintaining a healthy sex life. Released on 17 March, our Info Sheet: *Sex, intimacy & coronavirus* was one of the first resources in the world addressing this issue. For months, it was among the top results when searching online about sex and coronavirus. The resource has since been adapted for interstate audiences as well as communities in Canada, South Africa, Brazil, Ireland, and New Zealand.

### STOP SEX

We also made the tough decision to ask our communities to stop having casual sex.

After nearly four decades of sex-positive health promotion messaging with regard to HIV and other STIs, this decision was not made lightly but warranted by the significant health risk we faced. We took to social media, hook up apps, and LGBTI media to encourage our communities to take action. We had resources translated into five other languages to inform and support our linguistically diverse LGBTI communities.

During this time, the traffic to our website more than doubled! Over 100,000 visitors went to ThorneHarbour.org within the first 90 days following the release of our first sex and COVID resource.

### THE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Informed by the lessons learned from leading the community response to HIV, we worked with clinicians, community leaders, and subject matter experts to foster a progressive conversation when it came to sex and COVID. Through *Well, Well, Well*, our weekly radio show on JOY 94.9, we spoke to leading infectious disease experts, clinicians, and researchers alongside sex workers and authorities in sex tech. As community dialogue mounted about the potential



THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ORGANISATIONS IN THE WORLD TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19 AND SEX.

for HIV medications and PrEP to prevent COVID-19, we encouraged the community to remain focused on strategies supported by evidence rather than speculation. Working with Dr George Forgen-Smith, we addressed community questions concerning the level of risk posed by a range of sexual activities. Our sexually adventurous men's project went online to present *Down An' Dirty Live* – a virtual forums exploring esoteric practices and sexual health. The forums have continued to run every week and have brought together community members from regional and metropolitan areas alike across both Victoria and South Australia.

As our communities went into a time of reduced sexual activity, we were presented with unique opportunities and new challenges. There was a chance to greatly reduce the onward transmission of STIs. Through our flagship *Drama Downunder* campaign, we have been encouraging our communities to *JUMP TO IT!* and to get tested and treated for HIV and other STIs.

### COVID-19 AND PrEP

Just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic we saw a record number of gay and bisexual men report using PrEP to

prevent HIV through the Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey. Through the Kirby Institute's FLUX study, we know that almost half of gay and bisexual men who were using PrEP to prevent HIV have stopped during the pandemic. As restrictions start to ease, it's vital that we work with these communities to make sure they safely resume using PrEP in the way that best works for them – whether that be daily PrEP or on-demand. Of course, we also need to keep condoms, PEP, and undetectable viral load (UVL) in the HIV prevention conversation.

### EASING RESTRICTIONS

While other parts of the world are experiencing deadly second and third waves of the pandemic, case numbers in Australia are incredibly low. Strict lockdown measures are starting to ease in Victoria. Borders between states are starting to open up. It'll be some time before we see the potential roll out of a viable vaccine. Until then, we need to continue the conversation around what sex looks like in a 'COVID normal' landscape.





Being a *Spark* facilitator has allowed me to connect and get to know more trans folk.

**RICK**

## CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

### RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Our Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RAPWG) has been meeting regularly to develop a second action plan to advance reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This plan will build on our first Reflect RAP and contain measurable and meaningful strategies to increase cultural safety, purposeful partnerships, employment opportunities, and service accessibility. As part of the RAPWG's work this past year, we presented a yarning panel on living in the intersection of Aboriginality and queerness for an organisation-wide forum. We have also commenced an organisational Cultural Safety Audit in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency.

### MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF POSITIVE PEOPLE

Our Meaningful Involvement of PLHIV (MIPA) framework proactively encourages involvement and active participation in all aspects of our response, empowering positive people to use their lived experience to contribute to and inform the organisation's policies and practices. We remain dedicated to ensuring that the communities most affected by HIV are actively involved and engaged, thereby improving program processes and outcomes, cultural competency, responsiveness to client needs, client satisfaction, and the quality of care and support services.

### TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

During COVID-19 lockdown, we developed a seminar series focussed on trans, gender-diverse and non-binary (TGDNB) wellbeing. These 90-minute webinars have been well attended with audiences ranging from 50-100 people and closed caption recordings available on Thorne Harbour's YouTube channel.

The Trans and Gender Diverse in Community Health (TGDICH) project has delivered a series of TGD Affirmative Practice Training sessions for GPs, nurses, and other providers across the state this year. The Project ECHO online Community of Practice, in which clinicians discuss anonymised case studies and share best practice in working with TGDNB communities, continues to be well attended.

Two new TGDNB peer-support groups - *Pace* (for/by Trans Men) and *Novus* (for/by trans women) - have started this



THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL *PUBLIC CERVIX ANNOUNCEMENT* CAMPAIGN RAN AGAIN THIS YEAR.

year with financial and training support from Transgender Victoria's SPARK program. Volunteer facilitators receive an honorarium and certification in their chosen name and the skills they gain are broadly applicable in a range of employment opportunities.

### DISABILITY

In collaboration with Inclusion Design Labs, this year we embarked on a disability inclusion project funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency's Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Program. Building on the recommendations from our previous disability review, this project saw a team of 12 LGBTIQ people with disabilities, including the Project Officer, come together to identify key issues facing LGBTIQ people with disabilities, and develop resources that address these barriers.

Resources include: Navigating the NDIS as an LGBTIQ person, Understanding LGBTIQ Disability Rights and Infringements, a toolkit for including LGBTIQ+ protections in contracts and pre-service agreements, and a series of profiles on LGBTIQ people with disabilities.

### REGIONAL HEALTH

Thorne Harbour Country participated in 35 events across the Loddon Mallee this year. Highlights include Out in The Open Festival, ChillOut Festival, Deadly Health at Mallee District Aboriginal Service, Picnic in The Park in Mildura, Frolic Festival, Rainbow Ball in Bendigo and Queer Formal in Kyneton.

The service presented at the Better Together Conference, as part of a

series of talks for Bendigo Bank, at United We Feast (Australian LGBTIQ+ Multicultural Council), and delivered training to organisations including Boort District Health, Castlemaine Health, City of Greater Bendigo and Murray Valley Aboriginal Cooperative.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

The *Public Cervix Announcement* campaign ran for the second year in a row to promote cancer cervical screening. The campaign was nominated for a Victorian Public Healthcare Award and was adopted and showcased across the ACT. Our LGBTIQ Women's Health Survey ran for the second year at Midsumma Carnival, providing us with insights into the important issues surrounding queer women and allowing us to develop key partnerships to meet the needs of LGBTIQ women. One such partnership was working with Breast Screen Victoria on the development of a project that would encourage queer women to screen more frequently.

This year during Women's Health Week, we shared a range of information and services offered by the organisation online and within queer women's networks. As part of International Women's Day, we hosted Wise Words – A Night of Intergenerational Storytelling at Hares & Hyenas. The event featured personal narratives of all ages discussing the experience of being queer. We also developed a range of online events to help LGBTIQ women stay connected with each other during COVID-19 – including creative ways to deal with mental health issues, healthy ways to discuss alcohol, and creative writing workshops.



The uncertainty was a challenge - not knowing what's going to happen in the future.  
**PEGGY**



**MILESTONES** 2019 - 2020







It's been incredible to see how people have adapted - how Thorne Harbour has adapted.  
**PEGGY**



## 10 STORIES FROM THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH

### 1 Charlie's Story

Charlie is a young trans man with a psycho-social disability. With the support of NDIS and Thorne Harbour's Home Care Team, Charlie is developing his skills at his own pace. He completed a subject at university, perfected cooking skills, and volunteered on our THH Coffee Cart. "Each success gives me confidence and helps me to realise that I don't have to exempt myself from the things that I'm passionate about just because I have a disability."

"My support team is flexible, supportive and gentle. They understand where I've come from and what I'm struggling with in a non-judgmental, compassionate and creative way. I always feel like my choices are supported."

"I have learnt a lot for my own personal life, giving me that confidence to go out and be part of the wider world."

### 2 Rainbow Connection

Rainbow Connection, originally focused on supporting LGBTI elders, has expanded to support any LGBTI Victorian impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the new phone hotline, the service offers peer support, food security, and advice on housing issues. Volunteers provide weekly peer support for isolated clients and volunteer drivers deliver prepared meals to people. Between March and June 2020, Rainbow Connection delivered more than 1100 meals.

One of the volunteer drivers, Bruce Weston, said, "It's important to try to keep a sense of community in the darkest times, and through this program I have been able to connect with a whole range of isolated LGBTI people and provide support not just through food but through human connection."

### 3 Loose Lips in Adelaide

After five successful events as part of Midsumma Festival, the Thorne Harbour Hypothetical crossed the border into South Australia. As part of the 2019 Feast Festival, SAMESH hosted *Loose Lips in Public Places* at the University of Adelaide's Elder Hall. The format made popular by Geoffrey Robertson's *Hypothetical* on the ABC, sees a panel of community leaders, politicians, and media personalities navigate a fictional narrative filled with contemporary social issues.

Moderated by Dean Arcuri, the all-queer panel included 2019 International Mr Leather Jack Thompson, Adelaide City Councillor Robert Simms, Feast Program Coordinator Lucy Hackworth, Ms Adelaide Leather 2018 Jody Anderson, SA Health's Holley Skene, Radio Adelaide's Mark Tripodi and LGBTI community advocate Kim Gates.



DEAN ARCURI, THE BRILLIANT HOST OF *LOOSE LIPS IN PUBLIC PLACES* AT THE FEAST FESTIVAL IN ADELAIDE.

### 4 Pride-Solation

In an Australian first, Pride-Solation brought together 15 Victorian regional festivals and organisations to celebrate Pride Month on Saturday 20 June 2020 in an online event streamed live through Facebook and Lance TV Ballarat. Led by Thorne Harbour Country, participating organisations included: Koorie Pride Network, OUTintheOPEN Festival Shepparton (Goulburn Valley Pride Inc.), Mallee Pride, Gippsland Pride Initiative, Wimmera Pride Project, Geelong Rainbow Festival (Geelong Rainbow Inc), Ballarat Frolic Festival, Castlemaine Pride, Trans and Gender Diverse Bendigo and Beyond and Daylesford's ChillOut Festival. Showcasing the talents of our LGBTIQ communities across Australia, the event included health messaging to support our communities during a time of physical distancing and lockdown restrictions. With over seven hours of programming, the online event was a huge success with over 8,900 viewers, 680 comments, and 160 shares of the live stream.

### 5 Taking Charge of HIV & Ageing

For people living with HIV aged over 50, we now offer *Taking Charge*. In partnership with Living Positive Victoria, *Taking Charge* focuses on ageing with HIV and includes a Positive Self-Management Program and a monthly Peer Support Network.

The self-management program gives PLHIV the skills to coordinate all the things needed to manage their health and to help them keep active. The program is aimed at those with longstanding HIV and significant co-morbidities as well as other challenges such as depression, loneliness, isolation, stigma, and rejection. Meanwhile, the monthly peer support network is chance for social connection as well as learn about a range of issues affecting health and wellbeing. Like so many other programs, *Taking Charge* went online during the COVID-19 pandemic to offer virtual events.



Being able to participate in events virtually, I don't face the same issues around accessibility.  
**CLARE**



## 6 Scope Out

As part of our expanding offering of peer education workshops, October 2019 saw the launch of *Scope*. *Scope* is aimed at LGBTIQ women wanting to explore their identity and make new social connections in a safe and welcoming space. Through the *Scope* workshops, participants can share and learn more about themselves and other LGBTIQ women. Like our other peer education workshops, *Scope* is peer-led by trained volunteer facilitators. *Scope* is now offered as a six-week long series of workshops navigating topics like identity, coming out, sexual health, community and stigma.



2016 MISTER GAY WORLD, JOHN F. RASPADO, IS THE LEAD AMBASSADOR FOR LOVE YOURSELF'S INCOGNITO 2.0 TESTING CAMPAIGN. STAFF FROM LOVE YOURSELF WERE HOSTED BY THH AS PART OF THE FILIPINO DELEGATION IN 2019.

## 7 Fans of THH

As part of our *What Works* campaign highlighting tools for HIV prevention, we distributed rainbow fans at LGBTIQ summer festivals including Midsumma and ChillOut. Quickly, the nearly 2,000 fans started to make cameos on local media coverage of LGBTIQ community events as well as on stage as part of drag performances. Hundreds of fans also made their way overseas with the 700+ athletes that attended the Melbourne 2020 International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics Championships sponsored by Thorne Harbour in February. However, the most notable appearance of our fans came once the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. Melbourne Zoo set up several livestreams so people could enjoy the animals from home. One Saturday morning, a zookeeper stole the show with a delightful on-camera dance performance with one of our rainbow fans in hand! The camp clip went viral and featured on BBC news.

## 8 The Filipino Delegation

In October of 2019, we welcomed a delegation from the Philippines. Sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the delegation came to get a better understanding of how the Thorne Harbour leads the community response to HIV with a particular focus on digital community engagement and health promotion. The delegation included community project workers, public health officers, doctors, and WHO officials. The three-

day program offered presentations and sessions from across the organisation and site visits to both our Positive Living Centre and PRONTO!/Equinox.

Following the visit, the delegation successfully negotiated the inclusion of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and a combination of other HIV prevention tools in the Philippines HIV strategy, as well as securing funding to create a national campaign highlighting the suite of tools available for HIV prevention.

## 9 Trans & Gender Diverse in Community Health

Helping to create safe access to healthcare for trans and gender diverse people in Victoria, the Trans and Gender Diverse in Community Health (TGDICH) Training Project is a consortium with Your Community Health, Ballarat Community Health, and Austin Health. Co-created with trans and gender diverse (TGD) people and medical professionals, the project offers training packages created to improve TGD sensitivity, reduce stigma and discrimination, and build the health sector's capacity to meet the needs of TGD individuals. By helping to embed TGD affirmative care into health services, we're hoping to overcome the health disparity experienced between our TGD communities and the broader community. Training is tailored for various audiences including GPs, specialists, nurses, allied health, pathology, and reception staff.

## 10 Royal Commission

In partnership with Rainbow Health Victoria and Switchboard, we made a submission to Victoria's Royal Commission into the state's mental health system. With a vision for a mental health system that provides safe and equitable health care, the submission outlined a number of recommendations to improve the poor mental health outcomes disproportionately experienced by our LGBTIQ communities.

We made an additional submission to the Royal Commission in partnership with Living Positive Victoria and Positive Women Victoria. This submission noted the relationship between HIV and mental health challenges and outlined a number of recommendations to improve mental health for people living with HIV.





My fiancée and I had to cancel our wedding, but we have a new date for the year ahead.

**CLARE**

## THORNE HARBOUR AWARDS

### **LIFE MEMBER** **Elizabeth Crock**

Liz Crock has worked closely with Thorne Harbour staff and volunteers for more than 30 years.

In the early days of the AIDS epidemic, as a nurse at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, Liz supported the then Victorian AIDS Council volunteers as they undertook intensive training in home care and infection control.

Liz Crock is a tireless advocate for her clients, a committed HIV/AIDS activist, and an essential support for Thorne Harbour in the delivery of its community services.

### **LIFE MEMBER** **Leighton Browne**

Leighton Browne has been a member of THH for 25 years. Always a friendly face at the Positive Living Centre, Leighton is a long term and active member of our community advisory group. Leighton is also an active events volunteer supporting the organisation on World AIDS Day, at Northside Bizarre and elsewhere.

### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD** **Switchboard Victoria**

Switchboard Victoria Inc is a community based not for profit organisation that provides a peer based, volunteer run support service for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual (LGBTIQ+) community and their allies, friends, and families.

Switchboard has been a key partner of THH's for nearly 30 years and for a significant period was based out of the Peter Knight Centre.

Switchboard has partnered with THH in our policy work, our family violence work, and in supporting our communities through tough times, such as during the marriage equality debate and during the pandemic.

### **SPECIAL SERVICES AWARD** **Leasa Mann**

Since the first lockdown began Leasa has developed initiatives to help community members cope during the COVID pandemic. Leasa has served the community by hosting a weekly 'Drinking in wigs: sparkling isolation' live webcam event to entertain lonely and isolated community members in lockdown. Hundreds of people tune into this for social engagement and to remain connected to community each week.

### **SPECIAL SERVICES AWARD** **Sam Dengate**

During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sam has managed to link in over 150 members of the community with daily check-ins on physical and mental health and wellbeing. As an openly queer transman, Sam understands the complexities of identity and the need for visibility in the community.

Sam has the ability to see the bigger picture of community needs, to consistently adapt his work model to ensure access is available no matter who or where you are, in a safe and affirming manner has shown his passion for bettering community.

### **SPECIAL SERVICES AWARD** **Dee Chyssomallos**

As a founding member of FTM Shed, Dee originally joined Thorne Harbour Health to offer support within Peer Education programs for Trans men. In addition, he has contributed to the success of some of our most notable events including Northside Bizarre, World AIDS Memorial Service, VAC-Stravaganza and Midsumma. As a veteran of the leather and kink scene he has supported his community and Thorne Harbour's involvement at community events such as Rubberman, Mooning, Trough, Slick, AWOL and WOOF club. Dee is a tireless volunteer and community leader.

### **SPECIAL SERVICES AWARD** **Jo Bangles**

As a dedicated and respected community leader, Jo Bangles has played an integral role in supporting Thorne Harbour's work with our regional and rural communities.

Born and raised in regional Victoria, Jo has been the President of Dykes on Bikes Melbourne for the past decade, and more recently, became the Co-President of Geelong Rainbow Inc. after successfully organising both the Geelong Rainbow Festival and the Geelong Pride March. In addition, her ISOber initiative motivated community members to better assess their drinking behaviours during lockdown. The trust Jo has earned from her active leadership put her in a unique position to support both our Women's Health Project and the work of Thorne Harbour Country.

### **GREIG FRIDAY AWARD** **Elliott McMahon**

Elliott commenced volunteering for THH as a generalist counsellor two years ago. More recently, Elliott has become the lead volunteer facilitator for the ADMIN group run through the THH Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) team. ADMIN is an open/ongoing support group for transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people looking to better manage their alcohol and other drug use.

Elliott's work in this group and passion to support his fellow volunteers demonstrate a high level of collaborative leadership and work to further the mission of Thorne Harbour Health.



Leaving my home country to study abroad was a massive life change and the pandemic intensified that.  
**ABDURAHMAN**



## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Revenue summary

Grant income	10,684,521
Operating income	3,805,120
Investment income	203,207
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,692,848</b>

### Revenue breakdown

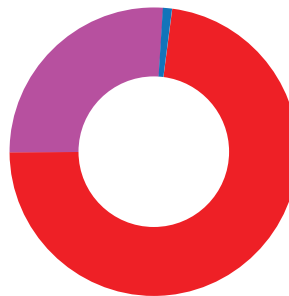
Grant income	10,684,521
Client fees	1,800,354
Donations, fundraising and bequest income	301,563
Goods and Services Income	749,911
Membership fees	4,016
Other revenue	949,276
Dividend income	134,298
Interest income	68,909
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>14,692,848</b>

### Expense breakdown

Operating expenses	2,186,849
Employee costs	8,603,644
Campaign expenses	1,186,332
Client Support expenses	1,354,582
Professional fees	151,039
Other expenses	36,870
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,519,316</b>

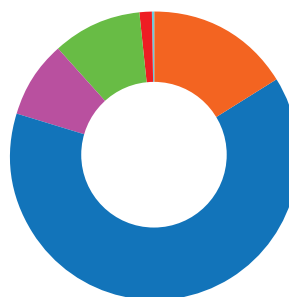
### REVENUE BREAKDOWN

Grant income 73%  
 Operating income 26%  
 Investment income 1%



### EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

Operating expenses 16%  
 Employee costs 64%  
 Campaign expenses 9%  
 Client support expenses 10%  
 Professional expenses 1%  
 Other expenses 0%



## VICTORIAN AIDS COUNCIL INC./GAY MEN'S HEALTH CENTRE INC. (AGGREGATED)

### Summary Aggregated Statement of Profit or Loss For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>	14,692,848	14,324,978
<b>Less: expenses</b>		
Operating expenses	(2,186,849)	(2,021,396)
Employee costs	(8,603,644)	(7,868,788)
Campaign expenses	(1,186,332)	(1,783,274)
Client support expenses	(1,354,582)	(1,347,128)
Professional fees	(151,039)	(164,402)
Other expenses	(36,870)	(68,127)
	(13,519,316)	(13,253,116)
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>1,173,532</b>	<b>1,071,862</b>

Cont.



Volunteering has allowed me to meet new people and help others. It's been great for my mental wellbeing.

**ABDURAHMAN**

## VICTORIAN AIDS COUNCIL INC./GAY MEN'S HEALTH CENTRE INC. (AGGREGATED)

### Aggregated Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2020

Assets	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,039,042	3,599,201
Trade and other receivables	302,624	77,124
Other financial assets	6,472,815	6,343,353
Other assets	514,764	154,760
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>11,329,245</b>	<b>10,174,438</b>
<b>Noncurrent assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	3,113	2,544
Right-of-use assets	271,604	-
Property, plant and equipment	11,811,180	12,035,419
Intangible assets	78,885	102,878
Total noncurrent assets	12,164,782	12,140,841
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>23,494,027</b>	<b>22,315,279</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	730,112	977,831
Provisions	1,275,692	1,009,510
Other liabilities	279,881	398,315
Lease liabilities	241,853	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,527,538</b>	<b>2,385,656</b>
<b>Noncurrent liabilities</b>		
Provisions	171,239	205,049
Lease liabilities	37,144	-
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<b>208,383</b>	<b>205,049</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,735,921</b>	<b>2,590,705</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>20,758,106</b>	<b>19,724,574</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Reserves	240,410	380,410
Accumulated surplus	20,517,696	19,344,164
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>20,758,106</b>	<b>19,724,574</b>

The above summary financial information has been extracted from the audited financial statements. No audit opinion has been issued in relation to the summary financial statements. These should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements that are available to the members on our website [www.thorneharbour.org/financials](http://www.thorneharbour.org/financials)



I hadn't been as community-connected. Volunteering has been a way for me to be a part of the community.  
**NICHOLAS**



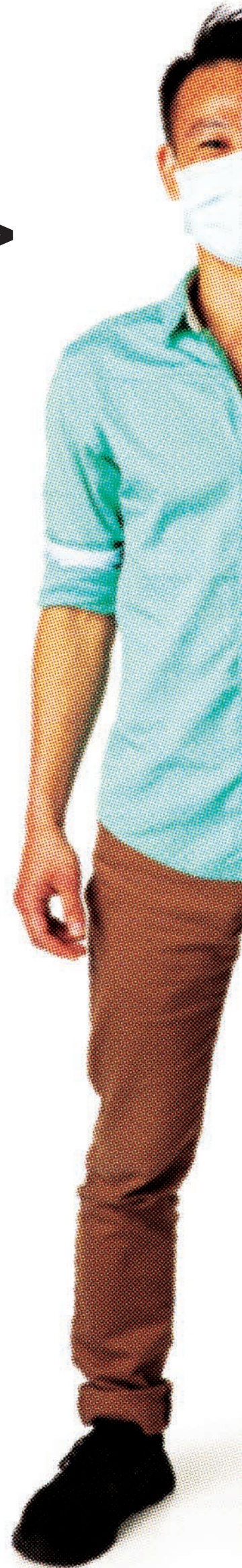
### Aggregated Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

2020	Accumulated Surpluses	Asset Revaluation Surplus	Financial Assets Reserve	Total
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2019</b>	19,344,164	380,410	-	19,724,57
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,173,532	-	-	1,173,532
Revaluation of property, plant and equipment	-	(140,000)	-	(140,000)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>20,517,696</b>	<b>240,410</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,758,106</b>

2019	Accumulated Surpluses	Asset Revaluation Surplus	Financial Assets Reserve	Total
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2018</b>	18,205,329	380,410	66,973	18,652,712
Cumulative adjustment upon adoption of AASB	66,973	-	(66,973)	-
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2018 (restated)</b>	18,272,302	380,410	-	18,652,712
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,071,862	-	-	1,071,862
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>19,344,164</b>	<b>380,410</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,724,574</b>

### Aggregated Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Grants received	10,704,521	9,981,459
Payments to suppliers and employees	(12,633,288)	(13,444,177)
Interest received	69,619	162,961
Dividends received	134,298	150,030
Receipts from customers	3,588,871	2,519,631
Donations and bequests received	282,063	1,302,623
Net GST paid	(520,221)	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>1,625,863</b>	<b>672,527</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Payments for financial assets	(571,013)	(213,777)
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(49,486)	(11,030,278)
Payments for intangible assets	(5,850)	(29,206)
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets	342,528	11,198,527
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(283,821)</b>	<b>(74,734)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Repayment of lease liabilities	(902,201)	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(902,201)</b>	<b>-</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	439,841	597,793
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,599,201	3,001,408
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	<b>4,039,042</b>	<b>3,599,201</b>





I'm glad to have come out as bisexual. I believe visibility is really important.  
**NICHOLAS**

Catching up with people now feel like a treat. I think we took that for granted before.  
**LINDY**



# THANK YOU!

101 Collins Street  
ACON  
Aesop Emporium  
AFAO  
Alfred Health  
ALGA  
Alison Thorne  
Angicare  
ANZ  
ARCSHS  
ASU  
Austin Health  
Australian Drug Foundation  
Australian Government  
Australian Unity  
Ballarat Community Health  
Bendigo Community Health  
Bendigo City  
Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative  
Bolton Clarke  
Boort District Health  
Brave Network  
Breast Screen Victoria  
Broadtree Foundation  
Burnet Institute  
Cancer Council Victoria  
Carlton United Brewery  
Castlemaine Picnic in the Park Festival  
Catholic AIDS Ministry  
CBRE  
Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health  
Centre for Social Research in Health  
ChillOut  
CHIRP Community Health  
City of Melbourne  
City of Stonnington  
City of Yarra  
Cobaw Community Health  
Colin Krycer  
CPA Australia  
Create Victoria  
Crown Pride  
David Owen  
Dean Arcuri  
Doherty Institute  
Dolly Diamond  
Dykes on Bikes  
Energy Australia  
Enliven  
Equality Australia  
Family Planning Victoria  
Foodbank Victoria  
FPPV  
Frolic Festival  
Garry Robottom  
Geelong Rainbow Festival  
Gippsland Pride Initiative  
Dr George Forgan Smith  
Gilead  
Gippsland Pride  
GiveOUT  
Goldman Sachs  
Haven; Home, Safe  
Headspace Bendigo  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Housing Choices

Jack Thompson  
James Farmer  
Jon Jackson  
JOY 94.9  
JP Morgan  
Kevin Reader  
Khang Chiem  
Koorie Pride Network  
Lance TV – Ballarat  
Launch Housing  
Living Positive Victoria  
Luke Gallagher  
MAC Cosmetics  
Macquarie Bank  
Mackillop Family Services – Loddon  
Mallee District Aboriginal Service  
Mallee Pride  
Melbourne Gay & Lesbian Chorus  
Melbourne Polytechnic  
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre  
Midsumma  
Monash Health  
MQFF  
Murray Valley Aboriginal Cooperative  
NAB  
NAPWHA  
National LGBTI Health Alliance  
NWMPHN  
Out in the Open Festival  
Picture This Ballooning  
Positive Life South Australia  
Positive Women Victoria  
Prahran Market Clinic  
Quit Victoria  
Relationships Matter  
Rex Reki  
Ro Allen  
Rachel Trevorror Dunham  
Salvation Army Housing Vic  
SEMPHN  
Shine SA  
South Australian Government  
St Kilda Legal Service  
Stockland Shopping Centres  
Sunraysia Community Health  
Switchboard Victoria  
The Centre  
The Institute of Many  
The Laird  
Transgender Victoria  
VAADA  
VACCHO  
VAHS  
Veronica Moore  
VicHealth  
Victoria Police  
Victorian Government  
Victorian Pride Centre  
ViV  
Virginia Cummins  
Vixen Collective  
VHA  
Volunteering Victoria  
Women's Health Loddon Mallee  
Your Community Health  
Zoe Belle Gender Collective

