



# Together for good.

'It's clear that our progress comes from the power of the community coming together with intention, respect and care, and I feel really proud to be a part of that.' - Rhian

**RODRIGO WITH RHIAN**

**THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 23**





# Together for good.

'I met Marc on my first day volunteering for Thorne Harbour. I love the strength he has in meeting every day head on. Sometimes you just know when you've made a mate for life.' – Mark

**MARK WITH MARC**

# Together for good.

In this year's annual report, we celebrate the diversity of our communities with the common theme, *Together for Good*.

The people pictured in this report may, or may not be, in any kind of intimate relationship but they all have one thing in common: their desire to be connected to community and to work for the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people wherever they can.

Thorne Harbour Health prides itself on being an organisation that is inclusive of all, and our track record over the past 40 years has been one of diversity, collaborative practice and adaptive creativity. In this way we draw on the strength and passion of our volunteer base who have been instrumental in many of the major changes and shifts we have made to face challenges now, and into the future – together for good.



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# Together for good.

'Jay Jay and I share the same values of contributing positively to our communities. Coming together to lift people up is what makes me proud to be queer and lead the way for younger people.' – Ant

**ANT WITH JAY JAY**

## PRESIDENT & CEO'S REPORT

'Together for Good' is the theme of this year's annual report – honouring our collective action to progress toward a brighter future.

That's no small feat. The idea that we are one unified LGBTIQ+ community is a myth.

We are a coalition of communities, comprised of smaller tribes – each with their own set of challenges, motivations, and aspirations. Our individual members are not easily described by one or two words – but a number of intersectionalities.

To truly progress together, we need to acknowledge our differences and identify our common goals. In the past year, we have seen some of the tensions within our communities gain mainstream media attention. Navigating these issues is exhausting work – often met with dissent and criticism along the way. Yet, our organisation undertakes this work every day, and a massive thank you to our staff and volunteers who find themselves at the coal face.

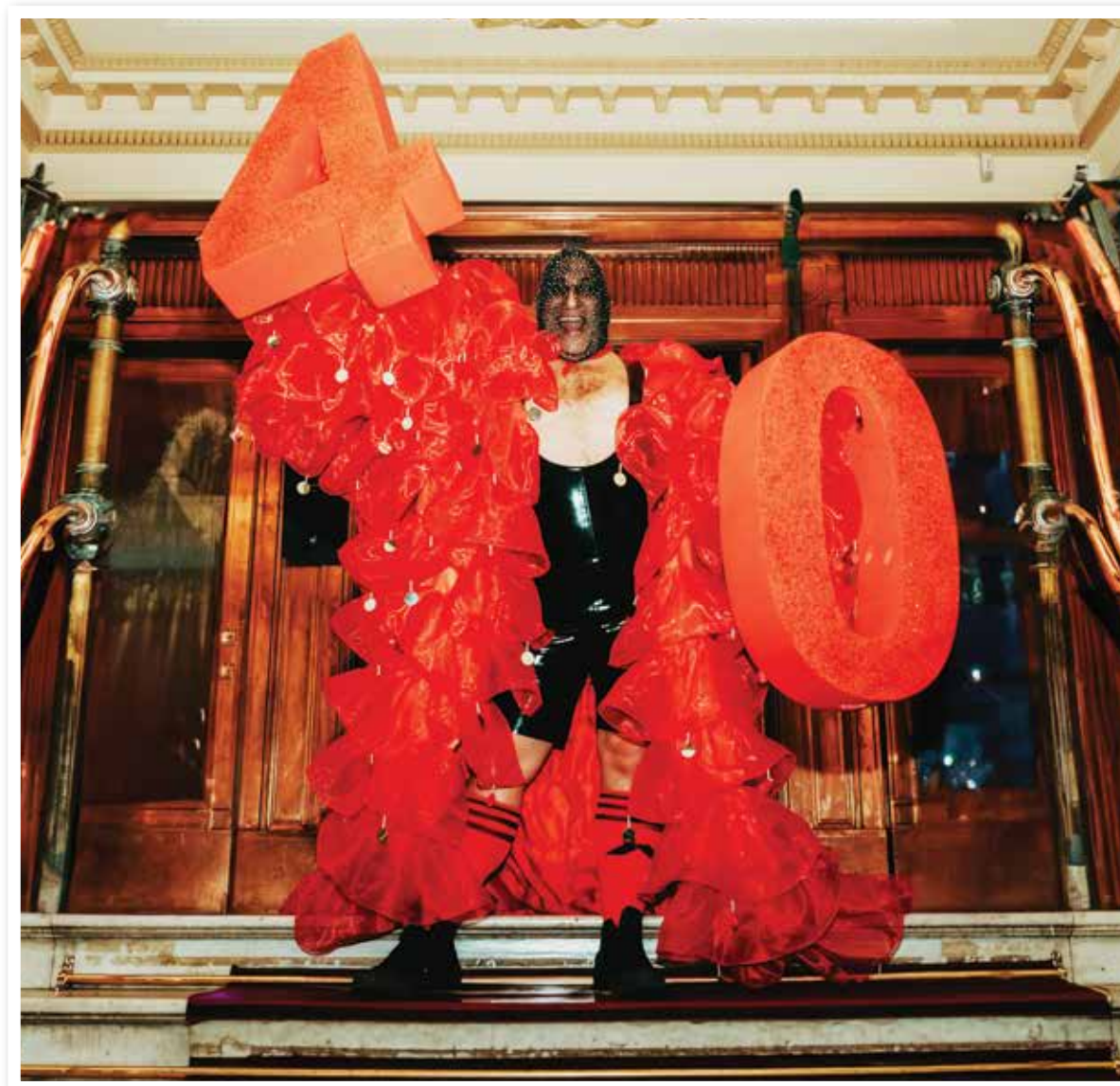
### TURNING 40

This year we've turned 40 – an achievement in itself for an organisation. It's been an opportunity to look back on our origin story and honour those who put their hand up to lead the community response to HIV and AIDS in this country. Many of those people are still with us today. We owe a debt of gratitude to them for their work as well as the wealth of knowledge they offer.

From the foundations developed in the community response to HIV and AIDS, we have now built a much bigger organisation, tackling a much broader portfolio of health issues, directly impacting a much bigger network of communities.

### THE LAST TEN YEARS

The past decade has been one of remarkable growth for the organisation. Our work extends beyond metropolitan Melbourne, into regional Victoria, and across the border into South Australia. We are taking the models of support initially developed for gay men and translating those to meet the needs of LGBTIQ+ women, our trans and gender diverse communities, people with innate variations of sex characteristics, and our bi+ communities. And we're starting to make progress in addressing the needs of those of us living with a disability, those of us from faith-based



POPULAR COMMUNITY IDENTITY DEAN ARCURI GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT OF THINGS AT OUR RUBY RED BALL AT THE MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

or culturally diverse backgrounds, and rainbow mob from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We have a long way to go, but if our last decade is anything to go by, remarkable change is possible. It's incredibly important that we ensure whatever progress we make is progress for good. After so many changes in recent years, it is paramount that our growth is sustainable.

Our resolution in September 2022 to transition our organisation from two incorporated associations into two companies limited by guarantee was an important step in this process. This structural change opens up funding opportunities in the future and better aligns with our organisation's purpose.

### ACCREDITATION

This past year we also successfully achieved accreditation in both QIC and Rainbow Tick standards. Undertaking these independent assessments ensures we don't compromise on delivering high-quality, safe, and

inclusive services and programs to our communities.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

The release of this year's annual report coincides with the release of our next strategic plan, *Towards 2030*. While the goals and priorities outlined may not seem like a dramatic shift from those of our past, the new plan brings in a fresh framework for how we support the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

Supporting those communities means supporting the factions and individuals within them – each with a unique combination of experiences, challenges, and motivations. It means having uncomfortable conversations and being open to restructuring and rebuilding parts to be accessible to a greater number of people. It is a herculean challenge, but if our 40-year history has taught us anything, it is that we are up for a challenge.

From our founding in response to an emerging health crisis, we have built an

organisation committed to improving the collective wellbeing of many. It is not and will not be easy. We will continue to need your help – as members, volunteers, staff, partners, supporters, and allies.

We need to make this commitment 'Together for Good'.

Janet Jukes  
President

Simon Ruth  
CEO



# Together for good.

'I am thankful to have found a community by volunteering at Thorne Harbour Health. It gives me immense joy to contribute my time and passion towards building a stronger community.' - Maleea

MALEEA WITH THOMAS

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

On Tuesday 12 July 1983, our organisation was founded at The Laird Hotel as the 'Victorian AIDS Action Committee' by a group of community activists forged in the fires of gay and lesbian liberation. Forty years, a merger with the Gay Men's Health Centre, and several name changes later, we're incredibly fortunate to have many of those people still with us to share their stories and experiences – including their hopes and dreams, losses and tragedies, and the wisdom they learned along the way.

Founding President Phil Carswell reflected on those early days, "We learnt to empower ourselves, and we engaged ourselves in community organising – in community development."

That remit is still at the heart of Thorne Harbour Health, and our 40th anniversary has indeed been a time of celebration and inspiration, but also of education and community development.

### RUBY RED BALL

For one fabulous night, the Ruby Red Ball brought together generations of people involved in advocating for and improving the lives of our communities. Inspired by the iconic red ribbon for HIV/AIDS awareness, the night saw Melbourne Town Hall and hundreds of guests decked out in various shades of ruby, scarlet, crimson, garnet, and merlot. The rainbow carpet saw guests arrive in everything from velvet suits to kink-inspired garments, from feather boas to a red cardinal's outfit with matching oversized hat.

Once inside, the night also recognized that our incredible legacy of collective community action is not without grief and loss. A panel from the heritage-listed Melbourne AIDS Memorial Quilt was on display alongside the Legends exhibition, featuring incredible community activists, like Keith Harbour, who have died due to HIV/AIDS.

Founding President Phil Carswell OAM spoke on the night to those we've lost and to our legacy.

"Thorne Harbour only exists because of the people; the heartbeat. By having those volunteers and members working so hard, we built foundations that have lasted to this day, and I believe will last for decades to come," said Phil Carswell.

His words were supported by speeches from Victorian Minister for Equality Harriet Shing, Thorne Harbour Health President Janet Jukes OAM, and an inspiring call-to-arms by our Vice President Paul Kidd.

### EXHIBITIONS

Following the Ruby Red Ball, three vastly different exhibitions went on display at the Victorian Pride Centre, Collingwood's @14 Gallery, and The Laird – each offering insight into how the organisation has approached its work in advocating for the rights of our communities and



FOR ONE FABULOUS NIGHT, THE RUBY RED BALL BROUGHT TOGETHER GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ADVOCATING FOR AND IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

improving our health and wellbeing.

We opened with 'If the World Was Just', a series of portraits of LGBTIQ+ community members that considered the consequences of them being their authentic selves in various countries, some of which have harsh or archaic laws against LGBTIQ+ people.

'40 Years of Community Activism' was a retrospective look at some of our most iconic campaigns and initiatives since 1983. Looking across the range of materials, the difference in messaging from the 1980s to today was stark. However, our mission remains the same – to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Director of Health Promotion and Co-Curator, Colin Batrouney, said "I was lucky enough to be engaged in work that makes a difference in people's lives. It's transformational. It was for me, and it has been for a lot of other people."

'Protection' looked back at one of the world's most sexually explicit condom-reinforcement campaigns. It unapologetically showed gay men having sex – in groups, in saunas, in all sorts of ways – and always wearing a condom. The campaign attempted to re-engage gay men at a time when message fatigue was undermining HIV prevention efforts – and it worked! Data shows that Protection is still one of the most memorable campaigns of the

time. Similarly, those who visited the Protection exhibition at the Laird were undoubtedly thinking about it for days afterwards.

### FORUMS

There's perhaps no better way to understand a complex history or subject than hearing directly from the people who were there.

Those who attended our 'Back to the Future: Reflection on 1983' forum heard from four living legends and their raw accounts of the early community meetings about the emerging HIV/AIDS epidemic in Australia. Alison Thorne, Phil Carswell, Adam Carr, and David Bradford spoke on the social climate of the time and the lack of clinical information in the early days of the community response to HIV and AIDS.

While today we offer a broader range of services to our LGBTIQ+ communities, Thorne Harbour Health remains committed to preventing the onward transmission of HIV and supporting those who live with the virus.

As Phil Carswell said, "When we started, we had three key aims: we will care for the sick, we will comfort the grieving, and we will educate those who don't know yet. Those three aims are still with us today."

As our first forum looked to our past, our second forum, 'If the World Was

Just', hoped to inform our future. We invited panelists to unpack LGBTIQ+ human rights and look at Australia's role in the resettlement of forcibly displaced LGBTIQ+ people.

Finally, during the 'Protection: Open Day & Forum', we heard from Bruce Parnell, Chris Gill, and Colin Batrouney about four decades of HIV prevention efforts and health promotion messaging.

### LOOKING FORWARD

Although the political and social landscape in which we operate has changed in ways that our founding members may have never imagined back in 1983, our purpose is largely the same. The rights and position in society that we have attained are not set in stone. Forty years is a significant milestone and needs celebrating, yet the occasion also brings into focus the work not yet completed – the members of our communities both in Australia and overseas whose rights are still not recognised as they should be. Thorne Harbour Health is in the privileged position of having the wealth of experience of four decades to draw on. We must not waste it.



# Together for good.

'As a disabled person, I sometimes struggle with making connections with people. Volunteering at Thorne Harbour helps me feel connected - to the people I'm working with, to the communities I'm working for, and to the incredible legacy of those who have worked for Thorne Harbour and similar organisations before.' - Clare

**CLARE WITH GABRIEL**



## MPOX: A NEW CHALLENGE

In July 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Mpox (monkeypox) a 'public health emergency of international concern'. Soon after, Australia's Chief Medical Officer declared Mpox a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance. By this point, we already had health promotion messaging out in the community, and many gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) were modifying their sexual behaviours to reduce their risk.

As the epicentre of the North American outbreak and the site of the 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022), leaders in the global response gathered in Montreal to address the public health crisis and discuss how those most at risk could access the limited supply of vaccines.

The swift action of the Australian Government meant Australia secured a limited supply of vaccines shortly after the conference, but that was only the first step. Getting the vaccine to those most at risk was an entirely different challenge – one that Thorne Harbour Health would lead the way in.

### POP-UP CLINICS

Our services were among the few clinics to offer early Mpox vaccinations in Victoria. Once announced, the community demand for the vaccine was overwhelming. In response, our staff and volunteers mobilised in a truly remarkable way. One that harks back to the emerging health crisis of our founding.

We recruited local health services and enlisted the support of additional nurses, doctors, and volunteers to deliver pop-up clinics at several locations, including sex-on-premises venues, the Victorian Pride Centre, and our headquarters at 200 Hoddle Street. The demand at those initial pop-up clinics far exceeded the number of appointments we could provide. To help streamline the process, we set up a call centre staffed by our incredible volunteers to help get everyone their first dose of vaccine as rapidly as possible.

To get more people vaccinated, guidelines changed from administering a regular injection to an intradermal injection that required only a fraction of the vaccine dosage. The new delivery method required upskilling clinical staff to administer it and educating the community about it. We hosted an online forum with Dr Vincent Cornelisse to understand the latest information on Mpox, which was later broadcast on JOY 94.9 via Well, Well, Well.

Our ability to mobilise combined with the trust of the thousands of community



OUR EMEN8 PROJECT, A PARTNERSHIP WITH ACON, SPUN INTO ACTION TO INFORM AT-RISK COMMUNITIES AND ENCOURAGE VACCINATION.

members who came to us, meant we delivered the overwhelming majority of Mpox vaccinations in Victoria. Throughout September 2022, Victoria went from having more case notifications than any other Australian state or territory to no new cases. Victoria's then Chief Health Officer, Brett Sutton, publicly thanked the many gay, bisexual, and other MSM for their 'responsiveness and engagement'.

However, as the summer festival season approached and Sydney prepared to welcome overseas visitors for WorldPride, a resurgence in cases was a very real threat. It was paramount that everyone at risk got vaccinated and that those who received their first shot followed up with their second.

### PRICK PAUSE PLAY

Our Emen8 project, a partnership with ACON, spun into action to inform at-risk communities and encourage vaccination.

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care tasked Emen8 with delivering Australia's educational and demand generation campaign to

coincide with additional vaccine arrival in November 2022. Through Emen8's sophisticated digital platform, we rapidly engaged hundreds of thousands of guys nationwide with Emen8's most prominent campaign to date. We also provided the only online, interactive map of all Mpox vaccination locations nationally.

Honouring our legacy of bringing the message to where we know our communities congregate, we capitalised on popular advertising platforms, including TikTok and Google Search, to maximise the reach and impact of our messaging and help Australia avoid the massive outbreaks seen overseas. And for the first time, Emen8 equipped our partner organisations in every state and territory with print-ready posters and flyers to help in their jurisdictions.

### STILL ON OUR RADAR

In 2023, we have only seen a small handful of Mpox cases in Australia. At the International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Science in Brisbane, the WHO reported that it would seem

the multi-country outbreak is only just hitting the Western Pacific, but it also downgraded Mpox from a public health emergency in May 2023. In August 2023, Victoria reported its first case of Mpox in nearly nine months. While we seemed to have avoided the worst of it — Mpox is still with us.

The global Mpox outbreak defied our previous understanding of the virus and moved almost exclusively through the sexual networks of GBMSM. We encourage anyone at risk to get vaccinated to ensure we keep any future outbreaks at bay. Mpox vaccines are no longer in short supply, and Australia has moved back to giving the vaccine subcutaneously – so it's administered in the same way as a COVID-19 vaccination or flu jab. For anyone who received their first shot at least 28 days ago, be sure to get the second dose. It will offer the best level of protection against Mpox now and into the future.



# Together for good.

'During my time at Thorne Harbour Health as a placement student, I could see the positive impact of coming together to provide support and collaborate with our diverse communities.' – Michal

**JOAO WITH MICHAL**



**1,952,200+**  
PAGEVIEWS  
ACROSS ALL THH  
WEBSITES



**66,500+**  
VIEWS OF THH  
VIDEO CONTENT  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
PLATFORMS



**22,190+**  
COMBINED  
APPOINTMENTS  
FOR PRONTO!  
EQUINOX &  
CENTRE CLINIC



**10,350+**  
HOURS OF  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
THROUGH NDIS AND  
HOMECARE FOR  
PLHIV



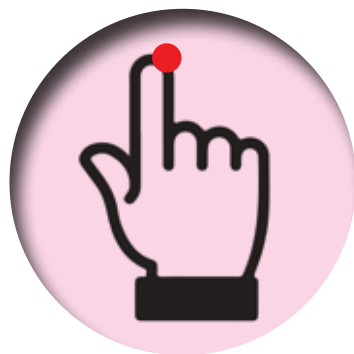
**690+**  
TRANS AND GENDER  
DIVERSE TRAINING  
SESSIONS DELIVERED



**10,000+**  
PRIDE FANS  
DIRTRIBUTED AT  
COMMUNITY EVENTS



**306,015+**  
AVERAGE MONTHLY  
LISTENERSHIP VIA JOY  
AND THE COMMUNITY  
RADIO NETWORK TO  
WELL,WELL,WELL!



**1300+**  
HIV SELF-TEST KITS  
DISPENSED VIA THE  
SAMESH CONNECT  
PROJECT IN SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA



# Together for good.

'When I first moved to Melbourne from regional NSW, I was having a rough time adjusting. I connected with Thorne Harbour Health for counselling and from the very first moment I walked in, I found a space made for people like me.' – Matty

**MATTY WITH BROOKE**



**1 Volunteer of the Year - Colin Krycer**

In mid 2022, Colin Krycer redefined 'longstanding volunteer' when he hit a 35-year milestone for his service to Thorne Harbour Health. His volunteering career also includes time with JOY, AGMC, Aleph Melbourne, the Pride Foundation, Melbourne Rainbow Band, and the ALSO Foundation. It came as no surprise when he won the 2022 Victorian Pride Award for Volunteer of the Year.

Starting as a volunteer carer with the (then) Victorian AIDS Council's Inner South Support Group. Colin has been behind the scenes for World AIDS Day ceremonies, Northside Bizarre auctions, our annual general meeting, and countless other events.

When asked how much longer he would volunteer, Colin said, "Volunteering is in my blood; I am sure of that. As long as I am able, I will be there to help out where needed."

**2 LGBTI Q-Time**

This year, Thorne Harbour Country started LGBTI Q-time, a new initiative at Bendigo Library to provide a safe and neutral space for questions and conversations about our LGBTIQ+ communities. This monthly event is open to both LGBTIQ+ folk and the broader community. The purpose of this event is to educate people in a safe space and provide answers to the questions they feel too afraid or uncomfortable to otherwise ask. These conversations can address myths and stigma, provide better language choices, and drive positive attitudes for future interactions with LGBTIQ+ people.

Having a presence at Bendigo Library gives Thorne Harbour Country greater visibility and a unique opportunity to engage with members of the community who may not know about our work in Bendigo and regional Victoria. LGBTI Q-time has also created a valuable pathway to connect community members with much needed information and services.



IN A YEAR FILLED WITH MILESTONES AND MOMENTS OF UNITY, THE UNFURLING OF THORNE HARBOUR'S EPIC PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG WAS AN ICONIC MOMENT ILLUSTRATING OUR COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY AND ADVOCACY.

**3 Progress Pride Flag**

In a year filled with milestones and moments of unity, the unfurling of Thorne Harbour's epic Progress Pride Flag was an iconic moment illustrating our commitment to inclusivity and advocacy. This 30-meter masterpiece made its debut at the 2023 Midsumma Pride March.

Significantly larger than any other pride flag in the march before, it took the collective effort of 80 individuals to carry it down St Kilda's Fitzroy Street. The visual impact was met with massive excitement from the crowd, and it featured prominently in both mainstream and community media coverage of the day. Plus, the flag made for some impressive aerial shots as it was photographed from the roof of the Victorian Pride Centre.

The Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride Flag is a contemporary declaration of solidarity. A tapestry of intersex, trans, BIPOC, and rainbow colours — the flag symbolises our ongoing pursuit of a world where all individuals can live free from discrimination and prejudice.

**4 Alcohol & Other Drug Services - Alex**

Alex\* is a non-binary person in their early 20s who wanted to stop using cannabis. They reached out for support in high school, but struggled to find a service that was safe and affirming. Unfortunately, they had their confidentiality breached when the school support staff contacted their parent.

When they came to Thorne Harbour Health's Alcohol and Other Drug Service in Adelaide, Alex said it was the first time they were identified by their correct name and pronouns. Alex was provided with a safe space and a counsellor open to helping them explore their gender and sexuality alongside their mental health and cannabis use. Alex was able to gain important insight into the drivers of their dependence and find alternative strategies to manage their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours. Since engaging in counselling, Alex has become better at managing brief lapses into cannabis use and maintain longer periods of abstinence.

\*Name changed for privacy.

**5 TGDICH**

Our Trans and Gender Diverse in Community Health (TGDICH) Training Project has been in high demand — providing education and supporting Victorian healthcare workers to develop greater skills in working with trans and gender diverse (TGD) clients. This has included delivering training workshops, facilitating a TGD Health Community of Practice, and liaising with our Equinox Gender Diverse Health Centre to host observation sessions for general practitioners (GPs).

Our TGD Affirmative Practice Workshops have been delivered to over 600 healthcare workers across 28 different healthcare teams. We have also delivered the Contemporary TGD Health for GPs to more than 80 GPs from various parts of Victoria, including all major regional hubs.

After attending our workshops, one GP said, "Now I am seeing more trans patients...the training has helped me heaps in terms of using the right language and [has given me a] deeper understanding of different stages of their journeys."



# Together for good.

'Volunteering with Thorne Harbour Health has given me so many incredible opportunities to listen and learn from such a delightful group of people. Having such a vast array of events and volunteers means every meetup is different, and a wonderful opportunity to make connections and grow my community even more.' – Ellis

**ELLIS WITH MON**



ONE OF THE ITEMS FROM THE SAMESH ARCHIVE

## 6 SAMESH Archive

When the AIDS Council of SA closed in 2014, a large trove of South Australian queer history was lost in the tumultuous period that followed. The SAMESH team has sought to remedy this with the formation of the SAMESH Archive. We have been inundated with donations from staff and community members with the archive reaching just under 1000 artifacts.

The archive aims to collect material documenting the history of queer culture in South Australia, especially with regard to law reform in the 1970s and the impact of the AIDS epidemic. The archive will support and inform original arts programming and education initiatives undertaken by SAMESH as well as facilitate a greater understanding of South Australia's queer history.

## 7 Wise Words

During Midsumma Festival, our Women's Health Project hosted "Wise Words - A Night of Intergenerational Storytelling" at the Victorian Pride Centre. This heart-warming and enlightening event drew together individuals of various ages and backgrounds. At the heart of the evening were the diverse storytellers, representing a rich tapestry of perspectives stemming from different generations and experiences. Their narratives were conveyed through spoken word, written pieces, and poetry.

More than just storytelling, it was a platform for open dialogue — encouraging discussions that forged connections and bridged gaps across the LGBTIQ+ spectrum of queer women. As the night unfolded, attendees felt an overwhelming sense of belonging, an enriched appreciation for the wisdom of their queer elders, and a revitalised hope for the future — where the threads of shared stories wove a stronger, more connected community.



HARM REDUCTION EMPHASISES THE IMPORTANCE OF SEX-POSITIVE PRACTICE AS PART OF QUEER-AFFIRMATIVE CARE IN AN LGBTIQ+ CONTEXT.

## 8 Home Care - Tom

Tom\* is a person living with HIV who volunteered with the Community Support Program at the height of the HIV epidemic, providing help for critically ill clients.

Five years ago, as his health declined, Tom returned to the program as a client himself. After successful surgery for lung cancer, Tom was connected to volunteer social support and transport to medical appointments.

Now in his 80s, Tom has mobility issues that affect his balance and makes it difficult for him to live alone. However, with coordinated support from Thorne Harbour Health, the Bolton Clarke HIV nursing team, and Wintringham aged care, Tom continues to live independently in his own home. Tom's story is testament to the resilience of many long-term survivors of HIV and the still vital role of community-based support services.

\*Name changed for privacy.

## 9 Harm Reduction

In April, Thorne Harbour Health staff delivered several presentations at the 20th International Harm Reduction Conference in Melbourne.

One paper on "Sex Positive Pleasure and Play" explored the importance of sex-positive practice as part of queer affirmative care in an LGBTIQ+ context and highlighted the contexts necessary in providing support to our chemsex community.

"Shaping the Treatment Landscape for Trans and Gender Diverse First Nations People" spoke to the work of our Northwest Primary Health Network funded Rainbow Recovery program, and how we shifted the way we work in response to service gaps that First Nations Trans and Gender Diverse clients described.

"Of Ice and Men: Peer-led Outreach Aimed at Reducing Alcohol and Other Drug Harms at Melbourne Dance Parties" looked at our previous work in responding to chemsex-related harms at the Trough X dance parties.

Finally, a panel on LGBTIQ+ harm reduction in Australia, chaired by Nicky Bath of LGBTIQ+ Health Australia, explored Thorne Harbour Health's harm reduction work across both health promotion and therapeutic services.

## 10 Housing Plus - Susan

Susan\* had good mental health, a thriving business and secure housing until 2021, when an HIV diagnosis and the COVID-19 pandemic led to high levels of anxiety and depression, coupled with substance use problems. She ended her business and lost her housing. After a time living in her car, couch-surfing, and experiencing multiple instances of family violence, Susan was referred to the Housing Plus program at Thorne Harbour Health.

The team helped her to access Centrelink payments, medical support through the Bolton Clark HIV nursing team, and a range of material aid including pantry from the Positive Living Centre. Susan says that Housing Plus has been a vital support, as the stigma of her HIV diagnosis cut her off from family and friends. After moving into a transitional housing property in June 2023, Susan completed a week of detox and accepted a referral to alcohol and other drug counselling. Housing Plus continues to provide emotional and practical support to Susan, who is now looking for work and planning to return to study.

\* Name changed for privacy.



# Together for good.

'In the trans community we've found so much strength and solidarity by being together for our causes no matter the situation. We stick with each other for all the right reasons and to me that's being together for good!' – Maddi

**FLORIN WITH MADDI**



## 11 No Pride in Racism

The Health Promotion Team's Priority Populations Project is dedicated to enhancing the health and wellbeing of our marginalised communities — with a particular focus on individuals from diverse racial, cultural, and faith backgrounds. As part of Midsumma 2023, we hosted the "No Pride in Racism" forum at the Victorian Pride Centre. This engaging community panel explored the issue of sexualised racism within LGBTIQ+ communities.

The event was hosted by Samuel Gaskin, performer and previous guest chef on *The Bent Spoon*. The panel featured diverse voices from our LGBTIQ+ community members of colour, culture, and faith. The forum addressed critical issues — ranging from combating stigmatising language on dating apps and online spaces to addressing microaggressions and the fetishisation of racial identities. This event was a direct response to community feedback from the recent Multicultural Sexual Health Needs survey, reflecting Thorne Harbour's commitment to meeting the expectations of our diverse communities.

## 12 The Quilt Exhibition

SAMESH has continued to build its reputation as a leading force at the intersection of health promotion and culture with the presentation of The Quilt — the most comprehensive and well-attended exhibition of AIDS history in South Australia.

Held at the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre in the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery during Feast Festival, the exhibition showcased original quilts, posters, activist fashion, moving image, and other ephemera to tell the story of the history of HIV & AIDS in South Australia. The three-week exhibition was attended by more than 800 people in conjunction with a suite of public programming including guided tours, a floor talk and a quilt-making workshop.

## 13 Taking Charge

Thorne Harbour's *Taking Charge* Peer Support Network, in partnership with Living Positive Victoria, has been hitting the road as it brings together people living with HIV aged 50 and over.

Meeting in the group has also created opportunities for attendees to connect with subject matter experts on a range of issues. They've delved into the challenges posed by COVID-19 with counsellor Trish Thompson and explored the latest updates on HIV and Ageing with Director of HIV Medicine, Professor Jenny Hoy. Through these activities, Taking Charge has created a strong sense of connection and community.



AS PART OF MIDSUMMA 2023, WE HOSTED THE "NO PRIDE IN RACISM" FORUM AT THE VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE. THIS ENGAGING COMMUNITY PANEL EXPLORED THE ISSUE OF SEXUALISED RACISM WITHIN LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITIES.

## 14 David Williams Fund - Jack

Jack\* is a long-term survivor of HIV, living in rural Victoria. Jack experienced enormous hardships in his battle to house himself, including homelessness, and eviction from government housing. After receiving some money from a settlement against Scouts Victoria that came from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Jack was able to purchase a small piece of land and began to build his own home.

Circumstances forced him onto the land before the house was completed and Jack had to endure poor living conditions whilst trying to reach occupancy certification. The David Williams Fund stepped in and granted Jack two payments that allowed him to complete his home.

Jack says the fund gave him the exact assistance he needed at exactly the right time, whilst also providing emotional support by acknowledging his hardships and his journey. Jack found solace in peer support and is now in a place where he can thrive, rather than just survive.

\* Name changed for privacy.

## 15 Touchbase

Designed by and for LGBTIQ+ people, touchbase.org.au addresses the intersecting needs and challenges for LGBTIQ+ individuals who use alcohol and other drugs. The website utilises a harm reduction approach that seeks to inform our communities about the risks of alcohol and drugs in a non-judgemental manner. After a complete overhaul, the new website was launched during the 23rd International Harm Reduction Conference in Melbourne.

The launch event featured a keynote address by Professor Adam Bourne from the Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS). He passionately emphasised the crucial role of resources like Touchbase in providing essential drug information as well as information on harm reduction, consent, drug interactions, and ways to connect with culturally safe support services.





# Together for good.

'As members of the LGBTQA+ community, we consider it our natural responsibility to ensure the well-being of every individual within our community.' - Tracey

**TRACY WITH DADA**



## 16 Top Marks for Well, Well, Well

In December 2022, JOY Media celebrated three million downloads of their podcasts. Our weekly radio show, Well, Well, Well, featured prominently amongst the standout statistics. The longstanding health and wellbeing program was the third most downloaded podcast ever on JOY.

Out of all of JOY's podcast content, Well, Well, Well's episode on 'Sex, COVID & Intimacy' was the most downloaded podcast since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the show's May 2022 episode on the emerging Mpox outbreak was the most downloaded on JOY in 2022.

Perhaps most notably, Well, Well, Well has been downloaded in more countries than any other show on JOY with a remarkable 167 countries!

## 17 World AIDS Day Reboot

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, 2022 saw the return of our World AIDS Day Street Appeal. On Thursday 1 December, our volunteers and staff once again took to street corners and office buildings to raise awareness, raise funds and remind everyone why HIV Still Matters.

In the lead up, we introduced a new initiative with the Red Ribbon Making Workshops. Held across various locations in November, the workshops offered people a chance to make their own red ribbon, hear about the legacy of the community response to HIV and AIDS, and gain a greater understanding of the contemporary landscape around HIV in Australia.

This year was also the first time our annual World AIDS Memorial at the Positive Living Centre was held both in-person and online. As always, the event was an opportunity to see many of the Melbourne AIDS Memorial Quilts. In light of their heritage listing, one panel was also exhibited in the foyer of the Victorian Pride Centre in the lead up to World AIDS Day.

## 18 Trans Takeover

Created by 2020 Thorne Harbour Health Special Services Award recipient Sam Dengate, the Trans Takeover saw 30 trans and gender diverse lifters compete in a powerlifting competition to beat their personal bests in front of over 250 people (and another 1,200+ via the event's livestream) during Trans Awareness Week in November 2022. 70% of the competitors had never competed before due to fear and experiences of prejudice. Thorne Harbour Health proudly came on board as a major sponsor for the event. On the day, you could find our volunteers everywhere – from running the Thorne Harbour Health coffee cart to helping event organisers and even competing!

Following the highly successful event, Sam Dengate went on to win both the 2022 Victorian Pride Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sport and the 2023 Pride in Sport LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Coach Award. Thorne Harbour Health will once again be sponsoring the event hosted by T Generation when it returns in December 2023.

## 19 Peer Support in SA

This year our Alcohol and Other Drug Service in Adelaide added Peer Support to their service offering for our LGBTIQ+ communities. The service now has a Peer Support Worker and a Peer Family Support Worker. Staff in these roles are members of our LGBTIQ+ communities and have lived experience recovering from their own problematic substance use or living with a significant other who experienced problems with drugs and/or alcohol.

Peers offer a unique perspective and support to service users – vastly different to the more clinical focus of counsellors and case workers. They have lived experience of some of the contexts and drivers of harmful substance use particular to LGBTIQ+ communities. When they share their own experiences and insights with clients, peers can be a trusted source of information, provide an understanding of what treatment can offer, and inspire hope that recovery from problematic substance use is possible.



LGBTIQ+ FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES UNDERWENT A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION IN 2020 AND 2021 DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH AND SWITCHBOARD VICTORIA WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THIS PROCESS.

## 20 Responsive Pandemic Practice Report

LGBTIQ+ family violence services underwent a major transformation in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thorne Harbour Health and Switchboard Victoria were instrumental in this process. In February 2023, La Trobe University released a report that examined these innovations. The report found that telehealth and other flexible options reduced service interruptions during lockdowns, prioritised client safety, were responsive to needs, and challenged assumptions about how

LGBTIQ+ family violence services should be delivered. The report also noted that Thorne Harbour drew on its founding principles of activism and advocacy to centre the safety and individual needs of clients. Dedicated staff worked remotely to design and deliver flexible services. These findings have major implications for the sector: hybrid service delivery will no longer be a last resort in a crisis, but rather an essential component of family violence services that caters to individual needs and circumstances.



# Together for good.

'When we come together for good,  
we not only make a difference but  
also have a blast doing it.... Together,  
we're not just making the world a  
better place, we're making it a more  
fun one too!' - Dragan

**DRAGAN WITH ANTHONY**

## STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

With forty years of experience advocating for our communities, Thorne Harbour Health continues to engage government over legislative and policy reforms, service funding, and inclusion in political priorities. Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen political engagement and relationship-building initiatives with key stakeholders in Government and Parliament. Our commitment to advancing the rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities and people living with HIV (PLHIV) has been unwavering.

### 2022 VICTORIAN ELECTION

As a prominent advocate for legislative change, we collaborated with allied LGBTIQ+ and HIV organisations in the lead-up to the 2022 Victorian election.

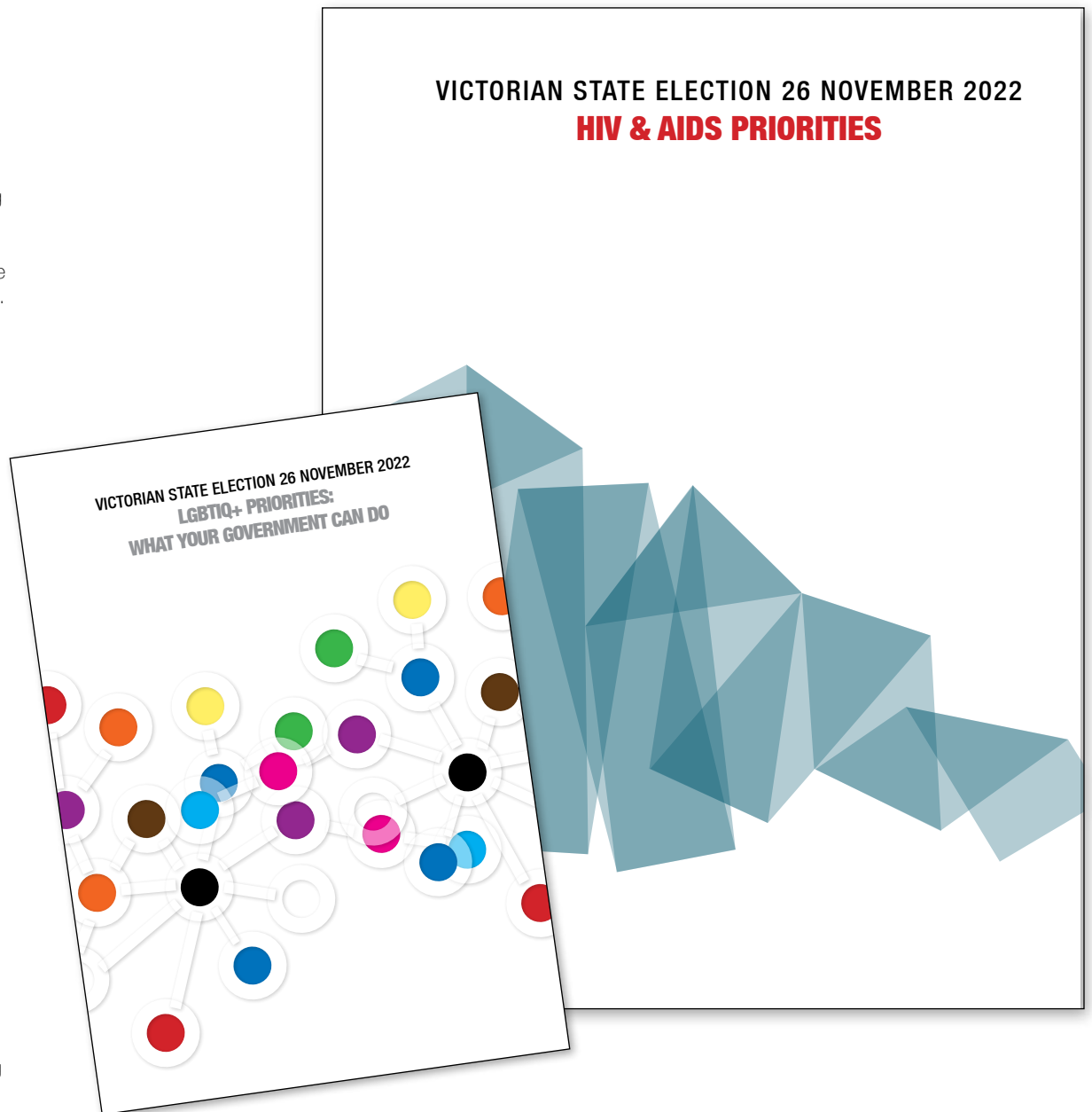
Together with Switchboard, Transgender Victoria (TGV), Equality Australia, Victorian Pride Lobby, Melbourne Bisexual Network, and Intersex Human Rights Australia (IHRA), we jointly articulated a set of community election priorities. These priorities encompassed critical issues related to supporting community capacity, law and justice, health, mental health, housing and homelessness, education and young people, family violence, and disability, ageing and carers.

Additionally, we worked in partnership with Living Positive Victoria and Positive Women Victoria to create a booklet highlighting HIV-related priorities, focusing on government HIV targets, prevention, testing, treatment, stigma reduction, quality of life for PLHIV, and law reform.

These priorities formed the bedrock of our advocacy in the ensuing months. Prior to the election, we co-hosted two community election forums, where Members of Parliament from Labor, the Greens, and the Reason Party engaged with community members — addressing their concerns and questions.

### A YEAR OF PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE

Over the past year, we have held productive meetings with over 35 politicians across Victoria and South Australia. These meetings focused on various priorities for LGBTIQ+ communities and people living with HIV in their electorates as well as addressing broader state concerns. Key issues discussed include expanding mental health and wellbeing services, improving trans and gender diverse healthcare, and advocating for anti-vilification law reform to better protect LGBTIQ+ communities. Building long-term relationships with elected representatives remains pivotal to our advocacy efforts.



TOGETHER WITH SWITCHBOARD, TRANSGENDER VICTORIA (TGV), EQUALITY AUSTRALIA, VICTORIAN PRIDE LOBBY, MELBOURNE BISEXUAL NETWORK, INTERSEX HUMAN RIGHTS AUSTRALIA (IHRA), LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA AND POSITIVE WOMEN, WE JOINTLY ARTICULATED A SET OF COMMUNITY ELECTION PRIORITIES.

### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES AND GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

We continue to lead in advocating for our communities through active engagement with state and federal parliamentary inquiries and contributions to government plans and strategies. In the past year, we submitted responses to inquiries covering a range of topics, including Australia's Human Rights Framework, Religious Educational Settings and Anti-Discrimination Laws, Illicit Drugs in Australia, Universal Access to Reproductive Healthcare, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2026 Census Topic Review.

Furthermore, we have provided feedback and insights into essential strategies and plans, including the Ninth National HIV Strategy, the National Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Strategy, the Victoria Suicide Prevention and Response Strategy, and the Victorian Eating Disorder Strategy.

### RESPONDING TO LGBTIQ+ HATE SPEECH

In the face of increased attacks on our communities by far-right extremists, who sought to incite hatred and intimidation across the state, we joined forces with 45 other Victorian LGBTIQ+ organisations to demand action. Our advocacy led to the Victorian Government accelerating planned anti-vilification law reform by 18 months, addressing the urgent need for enhanced protections. This crucial law reform will take place in the second half of 2023.

### SHAPING POSITIVE CHANGE

Representatives from Thorne Harbour Health remain dedicated to advocating to and advising the Government on a variety of platforms. Our President Janet Jukes OAM, and Board Member Professor Adam Bourne, actively participate in the Victorian Government's LGBTIQ+ Taskforce. Our CEO, Simon Ruth, serves on the South Australian STI and BBV

Advisory Committee as well as on the LGBTIQ+ Health and Wellbeing Working Group, providing valuable advice to the Minister for Equality and relevant government departments on initiatives directly impacting Victoria's LGBTIQ+ communities. Our Director of Services, Carolyn Gillespie, serves as the Chair of LGBTIQ+ Health Australia and on the Federal Government's LGBTIQ+ Health and Wellbeing 10 Year National Action Plan Expert Advisory Group.

Thorne Harbour Health's tireless efforts in political engagement, advocacy, and partnership building have made significant strides in advancing the rights and wellbeing of our LGBTIQ+ communities and people living with HIV. We remain dedicated to these critical endeavours and committed to creating a more inclusive society for the communities we serve.



# Together for good.

'It's vital to feel safe and protected wherever you go. Contributing to the welfare of people with my lived experience helped me understand more about the needs of our community and myself. There's such important work to do.' – Bebe

**BEBE WITH JEREMY**

## LGBTIQ+ MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Over the past year, Thorne Harbour Health has taken the lead in advocating for improved LGBTIQ+ mental health system reforms and service accessibility across Victoria and South Australia.

### ADELAIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Our staff in South Australia and Victoria have spent the past year establishing the new LGBTIQ+ Specialist Mental Health Service in Adelaide. Officially opening its doors on 1 July 2023, the service is among the first of its kind in Australia.

Funded by the Adelaide Primary Health Network, the service is for LGBTIQ+ community members experiencing mental illness and psychological distress. It provides peer support, brief interventions, clinical care coordination, counselling, and structured psychological therapies free of charge.

Like our existing Victorian services, the new service in Adelaide is staffed by community members who identify as LGBTIQ+ and/or have extensive experience working with LGBTIQ+ clients. It provides a trauma-informed, sex-positive, gender and sexuality affirming service.

As an LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisation with forty years of experience providing support to our communities, we provide services with an understanding of the ways in which both structural and systemic oppressions and homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and intersex discrimination impact the mental health and wellbeing of our communities.

### AMPLIFYING LGBTIQ+ VOICES

The Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, which concluded in 2021, recommended enhancing accessibility to mental health supports for key populations. As a result, the Department of Health's Diverse Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing grants program funded our Amplifying LGBTIQ+ Voices project. This allowed the expansion of our Policy Team with the addition of two staff members for the 2022/23 financial year — increasing our capacity to engage in mental health system reform processes.

Our Policy Team was able to advocate for better LGBTIQ+ inclusion in government strategies such as the Victorian Eating Disorders Strategy, the National Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Strategy, the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, and the Diverse Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework and Blueprint.

### MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Department of Health funding enabled us to establish our first advisory committee made up of LGBTIQ+ community

members with lived experience of poor mental health. The committee members' personal experiences both informed and complimented policy engagement with government. Two of our committee members participated in filmed interviews about their personal experiences with mental health and their participation with our advisory committee.

### EVERYDAY PEOPLE

In 2023, we began work on a new mental health resource called *Everyday People*. Due to be released later in the year, the campaign will feature a series of videos from LGBTIQ+ community members of culturally diverse backgrounds discussing

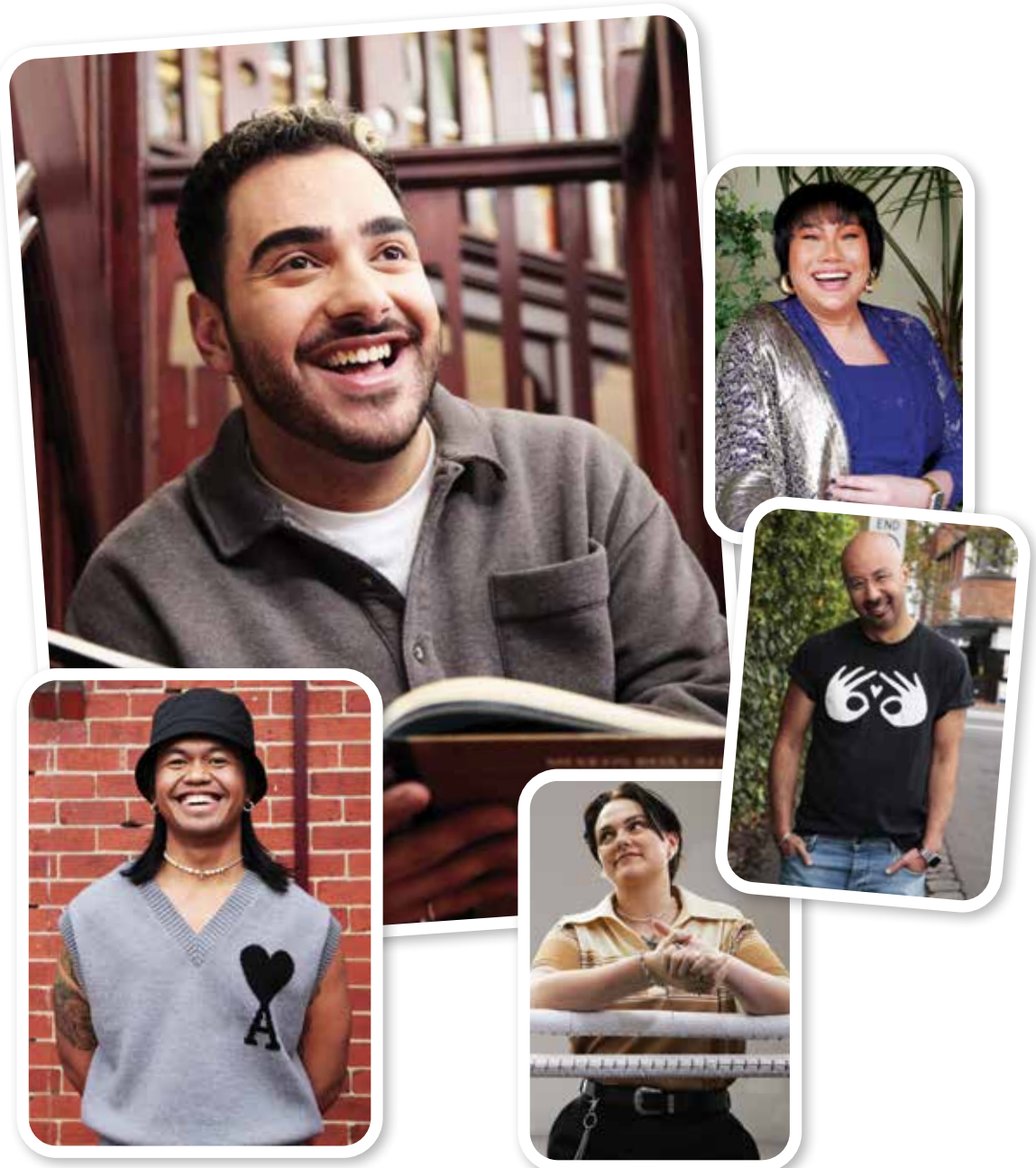
their mental health journeys in languages other than English.

### MENTAL HEALTH LOCALS: WORK WITH MIND AUSTRALIA

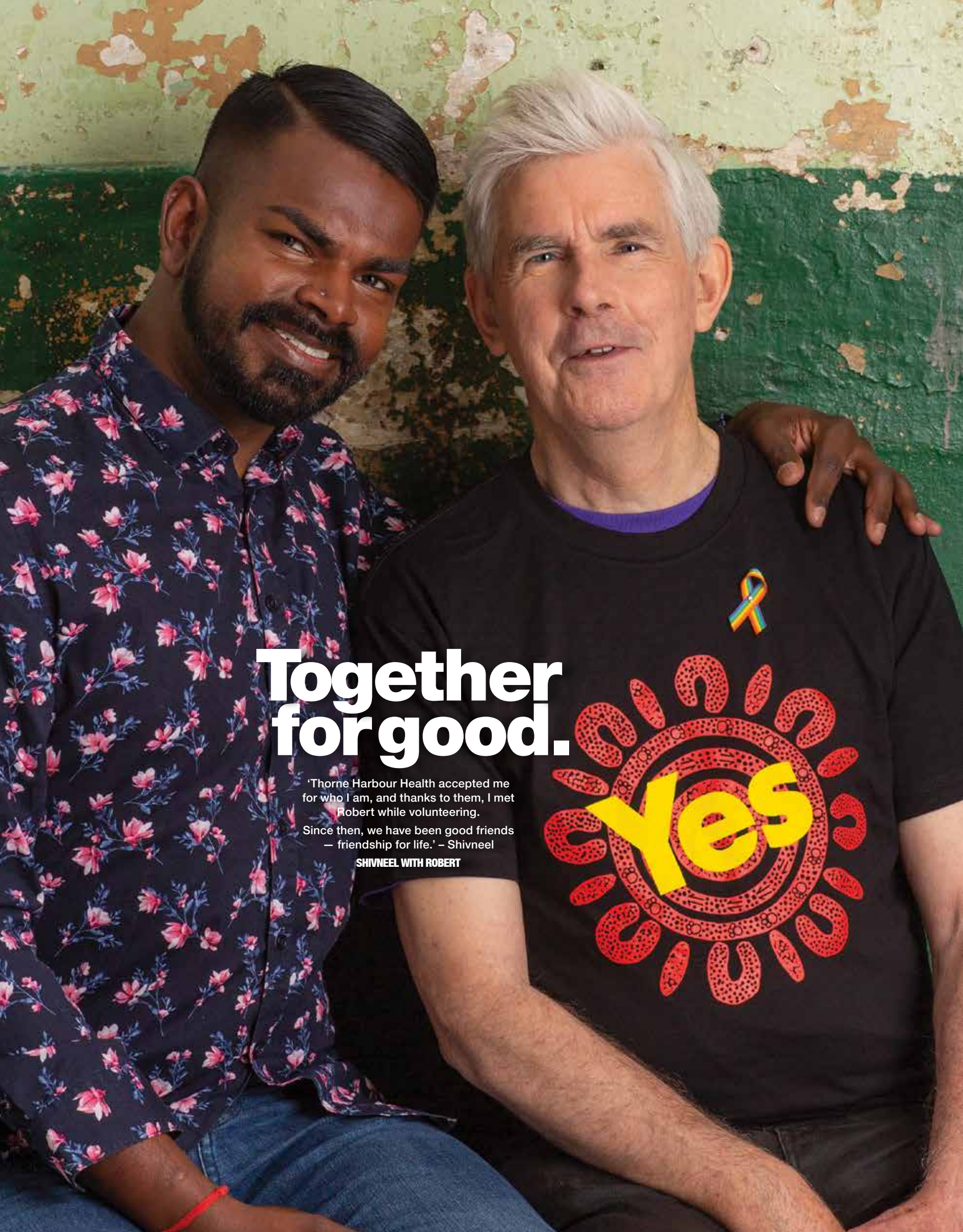
We have worked in consortium with Mind Australia and other local partners to develop proposals for the delivery of Victorian Government Adult and Older Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Services. The government has committed to establishing 50 Local Services across the state, designed to focus on providing mental health support at the community level. The coming year will see us establishing several of these in partnership with Mind.

### NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

In May, we co-presented with Deloitte at the National Suicide Prevention Conference. The presentation focused on the findings from the research report *The Cost of Adverse Mental Health Outcomes in the LGBTIQ+ Adult Population*, which analysed the financial and economic costs of poor mental health in our communities in Victoria. The presentation provided an overview of the implications of this research for improved mental health service planning.



SOME OF THE VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANTS FROM OUR *EVERYDAY PEOPLE* INITIATIVE. THIS ONLINE RESOURCE DESCRIBES THE MENTAL HEALTH JOURNEYS OF A NUMBER OF LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNITY IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH.



# Together for good.

'Thorne Harbour Health accepted me for who I am, and thanks to them, I met Robert while volunteering.

Since then, we have been good friends – friendship for life.' – Shivneel

**SHIVNEEL WITH ROBERT**



## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

This year, Thorne Harbour Health has updated the way in which we involve the communities we serve in the development of policies and programs. We created a new framework and structure for engaging community members who allow their lived experience to inform our service delivery and organisational responsiveness. Now, we're working toward expanding the number and scope of committees to involve a greater diversity of perspectives in our work. We successfully launched the first two of our community advisory committees, with the process underway to launch a further five in the coming months.

### LIVING WITH HIV

Throughout our 40-year history, the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV (PLHIV) has been a vital part of our work. PLHIV are involved in nearly every facet of the organisation – as volunteers, staff, members, and clients. We have a longstanding history of PLHIV in various leadership roles within the organisation and our Board, and we regularly work with HIV positive community representatives to inform our policy work and service development. We remain committed to maintain that legacy with our new PLHIV Community Advisory Group.

### MENTAL HEALTH

In the first half of 2023, we established a Lived Experience Mental Health Advisory Committee. This was made possible as part of our Amplifying LGBTIQ+ Voices project, funded by the Victorian Department of Health's Mental Health and Wellbeing Diverse Communities Grants. Made up of LGBTIQ+ community members with lived experience of poor mental health, the committee provided valuable inputs into mental health systems reforms and LGBTIQ+ service needs. You can read more about the work of this committee and the Amplifying LGBTIQ+ Voices project in the mental health feature in this year's annual report.

### TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE

We have continued to deliver a range of services and programs to improve the health and wellbeing of our trans and gender diverse (TGD) communities, including our suite of monthly peer workshops, the Equinox Gender Diverse Health Centre, and the Trans and Gender Diverse in Community Health (TGDICH) Training Project. However, as the social climate of the past year has demonstrated, our TGD communities need our support.

With our previous Trans and Gender Diverse Community Advisory Committee, we were able to successfully develop and launch Equinox – Australia's first peer-led trans and gender diverse (TGD) primary



THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING TIME FOR OUR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN LIGHT OF THE REFERENDUM AND PUBLIC DEBATE SURROUNDING THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT.

health service. The new committee has recently held its first meeting, and we're excited to see where we can go next to better support the health and wellbeing of our TGD communities.

### LIVING WITH DISABILITY

In partnership with Inclusion Melbourne, we released a suite of resources for LGBTIQ+ people with disability to understand their rights and navigate Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Community advocate Ruby Mountford was the lead on the partnership.

They said, "Unfortunately, the needs of LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities have not been adequately understood or valued. These resources have been developed in collaboration with a group of LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities – built from their collective wisdom and their experiences navigating systems, services and LGBTIQ+ spaces."

There is an incredible amount of work still to be done in addressing the needs of LGBTIQ+ people with disability. We hope that our Disability Community Advisory Group can build on the legacy of the co-design team that developed our NDIS resources.

### ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

The past year has been a challenging time for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in light of the Referendum and public debate surrounding the Voice to Parliament. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+, sistergirl and brotherboy communities (Rainbow Mob) have a proud history

of championing for health and human rights. We are also acutely aware that they experience significant health disparities. It was for this reason we came out in support of the Voice to Parliament. It's also why we believe it's vital that we establish a community advisory committee of Rainbow Mob to inform on ongoing policy and program development.

In the meantime, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project has been involved in a number of advisory groups with government, health services, and researchers. Our project worker provided valuable input into the *Walkern Katatjin Phase 2: National Survey Community Report* – looking at the mental, social, and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ young people.

### MULTICULTURAL

We are continuing to build on how we engage with LGBTIQ+ people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Informed by data related to HIV notifications among overseas-born individuals in Australia, a growing number of our sexual health resources and websites are now available in languages other than English. Similarly, we have also been working with community members to develop a range of new mental health resources. It's vital that this process includes ensuring the translations are both linguistically accurate but also culturally appropriate.

Our longstanding Gay Asian Proud (GAP) group for same-sex attracted Asian men is going strong. With 118 attendees across last year's meet ups,

GAP continues to offer a safe space to share life experiences with likeminded guys. Over the past year, we've also been forging stronger relationships with a broader network of multicultural social groups and organisations. We hope that the establishment of our Multicultural Advisory Committee further strengthens our work in this area.

### LGBTIQ+ WOMEN

We have delivered on a number of the key priorities and activities outlined in our Women's Health Strategy. Launched at the Victorian Pride Centre in July 2022, Rethink the Drink delivered its second health promotion campaign reminding LGBTIQ+ women that they 'Couldn't Have Done That with a Hangover' featuring an inspiring collection of images with LGBTIQ+ women in sport. We also continued our partnership with the Cancer Council of Victoria to get the word out that 'Cervical Screening is for Everyone With a Cervix'. We continue to deliver peer workshops and community events for LGBTIQ+ women.

Most recently, the LGBTIQ+ Women's Health Conference returned to Melbourne in October 2023. The two-day conference was held in person for the first time since COVID-19 at the Abbotsford Convent and featured over thirty presentations, discussion panels, and workshops. We hope to leverage the momentum generated by the conference to renew our Women's Advisory Committee under our new framework.



# Together for good.

'Uniting together is integral to enact good, as we are much more powerful as communities and groups as opposed to individuals. This can seem like a daunting and big task, but through my time at Thorne Harbour, I have been able to do this.' – Henry

**HENRY WITH ANNABEL**

## THORNE HARBOUR AWARDS



### Lady Primrose Potter AC

In this, our 40th year of the community-led response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, it is appropriate to recognise one of our early champions and perhaps an unlikely advocate for the cause. This was recently acknowledged publicly by Phil Carswell, our first President, and privately by our MC, Rachel Berger, at our Ruby Red Ball when Lady Primrose Potter joined us on 8 July to celebrate this significant milestone. This unlikely AIDS warrior not only spoke up but acted when it may have been easier to remain silent. Every World AIDS Day, Lady Potter has continued to send messages of support to Thorne Harbour Health and remember those we have lost. This is your public legacy within the community health sector and for those of us still living with, or supporting those, with HIV. Today we recognise Lady Potter's unfailing support and commitment by awarding her our life membership.



### Richard Keane

As a champion for grassroots community action, Richard has dedicated much of his career to advocacy and community health education surrounding HIV over the past 30 years. He has served in a number of roles including with the AIDS Ministerial Advisory Committee, the Activist Liaison Committee for AIDS 2014, the Positive Leadership Development Institute, and the (then) Victorian AIDS Council's MIPA Committee. Richard also served as the President of Living Positive Victoria before becoming the organisation's CEO in 2018. Richard is a stalwart of the principles behind the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (MIPA) and advocates that the voices of people living with HIV remain central to the ongoing community response. In the past year, Richard was instrumental in the development of our HIV & AIDS Priorities document in the lead up to the Victorian state election.



### Flis Marlowe OAM

Flis has spent more than 20 years at the frontline, supporting our communities. Establishing LGBTIQ+ youth groups in Nillumbik and Banyule in 2003 and launching the *Love Makes A Family* campaign in 2004, they have been working for the rights and wellbeing of rainbow families and young people ever since. Flis co-founded Rainbow Families Victoria in 2006. Their commitment to achieving recognition of diverse families and LGBTIQ+ communities has been instrumental in achieving key legal reforms and increased social equality. These reforms include legal equality for same-sex parented families, the right to record two mothers on birth certificates, access to fertility treatment for single women and lesbian couples, a legal framework for altruistic surrogacy and equal access to adoption. In light of increasing far-right activism and the cancellation of numerous LGBTIQ+ pride events, Flis co-founded Rainbow Community Angels to ensure our LGBTIQ+ communities feel safer, and coordinated forty-five Victorian LGBTIQ+ organisations to release a joint statement calling on the government to take more action to protect LGBTIQ+ Victorians.



### Peter Farrington

Peter has been a volunteer driver with the Community Support program for the past six years. In that time he has been dedicated to his role, taking clients to essential medical appointments that help them monitor their health and wellbeing. Peter often makes himself available at short notice to respond to urgent client needs, and his relaxed and cheerful manner enables him to work effectively with a wide range of clients. He is also a great animal lover and his volunteer role has included taking pets to respite when clients go to hospital. Peter Farrington is a caring and committed volunteer who is a real asset to the Community Support program and its clients.



### Michael O'Brien

Fast approaching their tenth year with the organisation, Mike has been a long-term event volunteer. Over this period it is not unusual to have seen Mike pulling a beer, ushering guests, taking cloak donations or being a spotter at our many auctions. A well known fixture at The Laird, Mike has assisted at many kink and fetish events, connecting with attendees on key messaging, important to our work with Sexually Adventurous Men (SAM's Project). Mike also enabled important partnership connections through their other committee volunteer roles with Vic Tennis and Glam Slam. Mike prioritises volunteering in their life in ways that are positive and constructive. They are a great role model for anyone who is interested in making a volunteering commitment to the organisation.



### Jill Newton

Jill joined us in 2019 at an interesting time just prior to the onset of COVID lockdowns. However this didn't stop Jill from being an engaged volunteer during this period. Once face-to-face volunteering recommenced, Jill hit the ground running, lending her skills to our revamped barista project and the flurry of events that were postponed. Jill brought her trademark humour and assuredness to every role, which quickly became a source of comfort for event coordinators as well as other volunteers. Professionally she brings her skills as an adult educator and an awareness of culturally and linguistically diverse communities to her volunteering engagements. A proud LBQ woman, she has lifted the profile of women in our work and remain a visible presence at a myriad of Thorne Harbour events. In COVID periods, Jill lent her voice to our World AIDS Day webinar series, providing a personal perspective on the history of the epidemic. A staunch ally for PLHIV, she has lent her support to every World AIDS Day since joining the organisation.



### Jayde de Bondt

Jayde is the Community Co-Chair of the Victorian Whole of Government LGBTIQ+ Taskforce. Over the last 4 years that she has co-chaired this group, alongside the Ministers for Equality, Jayde has proven herself a staunch community advocate and a powerful supporter of community-led organisations, including Thorne Harbour Health. She has worked in close partnership with several board members and many other community stakeholders to advance government action on intersex reform, prohibition of conversion practices legislation, the Whole of Government LGBTIQ+ strategy and trans and gender diverse peoples' rights. Jayde is standing down as Co-Chair at the end of this year, concluding her second term on Taskforce.

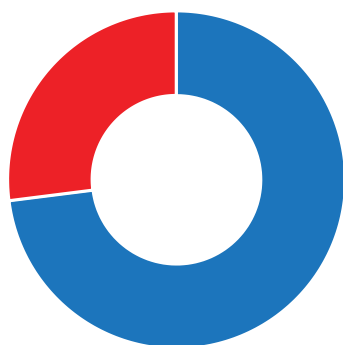


### Daniel Cash

In April 2022, the Presbyterian Church of Australia told the Australia Law Reform Commission that students in a same-sex relationship would be ineligible for student leadership positions. Soon after, Daniel Cash made national headlines when *The Age* published his opinion piece *'I'm Melbourne Grammar's school captain and I'm gay. The Presbyterian Church would have me sacked'*. The 17-year old bravely disclosed his sexuality and challenged the religious institution's stance in a very public forum while still respecting tenets of the Christian faith. He went on to explore what it truly means to be a leader. He wrote, 'This strength in character, this security of identity, is characteristic of the best leaders, and the Presbyterian Church of Australia has a chance to demonstrate it too. Unfortunately, the current absence of such a positive and healthy outlook is harming both the place of organised religion in the modern world and the safety of adolescents.'

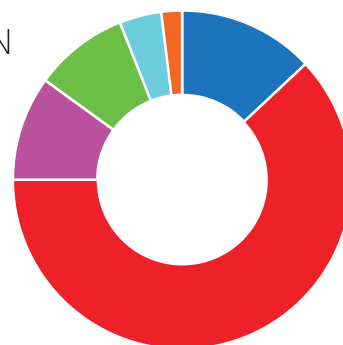
REVENUE BREAKDOWN

- Grant income 73%
- Operating income 27%



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

- Operating expenses 13%
- Employee costs 62%
- Campaign expenses 10%
- Client support expenses 9%
- Professional expenses 4%
- Other expenses 2%



Revenue breakdown

Grant income	14,825,389
Client fees	2,137,536
Donations, fundraising and bequest income	762,735
Goods and Services Income	2,358,869
Membership fees	3,947
Interest income	120,684
Other revenue	46,877
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>20,256,037</b>

Revenue summary

Grant income	14,825,389
Operating income	5,430,648
	<b>20,256,037</b>

Expense breakdown

Operating expenses	2,622,109
Employee costs	12,171,575
Campaign expenses	2,036,622
Client Support expenses	1,693,999
Professional fees	849,068
Other expenses	328,131
	<b>19,701,504</b>

# THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH

## Summary Statement of Profit or Loss For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>	20,256,037	17,463,564
<b>Less: expenses</b>		
Operating expenses	(2,622,109)	(2,599,434)
Employee costs	(12,171,575)	(10,345,649)
Campaign expenses	(2,036,622)	(2,249,347)
Client support expenses	(1,693,999)	(1,289,863)
Professional fees	(849,068)	(440,026)
Other expenses	(328,131)	(179,184)
	(19,701,504)	(17,103,503)
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>554,533</b>	<b>360,061</b>

## Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,468,586	6,950,456
Trade and other receivables	166,382	433,474
Other financial assets	-	6,393
Other assets	168,206	147,537
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>7,803,174</b>	<b>7,537,860</b>
<b>Noncurrent assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	13,867	570
Right-of-use assets	3,575,934	1,743,449
Property, plant and equipment	3,061,485	3,179,117
Intangible assets	2,831	23,249
<b>Total noncurrent assets</b>	<b>6,654,117</b>	<b>4,946,385</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>14,457,291</b>	<b>12,484,245</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	825,199	1,146,105
Borrowings	371,050	-
Provisions	1,558,596	1,529,186
Other liabilities	519,040	1,047,048
Lease liabilities	614,137	151,839
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>3,888,022</b>	<b>3,874,178</b>
<b>Noncurrent liabilities</b>		
Provisions	94,209	141,450
Lease liabilities	3,100,312	1,648,402
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<b>3,194,521</b>	<b>1,789,852</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>7,082,543</b>	<b>5,664,030</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>7,374,748</b>	<b>6,820,215</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Reserves	-	150,000
Accumulated surplus	7,374,748	6,670,215
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>7,374,748</b>	<b>6,820,215</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)

## Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2023	Accumulated Surpluses	Asset Revaluation Surplus	Future Funding Contracts Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2022</b>	6,670,215	-	150,000	6,820,215
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	554,533	-	-	554,533
Transfers from accumulated surpluses to future funding contracts reserve	150,000	-	(150,000)	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>7,374,748</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,374,748</b>
2022	Accumulated Surpluses	Asset Revaluation Surplus	Future Funding Contracts Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2021</b>	6,219,744	240,410	-	6,460,154
Net surplus/ (deficit) for the year	360,061	-	-	360,061
Balance written off on disposal of property	240,410	(240,410)	-	-
Transfers from accumulated surplus to future funding contracts reserve	(150,000)	-	150,000	-
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>6,670,215</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>6,820,215</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Grants received	14,825,389	13,518,955
Payments to suppliers and employees	(19,205,775)	(17,081,916)
Donations and bequests received	762,735	468,247
Interest received	120,684	53,798
Net GST paid	(795,556)	(689,264)
Receipts from customers	5,301,053	5,291,669
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>1,008,530</b>	<b>1,561,489</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	-	550,000
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(98,497)	(1,018,017)
Proceeds from sale of financial assets	6,393	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(92,104)</b>	<b>(468,017)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Advances from/(to) related party	371,050	-
Repayment of lease liabilities	769,346	(190,133)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>398,296</b>	<b>(190,133)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	518,130	903,339
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	6,950,456	6,047,117
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	<b>7,468,586</b>	<b>6,950,456</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)



# Together for good.

'I'm reminded of the old proverb 'that you can snap a single stick easily, but a bundle of sticks is almost impossible to break'. Together we are stronger. Together we can do more, reach further, shine brighter. Together we are not alone.' – Gary

GARY WITH SIMON

## THANK YOU!

- ACON
- ADAM CARR
- ADELAIDE PHN
- ADELAIDE ROLLER DERBY LEAGUE
- AESOP
- ALFRED HEALTH
- ALISON THORNE
- ANZ
- ARCSHS
- ASHM
- ASU
- AUSPATH
- AUSTIN HEALTH
- AUSTRALIAN DRUG FOUNDATION
- AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
- AUSTRALIAN QUEER ARCHIVES
- BALLARAT COMMUNITY HEALTH
- BETTER HEALTH NETWORK
- BEYOND BRICKS AND BARS
- BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION
- BOLTON CLARKE
- BOUVERIE CENTRE
- BRAVE NETWORK
- BREAST SCREEN VICTORIA
- BRETT SUTTON
- BRUCE PARNELL
- BURNET INSTITUTE
- CANCER COUNCIL VICTORIA
- CARINA FORD IMMIGRATION LAWYERS
- CATHOLIC AIDS MINISTRY
- CENTRE FOR ADULT EDUCATION
- CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE
- CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN RURAL SEXUAL HEALTH
- CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH IN HEALTH
- CHEMIST WAREHOUSE
- CHILLOUT

- CHRIS GILL
- CHRIS MCDERMOTT
- CITY OF MELBOURNE
- CITY OF STONINGTON
- CITY OF YARRA
- COHEALTH
- COLIN KRYCER
- DAVID BRADFORD
- DAVID CHESHIRE
- DAVID MENADUE
- DAVID OWEN
- DEAN ARCURI
- DENNIS ALTMAN
- DOHERTY INSTITUTE
- DRIP
- DYKES ON BIKES
- EDWINA WRIGHT
- EQUALITY AUSTRALIA
- FAMILY SAFETY VICTORIA
- FEAST
- FLAT OUT
- FOODBANK VICTORIA
- GEORGE FORGAN-SMITH
- GIPPSLAND PRIDE INITIATIVE
- HARM REDUCTION VICTORIA
- HEALTH EQUITY MATTERS
- HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS
- HOUSING CHOICES
- INTERSEX HUMAN RIGHTS AUSTRALIA
- INCLUSION MELBOURNE
- JAMIE GARDINER
- JENNY HOY

- JON JACKSON
- JOY MEDIA
- KIRBY INSTITUTE
- LAUNCH HOUSING
- LGBTIQ+ HEALTH AUSTRALIA
- LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA
- LUKE GALLAGHER
- MAC COSMETICS
- MACQUARIE BANK
- MAMA ALTO
- MELBOURNE BISEXUAL NETWORK
- MELBOURNE GAY & LESBIAN CHORUS
- MELBOURNE POLYTECHNIC
- MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY
- MIDSUMMA
- MIND AUSTRALIA
- MISS KATALYNA
- MQFF
- MY LOVER CINDI
- NAB
- NORTH WEST MELBOURNE PHN
- NORTHSIDE CLINIC
- NOURISH
- ORIGIN ENERGY
- ORYGEN
- PEGGY KERDO
- PHIL CARSWELL
- PHIL SOLIMAN
- PHOENIX AUSTRALIA
- POSITIVE LIFE SOUTH AUSTRALIA
- POSITIVE WOMEN VICTORIA
- PRAHRAN MARKET CLINIC

- PUSH! FITNESS DOCKLANDS
  - RACHEL DUNHAM
  - REFUGEE VICTORIA
  - SA HEALTH
  - SA RAINBOW ADVOCACY ALLIANCE
  - SCOTCHMAN'S HILL
  - SHINE SA
  - SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE PHN
  - ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE
  - SWITCHBOARD VICTORIA
  - TANCK
  - TASKFORCE
  - THE DAVID ROCHE FOUNDATION
  - THE EQUALITY PROJECT
  - THE HUXLEYS
  - THE LAIRD
  - TIMOTHY ROBERTS
  - TODD FERNANDO
  - TRANSCEND
  - TRANSSEX VICTORIA
  - VAADA
  - VACCHO
  - VAHS
  - VICTORIA POLICE
  - VICTORIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
  - VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT
  - VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE
  - VICTORIAN PRIDE LOBBY
  - VIIV HEALTHCARE
  - VINCENT CORNELISSE
  - VIXEN
  - WHAT FROGGY BAKES
  - WINTRINGHAM
  - YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTH
  - ZOE BELLE GENDER COLLECTIVE
- PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA CUMMINS  
PHOTO OF TRACY & DADA BY TINA SMIGIELSKI



# Together for good.

'I became a volunteer five years ago to become more active in the community and connect with other LGBTQIA+ people. It has given me opportunities to give back and create friendships. After coming out of lockdown, these opportunities have helped me feel less socially anxious and isolated.' – Aaron

**AARON WITH LIAM**

[THORNEHARBOUR.ORG](http://THORNEHARBOUR.ORG)

