

MEDIA RELEASE

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Gay Men's Health SA is on the move

Gay Men's Health SA came to Relationships Australia South Australia after the closure of the AIDS Council of South Australia in 2013. Gay Men's Health SA is on the move again to a new organisation starting on July 1, 2015.

"We congratulate SHine SA and the Victorian AIDS Council (VAC) as the new service providers for Gay Men's Health SA services. Shine SA and VAC will continue to build on the decades of work and advocacy by the AIDS Council of South Australia and provide an important support and service provision for gay men, men who have sex with men and same sex attracted men," said Judith Cross, CEO of Relationships Australia South Australia.

The Gay Men's Health SA team has worked tirelessly in the community to break down stigma, promote safe sex practices, increase the use of testing and access to medical treatments, and to improve the health and wellbeing of people who are HIV positive.

Central to the team's work has been to lead creative health promotion campaigns such as [Ending HIV](#) and [World AIDS Day](#) that connected with a wide audience both online and offline.

The team has been on the front foot in their online presence and connecting with the community through social media. Since joining [Facebook](#), Gay Men's Health has gained over 1400 page likes and sees a high rate of content engagement each week. Investment in Search Engine Optimisation has resulted in fantastic growth of the Gay Men's Health SA [website](#) with increasing traffic each quarter.

The team has participated in many collaborative programs, notably with MOSAIC Services (*Tune Up: Sexual Health & Well-being program*), Clinic 275 and the Royal Adelaide Hospital (*1st Point program*).

Gay Men's Health had an especially innovative collaboration with the award winning ActNow Theatre company in the production of [Zero Feet Away](#), an interactive performance targeting gay men under the age 25. *Zero Feet Away* worked specifically to explore the ways in which men navigate and negotiate sex and relationships within virtual spaces, and worked to increase attendees' awareness of appropriate HIV management strategies, such as frequent testing and the use of [PEP \(post-exposure prophylactic\)](#) and PrEP (pre-exposure prophylactic) medication.

The team's presence at the FEAST Festival was vital in reaching their target group. Each year Relationships Australia SA staff walk alongside the Gay Men's Health SA team at the [Pride March](#).

"It has been pleasure to work with the Gay Men's Health SA team. I would like to thank the team and volunteers for their hard work and dedication and the community for their involvement in this important service. They have made long-lasting relationships which will be beneficial for future collaborations. We are stronger and richer from having Gay Men's Health SA as part of our service delivery for the last two years," Ms Cross said.

About Relationships Australia South Australia

As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, our work involves improving the health and wellbeing of people by providing a broad range services including counselling, post adoption support, gambling help, post separation services and much more to individuals, children, young people, couples, families, schools and communities. Services are available to all people regardless of cultural background, family structure, economic situation, religious beliefs, gender or sexual orientation. Our Registered Training Organisation, the Australian Institute of Social Relations offers specialised community and health sector training and education.

Relationships Australia is the custodian of **Neighbour Day**, Australia's annual celebration of community. *The community you want starts at your front door™*.

For more information call 1300 364 277 or visit our website www.rasa.org.au

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