



GLHV

GAY AND LESBIAN
HEALTH VICTORIA



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There are quite a few quiet achievers in the field of GLBT health and wellbeing and I like nothing better than an opportunity to see something that has started small and is suddenly taking off. I have had two such experiences in the last few weeks. The first was an opportunity to see Sergeant Scott Davis who runs the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Program for Victoria Police training new recruits at the police academy. Originally a lot of hard work went into "shoe-horning" a bit of GLBT content into any police training. These days, thanks to the work of Scott, it is part of a two-week program on getting to understand the diverse Victorian community. Seeing Scott standing up in front of these idealistic young people and using the respect they have for him as a senior officer to challenge their views and values was really inspiring.

My second experience was also with Scott and a visit to Ararat Prison to train a group of sexual identity liaison officers selected from the prison officers. This is the culmination of a long process of getting a support group for GLBT prisoners working well in one of the most difficult environments imaginable. This is truly a model of best practice that needs a lot more publicity.

Another group of quiet achievers is our gay friendly health practitioners who, straight or gay, deliver a really sensitive and valued service to our communities. We want to feature some of them on our website – this month it is chiropractor Dr Anna Schwager. Hope some of you will get behind this and send information about your health care here.

Anne Mitchell



Alcohol and drugs workshops

Anne Mitchell and Liam Leonard were delighted to have an opportunity to present at the recent Alcohol and Other Drugs Service Providers Conference in Victoria and to run a training workshop in the afternoon. This enabled us to pilot a two-module training package we have developed for the sector and get some really good feedback. The day obviously went well for us as since then several services have requested training.



Congratulations to Suicide Prevention Australia

on the release of their Position Statement on GLBT Suicide and Self Harm. The statement was prepared by a reference group co-chaired by Anne Mitchell and Dr Michael Dudley, Chair of the SPA Board. It was researched and written by Atari Metcalfe of the Inspire Foundation and launched at Inspire by the Hon Michael Kirby.

So Gay, So What! Poster out soon



Our new anti-homophobia poster is currently being printed!

Keep an eye on our website www.glvh.org.au for details of the launch date. A big THANK YOU to all the models who kindly offered their services.

GLHV Calendar

If you are making up your Christmas list why not add the GLHV calendar to it. The 2010 calendar has gorgeous photos from our new poster and highlights key GLBTI community events. It also lists historical dates relevant to the GLBTI community.



Rainbow Angels – Celebrating the achievements of staff promoting the health and wellbeing of GLBTI seniors receiving aged care

The achievements of aged care service providers are seldom recognised - media attention often focuses on stories of poor care. ARCSHS is currently conducting a project celebrating the achievements of staff working in aged care to encourage and celebrate the good work being achieved every day. The project has been funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and is being conducted in collaboration with the Melbourne Institute of Creative and Experiential Arts, the National Ageing Research Institute and the University of Ballarat. We would like to make sure that the achievements of 'Rainbow Angels' – or aged care service providers delivering great care to older LGBTI people are included in this project. Everyone is welcome to participate by sharing a positive story of the care provided to LGBTI seniors by completing a project postcard. To order a postcard pack or find out more about the project contact Dr Catherine Barrett on 03 9285 5297 or email: c.barrett@latrobe.edu.au or go to the project website on www.everdayangels.com.au



Val's café

Val's Café, a joint initiative between GLHV and ALSO, opens its doors again on Thursday 1st October at 4pm in Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria – Ground Floor 215 Franklin St Melbourne. The Café was established to support aged care service providers that want to improve the care of older GLBTI. The Café welcomes gay and straight service providers and offers refreshments, support, education and resources. To book your place contact Catherine Barrett on 92855297 or c.barrett@latrobe.edu.au or contact Zoë Dunbar on 9660 3900 or zoed@also.org.au

4th National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health



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Since our last newsletter this large national survey done every 5 years by ARCSHS has been released. This always gives us some excellent comparative data on same sex attracted young people in schools. This time we found that 9% of students overall did not report exclusive heterosexual attraction but that only 1% reported being exclusively attracted to people of the same sex with many more students being attracted to both sexes or unsure. There was also an increase in the number of students (5%) who had sex with a partner of the same sex at their last sexual encounter. The report can be downloaded from www.latrobe.edu.au/arcschs/latest_news.html



Students on placement at GLHV

At GLHV we love to have students on placement helping us with our work, they bring so much more than free labour, and we get a chance to show them how rewarding this field of work can be. At the moment we have Kristie-Lee Tyrrel from RMIT is helping us with work on the next *Writing Themselves In* survey and Luke Gahan from Swinburne is working with Catherine Barrett on Aged Care projects.

Check out our website at www.glhv.org.au