



community!

THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH
ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 25



'UNITY WITHIN
COMMUNITY
ISN'T ABOUT
FRIENDSHIP, IT'S
GOING BEYOND
PERSONAL
INVESTMENTS.
IT'S ABOUT
HAVING A
COMMONALITY,
IT'S OUR
RESPONSIBILITY
TO TAKE CARE
OF EACH
OTHER.'
- MICHAL
PHOEBE
& MICHAL
VOLUNTEERS



'UNITY TO ME MEANS
SUPPORTING EACH
OTHER AND STICKING
TOGETHER.'

- MARK

MADDIE & MARK
VOLUNTEERS

community!

The theme of this year’s annual report is unity.

In recent years, the global political landscape has witnessed a pronounced shift to the right, with populist leaders gaining traction through appeals to nationalism, traditional values, and cultural conservatism.

Populist rhetoric frames diversity and inclusion as threats to national identity or social cohesion. In countries such as the US, Hungary, Poland, Russia, and parts of Latin America, legislative measures and public discourse have increasingly targeted sexual and gender minorities—curtailing protections, censoring education, and legitimising discrimination.

These developments are not isolated but interconnected through a transnational network of right-wing influence, including religious fundamentalist groups and political movements that exploit social anxieties for political gain.

The consequences are profound: shrinking civic space, heightened violence, and the normalisation of intolerance.

While progressive movements continue to resist and reclaim ground, the global shift underscores a dangerous regression in human rights norms. It reveals how fragile social progress can be when political opportunism converges with prejudice, and highlights the urgent need for renewed international solidarity and advocacy for LGBTIQ+ human rights and dignity.



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'IF I TALK ABOUT
ADVOCACY
AND LGBTIQA+
COMMUNITIES
AND FIGHTING
AGAINST HIV,
IT'S ABOUT
HIGHLIGHTING
UNITY,
AWARENESS AND
COMPASSION.

IT'S NOT
ONLY QUEER
COMMUNITY, IT'S
OVERALL UNITY.
AND UNITY CAN'T
ONLY COME
FROM LGBTIQA+
PEOPLE AND
ORGANISATIONS,
IT HAS TO COME
FROM ALLIES AND
GOVERNMENT
TOO. THAT WAY
WE CAN ALL
SUPPORT EACH
OTHER.'

- BABI

BEE & BABI
VOLUNTEERS

PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT

Around the world, gaps in hard-won LGBTIQ+ rights have been exposed. The rise of far-right populism and social media polarisation has placed social cohesion under threat — and the progress our communities have fought hard to achieve is being challenged. In the United States and parts of Europe, we've watched movements seek to erase trans rights, dismantle reproductive freedoms, and weaponise misinformation to divide and distract. Additionally, recent cuts to the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and USAID threaten decades of global progress against HIV — a stark reminder that broadly bipartisan health gains can easily be undone by political shifts. Closer to home, rising HIV rates in our Pacific neighbours, including Fiji, show how fragile this progress remains and why sustained advocacy still matters.

Here in Australia, we've achieved significant legal and policy protections for LGBTIQ+ communities and people living with HIV. And our federal election results indicate the Australian public is not so eager to follow the United States. Yet worrying signs remain. Our protections are not as complete as we'd hoped — with heated public discourse about our rights and persistent service inequities.

The Current Landscape

This year, several flashpoints have revealed the fragility of progress, particularly for trans and gender diverse communities. Divisive politics have increasingly targeted trans women, with renewed calls to exclude them from women's spaces and sports. The persistence of religious school exemptions under federal law is another ongoing issue, permitting discrimination against queer and trans students and staff. In Queensland, restrictions on puberty blockers have heightened anxiety for families of trans young people and the clinicians who support them. Together, these dynamics send a message that equality remains conditional.

We've also seen gay and bisexual men targeted by a disturbing rise in violence. Men have been attacked in public in Melbourne and Adelaide simply for being themselves. Others have been abused on dating apps or ambushed and blackmailed by vigilante groups seeking to punish them for their sexuality. This violence is occurring both online and off, often driven by radicalised social media networks — a trend echoed in countries around the world.

Our Response

At Thorne Harbour Health, we refuse to accept this. Equality is not self-



PICTURED HERE WITH THH PRESIDENT, JANET JUKEs, OUTGOING CEO SIMON RUTH OVERSAW EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH OF OUR ORGANISATION DURING HIS TENURE, INCREASING OUR OFFER TO COMMUNITY THREEFOLD OVER 12 YEARS.

sustaining; it must be fiercely defended. That's why we continue to forge stronger connections with policymakers and MPs at all levels of government. We've contributed to key reforms, notably helping to pass anti-vilification legislation that strengthens protections against hate speech. We sponsored a petition to the Victorian Parliament calling for stronger protections for trans and gender diverse healthcare — defending bodily autonomy and the right for patients to decide what's best for their bodies with their doctors. In response to the rise in tech-facilitated violence, we've provided practical tools and guidance, partnered with law enforcement, and advocated for a coordinated response that addresses the root causes of radicalisation.

These challenges come amid a less favourable funding environment. Recent cuts remind us that we must continue to demonstrate our worth and impact. The evidence on health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities is clear — inequities persist — but evidence alone isn't enough. We must continue to make our case and ensure it's heard.

Our Achievements

Even amid uncertainty, we continue to grow. We've expanded therapeutic and counselling services — including family violence programs in South Australia and a Medicare-subsidised counselling service in Victoria. Our Pride & Culture program has brought together more than a dozen multicultural and faith-based LGBTIQ+ groups to celebrate

intersectional belonging. Through the Red Ribbon Run, we've found new ways to engage the public in conversations about why HIV Still Matters. We launched our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, committing to tangible change to our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. And through our Accessible Pride Project, Thorne Harbour has become a global leader in inclusion for LGBTIQ people with intellectual disability.

Our achievements have been recognised across the sector. The Melbourne Awards named us a finalist for our mpox response, which helped deliver zero new cases across Victoria in early 2025. The Victorian Pride Awards honoured Refuge to Recovery, our collaboration improving access to safety for LGBTIQ+ victim-survivors of family violence. We also marked major milestones — ten years of PrEP, ten years of SAMESH, and fifty years since South Australia became the first state to decriminalise homosexuality.

What's Next?

As we celebrate these achievements, we also mark a moment of transition. After twelve years of extraordinary leadership, Simon Ruth will step down as CEO, to take on a new executive role. Under Simon's direction, Thorne Harbour Health expanded into South Australia, launched Equinox and PRONTO!, and transformed into a truly LGBTIQ+ health organisation while strengthening our commitment

to support people living with HIV and to end new transmissions. Simon has shouldered enormous pressure on our behalf and we can't thank him enough for his strength and dedication to the communities we serve. His legacy is one of vision and conviction — and a reminder that Thorne Harbour Health will continue to adapt.

The road ahead demands the same conviction. History teaches us that progress and backlash often travel hand in hand: the liberation movements of the 1970s were followed by the devastation of HIV/AIDS in the 1980s. Today, we find ourselves in another defining moment. The threats are different, but our spirit remains the same.

We must remain vigilant — defending hard-won rights while daring to imagine what comes next. We must continue forging partnerships with policymakers and allies who share our vision of an inclusive and equitable Australia.

Thorne Harbour Health is, quite literally, built for times like these: robust, adaptable, and driven by an unshakable belief that a brighter future is already in motion.

Janet Jukes, President

Simon Ruth, CEO



'UNITY MEANS MANY
VOICES, ONE LOVE.'
- ZAK

DAVID & ZAK
VOLUNTEERS

South Australia continues to be a key growth area for Thorne Harbour Health, with three Adelaide sites now delivering tailored health and wellbeing services for our communities. As our presence expands, so does our commitment to ensuring that all LGBTIQ+ people and people living with HIV can access the care and connection they need — no matter where they live.

Our growing membership, expanding workforce, South Australian Director, and Adelaide board member reflect a genuine effort to embed local voices and leadership. By drawing on South Australians' lived experience, we're ensuring Thorne Harbour Health is deeply responsive to local needs and identity.

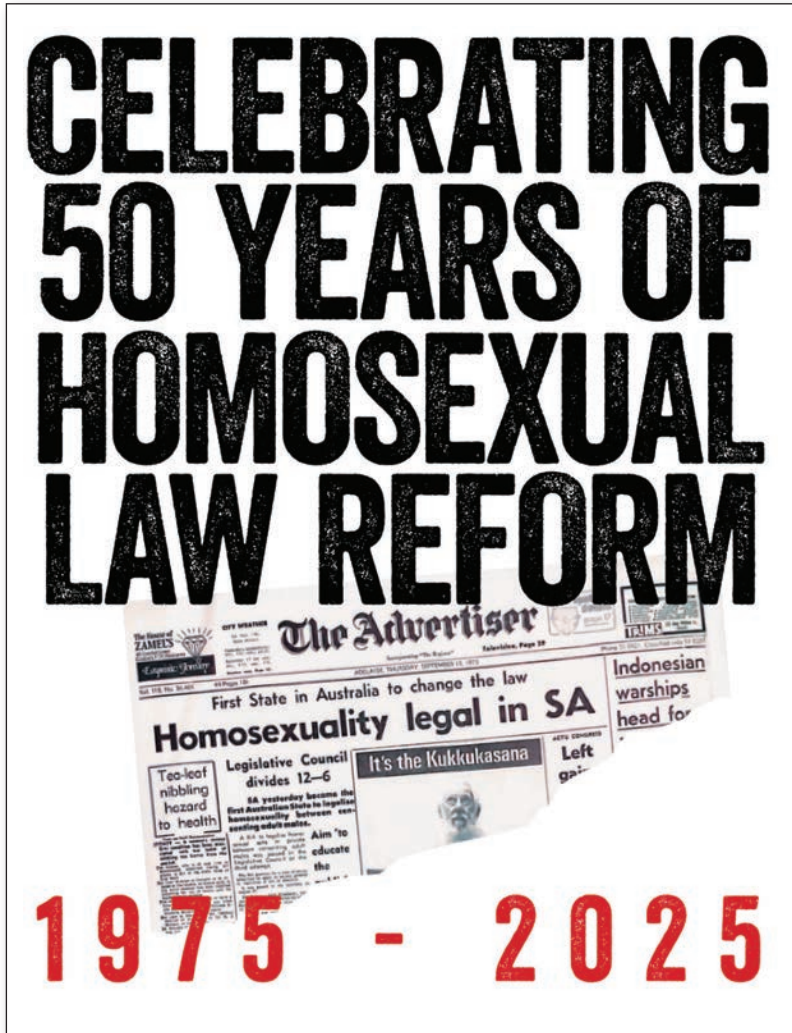
The 50th Anniversary of Decriminalisation

This year marks 50 years since South Australia became the first state in Australia to fully decriminalise homosexual acts between consenting adults, following the partial reforms of 1972, introduced in the wake of Dr George Duncan's death. This landmark change cemented the state's reputation for progressive leadership.

Thorne Harbour Health was honoured to have Ian Hunter MLC — South Australia's first openly gay parliamentarian — speak at our staff forum about his work in HIV/AIDS activism and the bipartisan effort that secured the anniversary's recognition. The milestone served as both a celebration and a reminder: that the progress won through decades of advocacy must continue to be defended.

SAMESH Turns Ten

Our South Australian Mobilisation and Empowerment for Sexual Health (SAMESH) program — a partnership between Thorne Harbour Health and SHINE SA — celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. Founded in 2015 after the closure of the AIDS Council of South Australia, SAMESH has grown into a cornerstone of LGBTIQ+ health promotion across the state. From large-scale campaigns to creative community initiatives, the program continues to champion the wellbeing of people living with HIV and prevent new transmissions.



THIS YEAR MARKS 50 YEARS SINCE SOUTH AUSTRALIA BECAME THE FIRST STATE IN AUSTRALIA TO FULLY DECRIMINALISE HOMOSEXUAL ACTS BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS.

Among the highlights this year was Sustainable Style – Mount Gambier, extending the reach of our arts-based wellbeing program into regional South Australia. The event connected creativity with health promotion, reinforcing that community-building doesn't stop at the city limits.

CONNECT National Leadership

Born in Adelaide, the CONNECT project continues to lead the way in HIV self-testing accessibility. What began as a local pilot is now a national program, with vending machines in universities and health settings across the country providing discreet access to HIV self-testing kits.

CONNECT has placed particular emphasis on reaching international students, who remain overrepresented in new HIV diagnoses. South Australia remains central to this success —

both in its origins and its continued innovation.

LGBTIQ+ Family and Domestic Violence Service

Following the South Australian Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, which identified LGBTIQ+ people as a priority population, Thorne Harbour Health established a dedicated LGBTIQ+ family violence service in Adelaide.

Our service managers from both states contributed to the Commission, outlining how family violence can manifest differently in LGBTIQ+ relationships and how mainstream and community-controlled organisations can collaborate effectively. Since launching, the new service has received strong community engagement and built solid referral partnerships across the sector — a key step toward equal service access across both states.

Political Engagement

Thorne Harbour Health has also played an active role in major policy reforms shaping South Australia's future. The state's ban on conversion practices, introduced in 2024, was a historic achievement for equality and safety. Throughout the parliamentary debate, Thorne Harbour was consistently positioned as a key support service — providing care and resources for anyone distressed or retraumatised by the public discussion.

In the same year, we voiced strong opposition to proposed spitting laws that sought to criminalise people living with HIV through unscientific assumptions about transmission risk. Our submission reaffirmed that such measures are unnecessary, discriminatory, and inconsistent with contemporary medical evidence. Together, these moments highlight the importance of maintaining an evidence-based, community-driven voice in law reform.

Looking Forward

While celebrating these milestones, we continue to strengthen our core health services — including alcohol and other drug support and mental health programs that serve hundreds of South Australians each year. This includes extending affirming mental health care into the Onkaparinga region, bringing support closer to those living outside central Adelaide. We're also deepening our focus on ageing and wellbeing, with programs like Rainbow Connection reducing isolation among older LGBTIQ+ people, and Silver Rainbow Training building inclusive aged care practices across the sector.

With a growing footprint and deeper roots in local communities, Thorne Harbour Health is now a trusted fixture in South Australia's health landscape. As we look ahead, our focus remains on expanding regional access, building strong partnerships, and ensuring our dual-state identity reflects one shared mission — to advance the health and wellbeing of all LGBTIQ+ people and people living with HIV.



**'UNITY MEANS
COMING TOGETHER
AND NOT FEELING
ALONE, CREATING
A SAFE SPACE. AND
THAT YOU CAN BE
YOURSELF.'
- LIV**

**EVAN & LIV
VOLUNTEERS**

ONLINE HATE - REAL WORLD HARM

In the past year, we've seen the worst targeted violence against our communities in decades.

Social media and dating apps have long helped our communities find many forms of connection, but in the past year, they've also become a weapon. A new wave of tech-facilitated violence has emerged, where online hate can turn into real-world harm. What begins as algorithm-fed radicalisation in a teenager's feed can end with a violent ambush organised through Grindr or another dating app.

This growing global trend has seen groups of young men targeting gay, bi and other men who have sex with men. Some offenders in Australia have been as young as 13, with most in their late teens. Reports from the USA, India, Singapore, the UK and New Zealand reveal similar patterns: attackers use apps to lure victims into private locations under the guise of a hookup, then assault, rob or blackmail them. These groups prey on shame, fear and stigma, targeting those who may be discreet or closeted, and exploiting that vulnerability for 'sport.'

Because many victims are hesitant to report, fearing exposure or mistrust of authorities, the true scale of this violence remains largely invisible. But what is visible is deeply alarming.

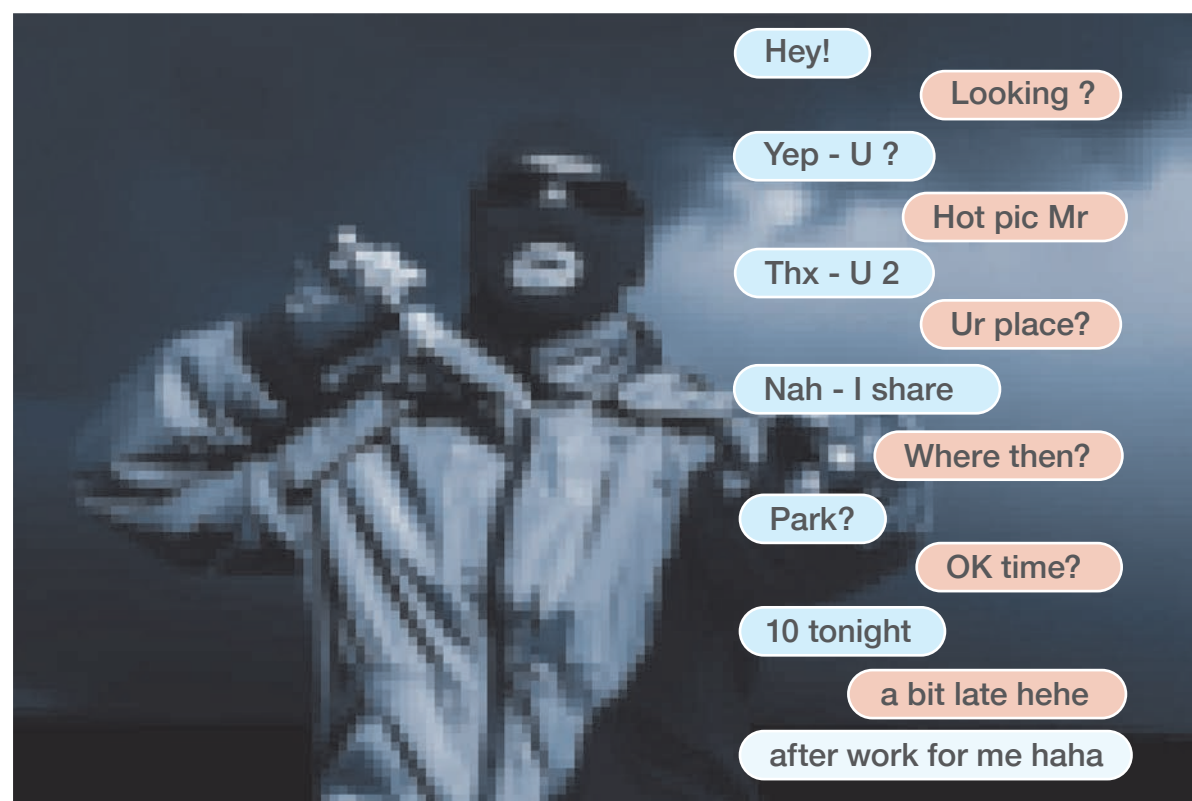
Online Radicalisation

This violence doesn't emerge from nowhere. It's fuelled by online ecosystems that normalise hate and reward outrage. Young men, often feeling excluded or undervalued, are drawn into content that begins with humour, gaming or self-improvement, but gradually introduces anti-LGBTIQ+ and misogynistic messages. Social media algorithms then reinforce those ideas, creating echo chambers where prejudice and violence are celebrated. Some of these boys idolise vigilante creators who film themselves "catching" queer men — a phenomenon now dubbed post and boast. In online forums, participants compare 'scores,' share images and videos, and mock anyone who shows remorse.

Addressing this cycle will require a stronger focus on social media accountability, through platform regulation, public awareness and media literacy. Thorne Harbour Health has consistently called for greater responsibility from digital platforms to protect our communities and prevent the spread of online (and offline) hate.

The Situation in Victoria

In mid-2024, Victoria Police alerted Thorne Harbour Health to a series of Grindr-related attacks, following the arrest of a perpetrator. Since then, over 35 arrests have been made. Around the



ONLINE HATE HAS BEEN FUELED BY HOMOPHOBIA, VIGILANTISM AND THE WEAPONISATION OF TECH-FACILITATED VIOLENCE THAT HAS HAD DEVASTATING REAL-WORLD CONSEQUENCES FOR SOME IN OUR COMMUNITY.

same time, The Laird Hotel was defaced with homophobic graffiti, and Drama Downunder model Frank Bonnici and his partner were violently attacked with a machete by a 14-year-old.

While confronting, these incidents have also united our communities in concern and collective action. The pattern is unmistakable: young people are being radicalised online and acting out hate in the real world, often filming and sharing the violence for validation.

Our Response

Thorne Harbour Health has taken a three-part approach in seeking to address the issue — prevention, partnership, and support.

Prevention:

We developed and widely shared help articles such as 10 Tips for Staying Safe on Hook-Up Apps, and worked with both community and mainstream media — from QNews, JOY Media and Star Observer to The Age and The Guardian — to ensure the message reached as many people as possible. Thorne Harbour Health and Victoria Police also partnered with Grindr for Equality to deliver in-app safety alerts. This collaboration has shown what's possible when platforms step up, but there's more to be done — especially to extend protections beyond regions like the UK, where Grindr has introduced age verification measures. These improvements must balance privacy with safety, ensuring the platform

remains accessible for users who need discretion.

Partnership:

We convened a community safety forum at The Laird, where attendees shared stories and strategies for protecting one another. It became clear that this issue was more widespread than first assumed. Many participants spoke of their reluctance to report incidents to police, but having Victoria Police's LGBTIQ+ Portfolio Manager present helped open dialogue. We have continued to work with the LGBTIQ+ Commissioner's office, and with state and federal politicians and ministers to advocate for improved action for our communities, as well as worked with local councils to address community safety concerns.

Support:

In a major development, Switchboard Victoria established a dedicated helpline for victims, accessible via option 1 on their mainline menu. Staff are specially trained to provide trauma-informed guidance and connect callers to LGBTIQ+ Liaison Officers or anonymous reporting options through Crime Stoppers. Thorne Harbour was proud to support this initiative and prioritised reduced wait times in our own counselling and support services for those affected.

Looking Ahead

We know that prevention starts far upstream — in the online algorithms,

echo chambers and social media habits that influence young minds before violence occurs. Thorne Harbour will continue advocating for platform accountability, and regulation, and encouraging people to engage with online spaces more critically and mindfully.

At the same time, our communities continue to demonstrate extraordinary strength and solidarity. From influencers using their platforms to spread the word to individuals warning others on apps and social media, the response has been swift and compassionate. That resilience remains one of our greatest defences.

There's still much we don't know — especially how many people have been affected but haven't come forward. Improved data collection and reporting are essential. What's clear, however, is that this is a problem of social cohesion, education, and public safety.

Thorne Harbour will continue working alongside government, police, and community partners to ensure that the spaces where we meet and connect are safe for everyone.



**'WE'RE SO LESBIAN
AND SO BEAUTIFUL.'
- DADA**

**TRACEY & DADA
VOLUNTEERS**

1,477,154 

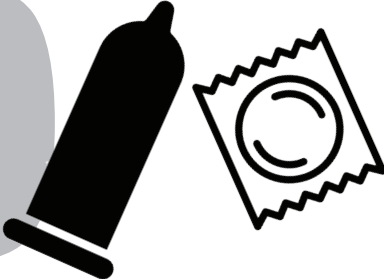
ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR PAGES WERE VIEWED ON THORNE HARBOUR WEBSITES

505,517 

FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHT WEBSITE USERS ON EMEN8.COM.AU

31,000 

OVER THIRTY ONE THOUSAND INSTAGRAM REEL VIEWS ON OUR WORLD AIDS DAY CONTENT

29,000 

OVER TWENTY NINE THOUSAND SAFE SEX PACKS WERE DISTRIBUTED

5,478 

FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY EIGHT SEXUAL HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS WERE SENT THROUGH THE DRAMA DOWNUNDER CAMPAIGN

5,163 

FIVE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THREE HIV SELF-TEST KITS DISTRIBUTED VIA VENDING MACHINES BY THE CONNECT PROJECT IN SA



**'UNITY IS A
SHARED SENSE
OF COMMUNITY,
FRIENDSHIP AND
LOVE.'
- LEON**

**GREG & LEON
VOLUNTEERS**



1 Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD) Services

Alex* turned to Thorne Harbour for support with alcohol use after experiencing a recent relapse. He completed the non-residential withdrawal program before receiving a referral for counselling. In sessions, Alex worked on moderating his use, exploring his drivers for use, and ultimately decided to become abstinent from alcohol. Upon completing counselling, Alex joined the Anchor group for ongoing support. Alex's case is just one outstanding example of shared care and how services respond flexibly to clients' evolving needs and goals.

*Not his real name.

2 Training & Capacity Building

Thorne Harbour Health's Training and Capacity Building team has expanded its statewide delivery of LGBTIQ+ and trans and gender diverse (TGD) health training, strengthening the capacity of clinicians and allied health professionals to deliver inclusive care. Over the past year, the team delivered more than 20 sessions to over 300 participants from 150 organisations.

To meet growing sector demand, three new comprehensive training packages were launched, covering Mental Health and AOD, LGBTIQ+ Cultural Competency, and TGD healthcare, offering over 30 hours of new content. Evaluation results showed a strong impact, with 92% of participants reporting greater confidence in providing inclusive care. As one participant noted, 'This training gave me the confidence to have conversations I previously avoided.'



OVER 70 COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOINED US AT PRINCES PARK, RUNNING OR WALKING 4KM AND 8KM COURSES IN SOLIDARITY TO RAISE MONEY FOR WORLD AIDS DAY.

3 Red Ribbon Run

Redefining fundraising for World AIDS Day, we delivered the inaugural Red Ribbon Run – Australia's only fun run dedicated to the occasion. Over 70 community members joined us at Princes Park, running or walking 4km and 8km courses in solidarity. Rodrigo, who is living with HIV, was the first to finish the 4km, describing his achievement as both a personal triumph and a powerful reminder of thriving with HIV. The event reinvigorated local engagement with World AIDS Day, creating a shared moment of pride and visibility for people living with HIV.

4 Pride Across Cultures

Our newly launched Pride & Culture program brought together over 11 LGBTIQ+-led multicultural and faith-based community groups to showcase their work and highlight pathways for people to connect with vital social networks supporting health and wellbeing. The event attracted over 150 community members, many of whom formed new connections and strengthened links to groups reflecting their cultural identities and faith. This event was possible thanks to Acceptance Melbourne, Melbourne Inclusive Church, Gay Asian Proud, Yellow Kitties, QSAM, AGMC, Queer Muslim Naarm, Greek & Gay Support Network, LAHRC, Aleph Melbourne, Jewmos, and Queer Arabs Australia.

5 Family Violence Initiative

Thorne Harbour's Specialist Anti-Violence Initiative (SAVI) is a first-of-its-kind behaviour change program in Victoria, providing a service pathway for trans women, non-binary people, cisgender queer women, and gender-diverse individuals who use violence in their relationships, families, or communities. Our approach is an inclusive, LGBTIQ+ affirming, evidence-based intervention for those who have historically been excluded from non-violence services. The team offers flexible interventions that focus on accountability, responsibility, and centring the voices, wishes, and needs of people who have been harmed.



**'IT'S ABOUT A
SHARED HISTORY,
AND ABOUT
SHAPING A FUTURE
TOGETHER,
WHERE WE'RE ALL
ACCEPTED.'
- SEIGFRIED**

**JAMES & SEIGFRIED
VOLUNTEERS**

6 Financial Counselling

Thorne Harbour's Financial Counselling team offers advice and provides emergency assistance through the David Williams Fund to people living with HIV who are struggling with debt and their finances. When Jordan* needed help, the team's specialised guidance empowered them to wipe thousands of dollars in utility debt, apply for relevant grants, secure housing and food vouchers, and plan ahead for handling future bills. With the financial weight off their shoulders, Jordan was able to focus on finding stable employment and facing the future with renewed optimism.

*Not their real name.

7 Housing Plus

Avery* became a client of Housing Plus in February 2025. Living with HIV since birth, he migrated to Australia as a teenager and experienced domestic violence from his family. He'd been homeless intermittently and had a brief period of incarceration. We helped Avery access transitional housing, connected him to an HIV care team, and liaised with lawyers to support him. Avery received a Community Corrections Order and is now settled into his new home, focused on his health, and engaging with a range of supports to fulfil the obligations of this order.

*Not their real name.

8 Student Placements

Over the past year, the Student Placement and Volunteer Program has grown and evolved, creating more structured and consistent experiences across our therapeutic services teams. What began with a small number of placements in early 2024 expanded significantly in 2025. Our students and volunteers have played a crucial role in supporting timely service delivery to clients, enabling the team to respond more effectively to client needs. Looking ahead, the program will continue to grow, enhancing learning, deepening partnerships, and supporting future professionals in a sustainable and engaging way.



SPECIALISED GUIDANCE HAS EMPOWERED CLIENTS TO WIPE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN UTILITY DEBT, APPLY FOR RELEVANT GRANTS, SECURE HOUSING AND FOOD VOUCHERS.



9 Mpox

When mpox cases resurged in Victoria, vaccination rates risked stalling. To reach unvaccinated and unconnected GBMSM, Thorne Harbour turned to innovative digital strategies beyond the usual platforms. We became the first Australian advertiser on Sniffies, a popular MSM cruising site where most users identify as bi or straight, and placed ads on Pornhub targeting audiences engaging with bi and trans content.

By focusing on behaviours rather than identities, we reached communities often missed by traditional campaigns. The results speak for themselves: more than 10,000 people visited our campaign page, 340 vaccine appointments were booked, and by mid-2025, Victoria recorded zero new cases. Precision advertising ensured critical messages reached those most at risk, contributing to reduced mpox transmission across the state.

10 NDIS

Ari* came to Thorne Harbour seeking NDIS support after a life shaped by immense challenges. Born in a country torn apart by civil war, Ari found safety in Australia but continued to face barriers, including living with a psychosocial disability, schizo-affective disorder, HIV, vision loss, and diabetes. He was socially isolated and burdened by HIV stigma.

Today, Ari's life has been transformed by recovery coaching from the NDIS team and practical help from the Home Care team. He has built confidence to reconnect with the world, attend events, and expand his social network. Ari is now taking the lead in shaping his own NDIS supports, working toward his goal of leading a more fulfilling life on his own terms.

*Not his real name.



11 United Nations Economic & Social Council

This year, Thorne Harbour achieved Special Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council. As the only major Australian LGBTIQ+ organisation with this status, we can contribute our more than forty years of expertise in world-class advocacy and service provision to global policymaking bodies.

This status enables us to submit statements to UN Commissions and Forums and to participate in side events both virtually and in person. It strengthens our ability to highlight the realities faced by LGBTIQ+ people and people living with HIV on the world stage, particularly in forums where sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status are often marginalised.



**'UNITY IS
ABOUT FEELING
SAFE, WHICH IS
SOMETHING I GET
FROM WORKING
WITH THORNE
HARBOUR HEALTH.'
- ALEX**

**ALEX & HANNAH
VOLUNTEERS**

12 Mob+

The Positive Living Centre established Mob+ as the first HIV-positive peer support group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria. The group was born from a recognised need for a self-determined, culturally safe space where First Nations people living with HIV could connect, share experiences, and strengthen identity in ways that reflect their unique lived realities.

Mob+ meets regularly at the Centre, where members yarn, exchange culture, and offer peer support. Grounded in community development principles, the group provides an environment that reduces isolation and builds leadership among its members. Mob+ supports participants in their personal journeys while empowering them to shape the direction of the group and contribute to broader conversations around HIV, health, and wellbeing.



THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH SA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT OLDER LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE THROUGH BOTH COMMUNITY CONNECTION AND SECTOR EDUCATION INITIATIVES SUCH AS RAINBOW CONNECTION TRAINING AT FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE.



13 PRONTO!

In June 2025, PRONTO Program Manager Eshwar Krishnasamy and Director of Clinical Services Peter Locke attended the Point-of-Care Test Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference showcased innovations in point-of-care testing, discussed strategies for implementation, and addressed challenges related to equitable access and healthcare integration.

PRONTO presented an abstract titled 'Intersections of Offering Rapid HIV Tests & PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)' to a positive reception. The presentation focused on the observations of PRONTO peer test facilitators engaging with community members who use On-Demand PrEP – namely, how incorrect and inconsistent PrEP and HIV testing appear to be common within this group. To address these issues, providing parallel HIV serology testing for On-Demand PrEP users ensures community members continue to receive accurate testing, facilitating early HIV detection and treatment.

14 Refuge to Recovery

Thorne Harbour Health was honoured with the Outstanding Advocacy Award at the 2024 Victorian Pride Awards for its role in the Refuge to Recovery initiative. Delivered in partnership with Refuge Victoria, Switchboard, and Family Access Network, and funded by the Ramsay Foundation, the project addressed a long-standing gap between specialist LGBTIQ+ family violence services and mainstream domestic and family violence refuges.

Refuge to Recovery represents a transformative advocacy effort to dismantle systemic barriers and reshape how the family violence sector engages with LGBTIQ+ victim-survivors—ensuring safer, more inclusive pathways to refuge and recovery.

15 Ageing Well in SA

Thorne Harbour Health South Australia continues to strengthen its work supporting older LGBTIQ+ people through both community connection and sector education initiatives.

Alongside the ongoing Rainbow Connection program, which pairs older LGBTIQ+ people with volunteer visitors, Silver Rainbow Training has expanded its reach to build the capacity of aged care services to provide inclusive, safe, and welcoming environments for LGBTIQ+ people and people living with HIV. Over the past year, training was delivered to staff from aged care facilities, Relationships Australia, Older Persons Mental Health Services, Flinders Medical Centre, and Neami. Participant feedback described the training as relevant and impactful, supported by new HIV-specific content and an e-learning module developed for LGBTIQ+ Health Australia.



16 Rainbow Connection

Jim celebrated his 97th birthday at his aged care home this year, joined by his two Rainbow Connection volunteers, Louis and Michael. They arrived with cake and good cheer, helping to make the day happy and memorable. When Jim became a Rainbow Connection participant in 2024, staff and other residents at the facility didn't know he was gay. Over time, with the support of his volunteers, he has become more comfortable expressing his identity in the home. Recently, Jim said that he had never expected to reach 97, but he is grateful that he did, because he was able to celebrate it with the volunteers and friends he's made in the facility.

17 South Australian Services

Thorne Harbour Health's Specialist LGBTIQ+ Mental Health Service continues to deliver life-changing support for trans and gender diverse clients.

When Samantha*, a middle-aged trans woman, first engaged with the service, she was struggling with the aftermath of separation and the challenges of coming out to her family and workplace. With support from her clinician, she developed the confidence to live authentically, reconnect socially through the Trans Femme community group, and now mentors other trans women.

Meanwhile, Chloe*, a 21-year-old trans woman, was supported to manage stress while finishing university and moving house. With counselling and practical strategies, she completed her degree, found stable work, and strengthened her mental wellbeing.

*not their real names.



**'UNITY, IT'S ALL
ABOUT SUPPORT
NO MATTER WHAT.
SHARE YOUR
POINT OF VIEW,
AND IT MIGHT BE
DIFFERENT BUT WE
DON'T JUDGE.'
- JACK**

**DRAGAN & JACK
VOLUNTEERS**

1985: CHESTER WEINBERG IS THE FIRST AMERICAN FASHION DESIGNER TO DIE FROM AIDS

IN LIFE AND DEATH HE FACED STIGMA, DISCRIMINATION INTOLERANCE AND BIGOTRY



STYLE & SPIRIT: THE FASHION OF CHESTER WEINBERG SEE THE FASHION, LEARN HIS STORY

SAMESH

18 Style & Spirit

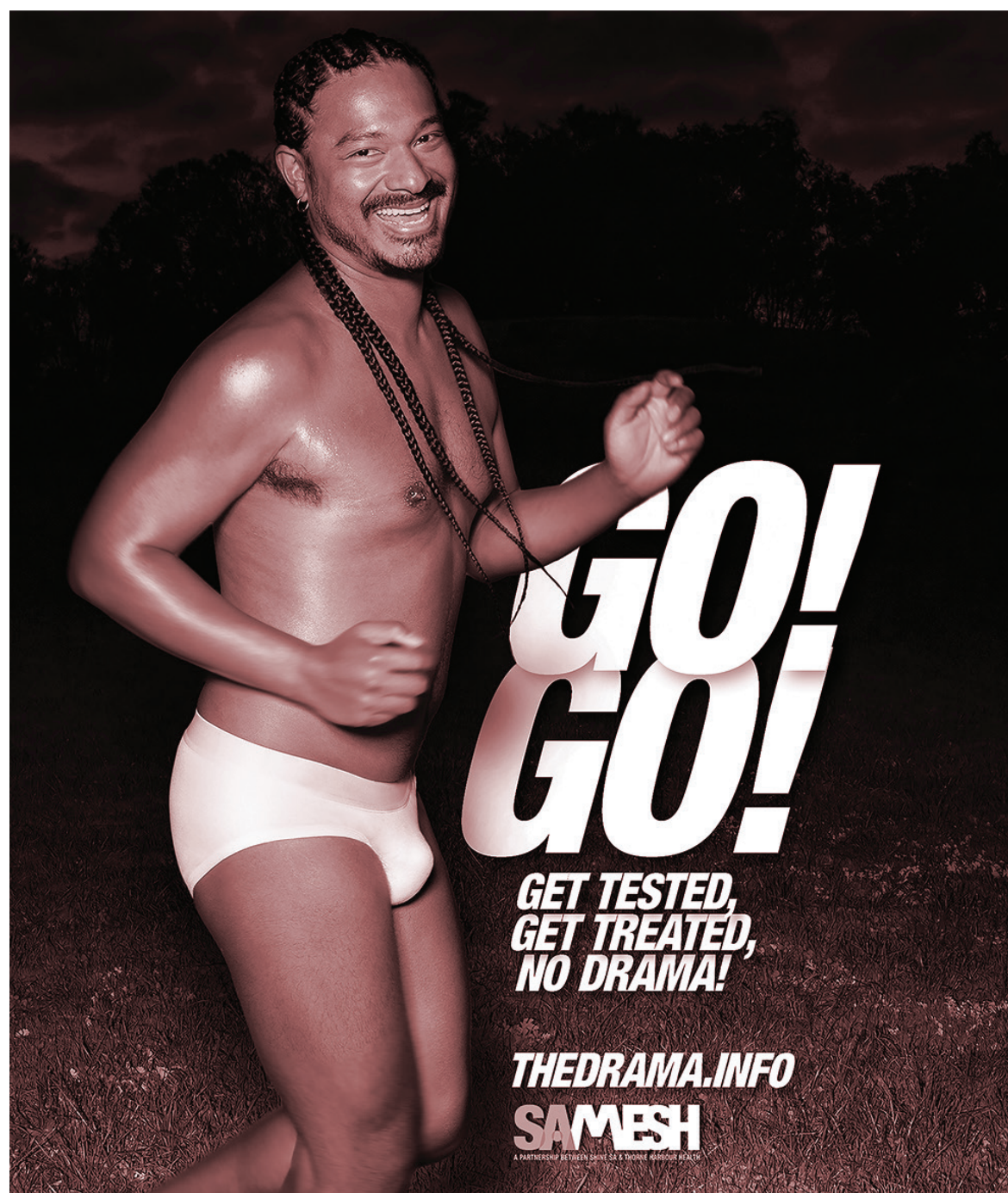
SAMESH has continued to build an international reputation at the intersection of health promotion, culture, and community with Style & Spirit: The Fashion of Chester Weinberg—a world-first exhibition exploring the life and legacy of the first fashion designer to die of an AIDS-related illness. Presented in partnership with the David Roche Gallery, the exhibition attracted more than 2,000 visitors and 170 attendees at accompanying public programs.

The exhibition catalogue is now held in every Australian state library and prestigious international collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Design historian Professor Peter McNeil described Style & Spirit as 'one of the best exhibitions of 2024,' cementing SAMESH's standing as a cultural leader in HIV and LGBTIQ+ storytelling.

19 Thorne Harbour Country

Thorne Harbour Country continues to deliver vital localised support to LGBTIQ+ people across regional Victoria through the Echuca and Bendigo Locals programs.

In Echuca, one participant experiencing burnout and substance dependence engaged with counselling and peer support, leading to improved wellbeing, stronger social connections, and a renewed focus on employment. Another client, initially hesitant to re-engage with mental health services, built trust with Thorne Harbour Country counsellors and has since taken steps toward ongoing therapy and long-term recovery.



THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH'S AWARD WINNING SEXUAL HEALTH, TESTING AND TREATMENT CAMPAIGN, THE DRAMA DOWNUNDER WAS IMPLEMENTED IN METROPOLITAN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

20 The Drama Downunder SA

Thorne Harbour Health's Drama Downunder campaign continued to lead sexual health promotion in South Australia with its latest instalment, Go! Go! Get Tested. The bold campaign used engaging and diverse imagery to encourage regular STI testing across metropolitan Adelaide and regional areas.

Running for four months from October 2024, the campaign appeared on buses, smart frames, and digital platforms, reaching an estimated 5.3 million views. Post-campaign evaluation showed strong visibility, with 68% of

surveyed community members recalling the campaign and over three-quarters describing it as eye-catching.

21 Women's Health

This year, 226 people have attended Thorne Harbour Health's LGBTIQ+ Women's Health events, developed in response to community feedback calling for more inclusive spaces supporting wellbeing, creativity, and connection.

The latest partnership with Sexual Health Victoria delivered an interactive

two-part series on menstrual health, pelvic pain, menopause, and perimenopause. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants describing the sessions as 'informative,' 'culturally appropriate,' and 'a safe space that catered to various levels of existing knowledge,' underscoring the importance of accessible, community-led health education for LGBTIQ+ women and gender diverse people.



'UNITY FOR ME IS
EMPOWERMENT,
KNOWING THAT I
CAN BE MYSELF
BECAUSE I'M
IN A GROUP OF
PEOPLE WHO
KNOW WHAT I'M
GOING THROUGH.

THERE'S SO
MANY OF US
IN THE QUEER
SPACE, AND IT
FEELS LIKE A
SAFE SPACE,
WHERE WE'RE
EMPOWERED TO
BE OURSELVES.'

- KAITLYN

YI YI & KAITLYN
VOLUNTEERS

ACCESSIBLE PRIDE CELEBRATING LGBTQ* PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Over the past year, the Accessible Pride Project has positioned Thorne Harbour Health as a national leader in cognitive accessibility and inclusive practice for LGBTQ* people with intellectual disability (PWID). The project seeks organisation-wide change that transforms LGBTQ PWID's experiences in both the disability sector and LGBTQ+ community-controlled sector.

Established in 2023 with funding from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Program, Accessible Pride is a consortium of Thorne Harbour Health, Inclusion Melbourne (IM) and the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) at La Trobe University.

Accessible Pride represents a first for both the LGBTQ+ and disability sectors—an evidence-driven, affected-communities-led project ensuring people with intellectual disability are not only represented but meaningfully included in the life of our organisation and community. Its progress demonstrates how Thorne Harbour's Strategic Plan comes to life in practice.

Strategic Goal 1: Expand the Reach and Impact of Our Programs

This year saw the rapid expansion of Accessible Pride's reach and diversity. Through proactive recruitment, co-design participation grew from five to more than thirty lived-experience experts, representing a broad spectrum of disabilities, genders, and sexualities. The inclusion of trans and gender diverse people with intellectual disability was a critical milestone, ensuring the project authentically reflected the full breadth of our community.

The project's participatory action research model places LGBTQ PWID at the centre of inquiry and innovation. Together, participants, researchers, and Thorne Harbour staff identified systemic barriers and co-developed practical tools to address them. This included translating existing Thorne Harbour materials into Australia's first cognitively accessible LGBTQ-targeted resources on topics such as client rights, privacy, counselling, and volunteering.

Because of its groundbreaking nature, Accessible Pride is both evidence-informed and evidence-building. Over the past year, the team completed three formal literature reviews, a Learning Needs Analysis for the LGBTQ and disability sectors and achieved three successful academic conference submissions. These academic outputs demonstrate Accessible Pride's contribution to new areas of knowledge and its potential to inform future government policy.



HOSTED BY PROFESSIONAL DRAG ARTIST MISS BOBBEE PINN, THE ALL-IN RAINBOWS THH OPEN DAYS WERE JOYFUL, CO-DESIGNED EVENTS CREATED TO ADDRESS THE CHRONIC SOCIAL ISOLATION EXPERIENCED BY LGBTQ PWID.

Strategic Goal 2: Exercise Trusted Leadership

Thorne Harbour Health's leadership in this space has been widely recognised. Accessible Pride was invited to present its work to both the Thorne Harbour Board and the national Inclusive Rainbow Voices Board, where it was described as 'world-leading' in quality and impact.

When the Commonwealth Department of Social Services sought examples of best practice for its Foundational Supports reforms, Accessible Pride was selected for consultation. The team provided direct advice on embedding the needs of LGBTQ people with intellectual disability into federal strategy.

Accessible Pride also took a mentoring role within the community sector, working closely with a range of Victoria's LGBTQ festival organisations to improve their accessibility and inclusion of PWID. These collaborations are being documented as a national resource on accessible LGBTQ+ community event design, further strengthening Thorne Harbour's profile as a trusted source of expertise and leadership.

Strategic Goal 3: Develop Our Communities

Community development sits at the heart of Accessible Pride. The two Thorne Harbour open days – All-in Rainbows – were joyful, co-designed events created to address the chronic social isolation experienced by LGBTQ PWID.

Hosted by professional drag artist Miss Bobbee Pinn, the days were intentionally designed as both celebration and intervention. They modelled accessible volunteering, introduced Thorne Harbour's services in accessible and affirming ways, and built confidence and cultural literacy through play and participation in specially designed accessible Drag Bingo. The events directly re-engaged several attendees with counselling and support services, introduced new referrals, and inspired ongoing volunteer interest.

For Thorne Harbour staff who attended and heard speeches from Rainbow Rights members, the experience was equally powerful—a rare opportunity to connect as queer peers with community members whose needs are too often unmet.

Strategic Goal 4: Build a Robust and Highly Adaptable Organisation for the Future

Accessible Pride has catalysed key organisational change. Across divisions, Thorne Harbour is embedding cognitive accessibility as a core practice, not an afterthought. The project has led the translation of policies and educational materials into cognitively accessible formats, ensuring information is clear and inclusive for all clients.

Staff across the organisation have participated in tailored pilot training developed by the Accessible Pride team, covering inclusive communication, plain-language engagement, and ethical support. Further sessions are planned for external disability services and Thorne Harbour's NDIS team.

Researchers at ARCSHS have completed 20 interviews with professionals across LGBTQ and disability sectors as part of a formal Learning Needs Analysis. Drawing on these findings and pilot training insights, in 2026 the consortium will develop an online training suite with course pathways tailored to each sector and role. Once incorporated into staff onboarding, this training will ensure every Thorne Harbour service area is equipped to welcome and support LGBTQ+ people with intellectual disability.

Looking Ahead

Accessible Pride has proven that genuine intersectional inclusion is achievable when it is both deliberately co-designed with the disempowered group and collectively embraced by those with the power to change the status quo. Through innovation, partnership, and lived-experience leadership, Thorne Harbour is not only breaking new ground but setting new standards for intersectional cognitive accessibility and intersectional LGBTQ-inclusive practice across Australia.

As the project's funding concludes in 2026, Accessible Pride will leave a lasting legacy—of research, resources, and relationships that continue to inform practice, expand hearts, minds, and horizons. It will stand as an enduring affirmation that when all people are valued for all that they are, everyone belongs.

*This acronym has been used intentionally to represent the communities served by this project.



'I THINK IT'S
SUPPORTING
EACH OTHER AND
BEING AWARE
THAT WE'RE
ALL DIFFERENT
PEOPLE, WITH
DIFFERENT
BACKGROUNDS
AND
EXPERIENCES,
AND STILL
SAYING WE'RE
HERE FOR EACH
OTHER.'
- SHIR

MAX & SHIR
VOLUNTEERS

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

At the heart of Thorne Harbour Health's work is a commitment to engaging people across intersections, celebrating diversity, and creating spaces for belonging. Across our programs this year, we strengthened relationships with multicultural communities, First Nations peoples, LGBTIQ+ women, people living with HIV, and LGBTQ people with intellectual disability.

Multicultural Communities

Our work with multicultural LGBTIQ+ communities this year has once again been guided by our Multicultural Advisory Committee. Now in its second year, the committee continues to provide strategic advice and cultural insights, ensuring that our programs and services remain responsive to the needs of LGBTIQ+ people and PLHIV from diverse backgrounds in Victoria and South Australia. Their input has shaped initiatives such as the introduction of interpreter services, the development of Thorne Harbour's cultural inclusion policy, improvements in multicultural data reporting, and tailored sexual health messaging through the Emen8 platform. The committee will continue to be an invaluable source of reflection, knowledge and expertise for the organisation as it continues to engage with multicultural communities into 2025-2026.

In March 2025, we launched our new Pride & Culture program, which brings together cultural and faith-based events for LGBTIQ+ communities. So far, this has included a Ramadan series with Queer Muslim Naarm and a Lent event with Acceptance Melbourne. In June, more than 11 community groups came together to showcase their work at Pride Across Cultures at Collingwood Town Hall, marking Pride Month with a celebration of intersectional identity and belonging.

First Nations

Thorne Harbour Health continues to strengthen its relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, recognising that the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ First Nations peoples must be grounded in cultural safety, self-determination, and respect.

Thorne Harbour recently launched its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP—covering December 2024 to December 2026—commits the organisation to concrete actions across relationships, respect, opportunities, and governance. These include:

Building genuine partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

Embedding Cultural Safety Training across all staff teams.

Increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and procurement opportunities.

Developing community-led health promotion projects for LGBTIQ+ First Nations peoples.

Implementation is being overseen by a working group with staff from both Naarm (Melbourne) and Kaurna (Adelaide) services.

In 2025, Thorne Harbour also published Strong in Spirit, a new resource connecting Rainbow Mob in Victoria and South Australia to culturally grounded services and supports in social and emotional wellbeing, responding to evidence of high levels of distress among LGBTIQ+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

People Living with HIV

This year, the Positive Living Centre (PLC) deepened its commitment to connection and inclusion through a series of community-led events celebrating the diversity of people living with HIV.

Mob+, the First Nations HIV peer network, continued to grow as a culturally safe space for leadership, expression, and healing. The National Day of Women Living with HIV gathering built on this momentum, bringing women together to share lived experiences, build networks of support, and highlight the unique strengths and challenges within their community.

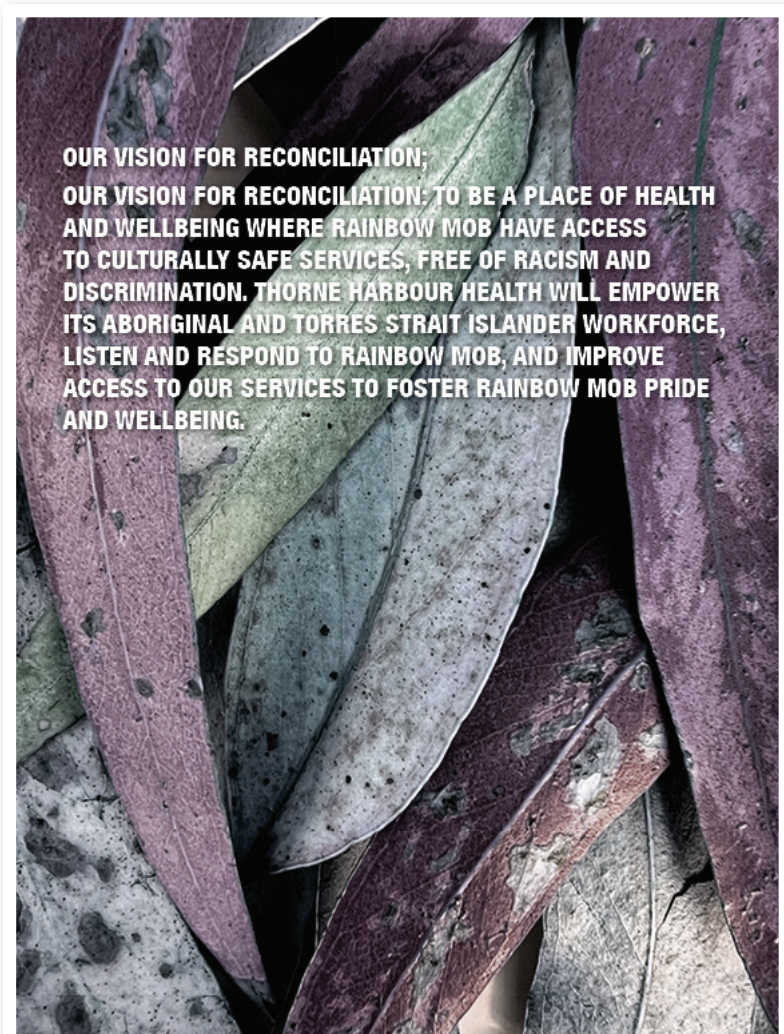
In June, the HIV Long-Term Survivors Day Dinner offered a moment of reflection and pride—honouring resilience, loss, and legacy across generations. Creativity and reflection remained central to engagement, with the PLC Art Class and Nutritional Services Program offering spaces for expression, inclusion, and belonging.

Supported by the City of Stonnington, the Nourish Plus program continued to address food insecurity and promote wellbeing by providing fresh produce and protein-rich foods to PLHIV. The year concluded with the World AIDS Day Memorial, bringing the community together to remember those we have lost, celebrate the legacy of Fairfield Hospital, and reaffirm our collective commitment to a future where HIV Still Matters.

LGBTIQ+ Women

The LGBTIQ+ Women's Health team made significant progress this year in expanding access to inclusive health information and community engagement. In collaboration with web developers, the team has been developing a new LGBTIQ+ Women's Health website, set to launch during Midsumma 2026. The platform will provide tailored information on mental, physical, social, and sexual health while connecting communities to relevant services and events.

Our events and workshops continued to celebrate and strengthen connection across generations. Wise Words – A Night of Intergenerational Storytelling



**OUR VISION FOR RECONCILIATION;
OUR VISION FOR RECONCILIATION: TO BE A PLACE OF HEALTH
AND WELLBEING WHERE RAINBOW MOB HAVE ACCESS
TO CULTURALLY SAFE SERVICES, FREE OF RACISM AND
DISCRIMINATION. THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH WILL EMPOWER
ITS ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WORKFORCE,
LISTEN AND RESPOND TO RAINBOW MOB, AND IMPROVE
ACCESS TO OUR SERVICES TO FOSTER RAINBOW MOB PRIDE
AND WELLBEING.**

THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH'S RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN COMMITS THE ORGANISATION TO CONCRETE ACTIONS ACROSS RELATIONSHIPS, RESPECT, OPPORTUNITIES, AND GOVERNANCE.

(2025) was a sold-out event at Fitzroy Town Hall, featuring Joan Nestle, Sez, Sarah Ward, Hana Assafiri, Mama Alto, and Isobel Morphy-Ward.

The team also ran a series of health and wellbeing workshops supporting LGBTIQ+ women across different life stages, including:

Flourish After 50, focused on connection and wellbeing for women aged 50 and over.

Conscious Combat Club, offering trauma-informed martial arts to build confidence and strength.

Understanding Menstrual Health and Pelvic Pain, held in partnership with a GP and community educator from Sexual Health Victoria.

Pathways to Parenthood, providing accessible information on assisted reproductive treatment for our communities.

People with Intellectual Disability

Established last year, the Accessible Pride Project continues to position Thorne Harbour Health as a leader in cognitive accessibility and intersectional inclusion for LGBTQ people with intellectual disability (PWID). While its primary goal is to produce training and resources for both the LGBTIQ+ specialist and disability service sectors, the project began with

self-reflection to ensure that both the project and Thorne Harbour itself model the inclusion it seeks to inspire.

Through co-design and participatory research, Accessible Pride has worked with over thirty lived-experience experts (LGBTQ PWID) and twenty subject-matter specialists to develop the world's first Supported Decision-Making Guide for LGBTQ People with Intellectual Disability. This innovative resource empowers PWID to lead their own LGBTQ affirmation journeys—across identity development, coming out, relationships, and anti-discrimination rights.

Another highlight was the project's All In Rainbows Open Days—joyful, co-designed events connecting LGBTQ PWID, their supporters, and Thorne Harbour staff. These pilots modelled promising practice in cognitively accessible approaches to volunteering, therapeutic engagement, and queer cultural literacy education.

Designed for replication, the All In Rainbows model will soon be published as a national "how-to" guide—helping LGBTIQ+ organisations across Australia ensure that every queer person knows they belong, and that Thorne Harbour is here to help them.



'I THINK IT'S
LOOKING AFTER
EACH OTHER,
ESPECIALLY
THOSE THAT ARE
VULNERABLE AND
ISOLATED.'

- MARC

SUE & MARC
VOLUNTEERS



LIFE MEMBER IAN HUNTER

Over the last four decades the Honourable Ian Hunter, MLC, has made significant, sustained and valuable contributions to the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities and PLHIV in South Australia.

Ian was the first openly gay member in the Parliament of South Australia and was the first to marry while in parliament. He is renowned for his advocacy on LGBTIQ+ issues, even, at times, in the face of opposition from members of the Labor Party to which he belongs. For example, in 2008 Ian introduced a number of amendments (which were later defeated) to the Statutes Amendment (Surrogacy) Bill, including removing the term 'marriage-like relationship' in order to remove discrimination against same-sex couples and ensure that they had the legal right to access gestational surrogacy.

The following year (June 2009) Ian delivered a speech to parliament calling for the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Australia and criticising Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for supporting the then-current definition of marriage as 'between a man and a woman'. He is a strong supporter of services for PLHIV and for sexual health promotion and support more generally. Ian is, and has long been, an incredible role model to younger LGBTIQ+ and HIV advocates, activists, and community members.



MEDIA AWARD HANNAH BAMBRA

Hannah is a Melbourne-based journalist whose work for long-standing independent publication, The Saturday Paper, spans politics, health, law, and social issues, with a strong focus on marginalised communities.

Their feature article "Apps Used as Baiting Tools in Homophobic Attacks" (The Saturday Paper, 19 July 2025) exemplifies this commitment. In documenting violent assaults against gay and bisexual men lured through dating apps, Hannah balanced rigorous investigation with sensitivity. They amplified survivor voices, highlighted the role of community organisations like Thorne Harbour Health, and situated the attacks within broader patterns of online radicalisation and homophobia.



LIFE MEMBER JOHN HALL

John Hall began with the organisation as a volunteer in the VAC Northern Support team as part of the community support program in 1989. Prior to commencing with VAC, John worked in customs and volunteered with the Ian Gawler cancer groups. John held various volunteer roles with VAC including as a carer, care team leader and deputy area coordinator.

After volunteering with VAC, John decided to leave his career in customs and study nursing. This led to employment with VAC in 1996 as a regional support officer and later as Manager Community Support and then Manager HIV Services in 2008. John held this role until it was made redundant in 2013 and he took on the role of Partnerships Manager for the organisation.

During his years with VAC and THH, John has championed our volunteer services, ensured the ongoing existence of the Fairfield AIDS Garden and fought Powerhouse Museum to have a Victorian Quilt returned to Victoria.

John has dedicated most of his life to improving the lives of people living with HIV. He was most recently the subject of the documentary film *While We Still Have Time* that chronicled John's battle with cancer and his relationship with his daughter and film maker, Ava.



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD SON VIVIENNE

Since 2023, Dr Son Vivienne has successfully led Transgender Victoria (TGV) as CEO and positioned it as a high-impact organisation achieving real outcomes for trans and gender diverse people. Their work during this time, and in the 4 years prior in their role as Manager of Operations, has improved access to healthcare, strengthened community safety, and created workplaces and institutions that are more inclusive and affirming.

Son has strengthened TGV's capacity to deliver both advocacy and direct support. Their leadership has ensured that the organisation is not only a voice for reform but also a source of community connection and resilience. Son has been a powerful advocate for inclusive healthcare and workplace protections for trans and gender diverse people.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD BRETT LASHAM & MARK CARNEY

For the better part of the last two decades, Brett Lasham and Mark Carney have been the partnership behind The Laird Hotel. The site is the birthplace of Thorne Harbour Health and has been a cornerstone of Melbourne's leather & fetish communities. Brett and Mark have remained steadfast in honouring both the historic and ongoing significance of the venue. Their commitment has helped see the venue receive heritage protections from the City of Yarra in May 2025. Whether regarding mpox or HIV prevention, the venue has been an important touchpoint for health promotion messaging for gay, bi, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM). In June 2025, we worked with Brett and Mark to hold a community forum in response to the spate of tech-facilitated violence. Soon after, the venue found itself the target of homophobic graffiti. Despite this, the pair has continued to support and celebrate our communities without missing a beat.



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD GARY HULL

For more than seven years, Gary Hull has been a dedicated and invaluable volunteer at Thorne Harbour Health. His commitment, warmth, and reliability have made him not only a familiar face but also a cornerstone of support for both clients and staff across multiple programs.

Gary's primary role has been as the Tuesday Receptionist at the Positive Living Centre (PLC) and a regular volunteer at Thursday Community Dinners.

In addition to his weekly roles, Gary has been an essential contributor to many organisational events, where his dependable support has been critical to their success. He never misses a World AIDS Day, where he serves as a major support person in the street appeal control room, coordinating and caring for volunteers as they head out to the streets.

Across his years of service, Gary has contributed an extraordinary 2,000+ volunteer hours.



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD VIRGINIA CUMMINS

Since the beginning of our organisation's involvement in mainstream social marketing – Virginia Cummins has been a part of it. In the early days Virginia often donated her services for free, and this year we have come full circle with Virginia shooting our annual report photography as a contribution to THH. Virginia has a unique way of working with people she is shooting. Respectful, fun and accommodating, she is always ready to adapt her work to the particular requirements of the moment – from large outdoor campaigns to the intimacy we see in her annual report images. Virginia is an ideal ally – always looking for ways to capture the variety, diversity and individuality of our community.



SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD ROBERTO RIOVANTO

Roberto started volunteering 18 months ago helping out at Poz Lunch, he is a chef by trade and makes a valuable contribution both in the kitchen and engaging with community. With a keenness to do more, Roberto volunteered in various capacities and was matched with a client in the Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme. The support Roberto offers his client has made a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of one of our Aging LGBTIQ+ community members.



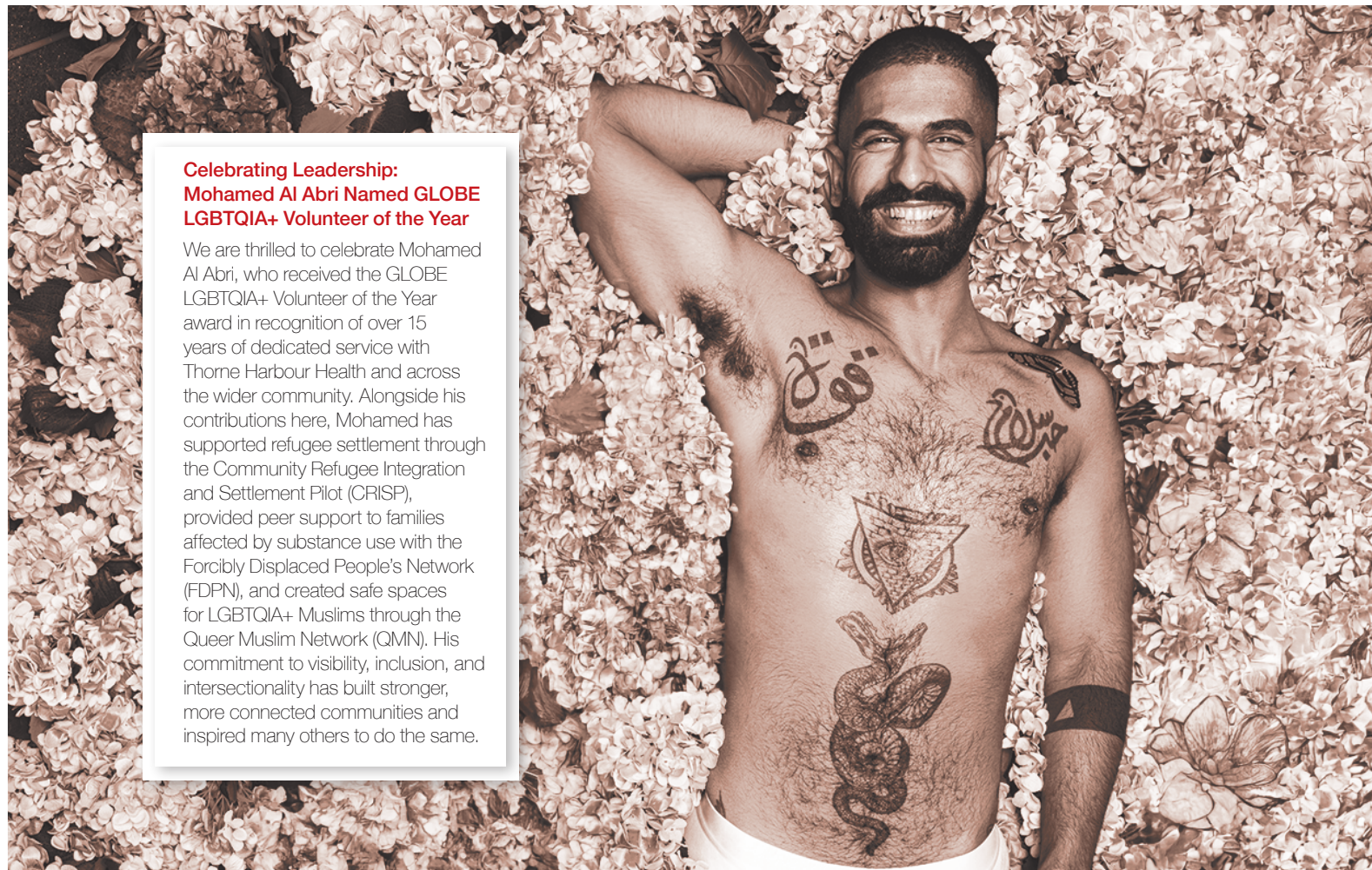
GREIG FRIDAY YOUNG LEADER AWARD ODUS MOORE

Odus Moore (they/them) has served as co-convenor for the Victorian Pride Lobby and is a graduate of the Victorian LGBTIQ+ Leadership Program. As a prolific digital content creator on social media, Odus has garnered an audience in excess of fifty thousand people – where they often engage in frank and candid discussion about sexual health, queer culture, and issues impacting the wellbeing of our communities. Most recently, Odus has used their platform to spotlight the spate of tech facilitated attacks on gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men across Australia.



'UNITY FOR ME IS
CHOSEN FAMILY.'
- THEODORIC

THEODORIC & MAX
VOLUNTEERS



**Celebrating Leadership:
Mohamed Al Abri Named GLOBE
LGBTQIA+ Volunteer of the Year**

We are thrilled to celebrate Mohamed Al Abri, who received the GLOBE LGBTQIA+ Volunteer of the Year award in recognition of over 15 years of dedicated service with Thorne Harbour Health and across the wider community. Alongside his contributions here, Mohamed has supported refugee settlement through the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP), provided peer support to families affected by substance use with the Forcibly Displaced People's Network (FDPN), and created safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ Muslims through the Queer Muslim Network (QMN). His commitment to visibility, inclusion, and intersectionality has built stronger, more connected communities and inspired many others to do the same.

MOHAMAD AL ABRI AS HE APPEARED IN THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH'S DRAMA DOWNUNDER CAMPAIGN IN 2021

With hundreds of volunteers across Victoria and South Australia, our volunteer community continues to be the backbone of Thorne Harbour Health. They power every corner of the organisation — from counselling and reception to driving clients to appointments, running the coffee cart, and supporting events. Their contributions span administrative support and policy development to kitchen assistance and pantry services. Whether they join us to give back to the community, connect in a safe environment, or upskill in preparation for the workforce, our volunteers are at the beating heart of everything we do.

**Corporate Volunteering: Building
Community Through Partnership**

Corporate volunteering is an integral part of Thorne Harbour Health's community engagement, bringing together a diverse mix of partners — some new, some returning — including Marsh McLennan, Accenture, Specsavers, Monash University, Goldman Sachs, Motorola Solutions, University of Melbourne, Energy Australia, Deloitte, MARS, Spark, AusTrade, NAB, Asahi Beverages, NTRS, and Moderna. Together, they learn, engage, contribute, and create meaningful impact.

Each session offers an educational and hands-on experience, where participants explore the history and vital services of Thorne Harbour Health, engage in HIV 101 education, and deepen their understanding of cultural sensitivity and LGBTQ+ inclusion. They also help with the preparations for World AIDS Day with Red Ribbon-making workshops and assembling safe sex packs for community distribution.

A creative highlight for the volunteers is the design of personalised pronoun badges that they make themselves, a powerful conversation starter that participants bring back to their workplaces, fostering visibility and inclusion in professional environments. Importantly, these workshops operate on a donation basis, raising valuable funds to support our work. Contributions through our corporate volunteering program have grown significantly this year, reflecting a shared commitment to building a more inclusive and healthier community.

**Strengthening Practice: Volunteers
Driving Organisational Excellence**

Volunteers support our frontline services, but they also play a crucial role in shaping the systems and standards that underpin our work. A heartfelt thank you to the Volunteer Risk and Quality team for their

outstanding contribution to strengthening Thorne Harbour Health's internal policies, procedures, and practices.

Their efforts have been instrumental in driving continuous improvement across the organisation by:

- Developing new policies focused on cultural diversity, inclusion, and First Nations engagement.

- Reviewing and updating existing policies and procedures related to human resources, client outreach, and risk management.

- Analysing and synthesising key information — from client survey results to LGBTQ+ research — to inform evidence-based practice and guide organisational growth.

Thanks to their commitment, our programs continue to meet the highest standards of quality and care, ensuring that safety, inclusivity, and client wellbeing remain critical to everything we do.

**Honouring a Legacy: Celebrating
Decades of Service**

We're incredibly proud to celebrate four of our longstanding volunteers — Dominic Whitehouse, Sue MacGregor, Gordon Campbell, and Colin Krycer OAM — who have been inducted into the Victorian Public Healthcare Volunteer Honour Roll

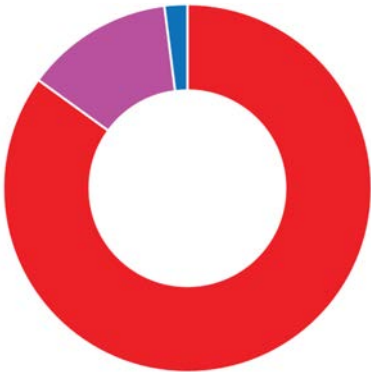
in recognition of more than 30 years of dedicated service to Thorne Harbour Health and our communities.

Across the decades, they have shared their time, passion, and expertise across a wide range of roles — from legal advocacy and technical support to events, community outreach, and beyond. Their unwavering commitment has shaped our organisation's history, strengthened our services, and created a lasting impact for countless people. This well-deserved honour is a testament to their extraordinary generosity and the power of volunteerism in transforming lives.

Finally, we would like to thank our Volunteer Admin team for their continuous support in managing volunteer records, onboarding, compliance and communications - helping to keep the program organised and running smoothly.

REVENUE BREAKDOWN

- Grant income 85%
- Operating income 13%
- Investment income 2%



Revenue breakdown

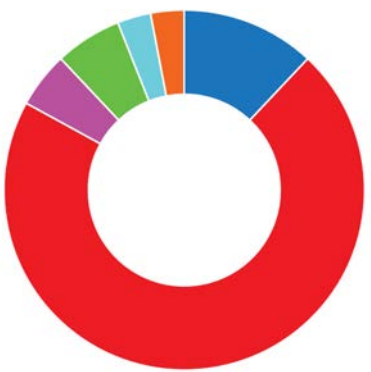
Grant income	19,514,988
Client fees	2,294,170
Donations, fundraising and bequest income	261,744
Goods and Services Income	193,988
Membership fees	4,816
Interest income	362,546
Other revenue	376,810
Total revenue	23,009,062

Revenue summary

Grant income	19,514,988
Operating income	362,546
Investment income	3,131,528
	23,009,062

EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

- Operating expenses 12%
- Employee costs 71%
- Campaign expenses 5%
- Client support expenses 6%
- Professional expenses 3%
- Other expenses 3%



Expense breakdown

Operating expenses	2,678,869
Employee costs	15,416,068
Campaign expenses	990,358
Client Support expenses	1,366,587
Professional fees	616,924
Other expenses	747,498
	21,816,304

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

Summary Aggregated Statement of Profit or Loss For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2024	2025
	\$	\$
Revenue	20,196,889	23,009,062
Less: expenses		
Operating expenses	2,526,986	2,678,869
Employee costs	14,488,782	15,416,068
Campaign expenses	1,065,188	990,358
Client support expenses	1,699,411	1,366,587
Professional fees	1,082,003	616,924
Other expenses	364,688	747,498
	21,227,058	21,816,304
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(1,030,169)	1,192,758

Aggregated Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2025

	2024	2025
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,347,943	9,094,835
Trade and other receivables	973,184	886,198
Other financial assets	4,939,429	5,234,768
Other assets	258,586	268,098
Total current assets	13,519,142	15,483,899
Noncurrent assets		
Trade and other receivables	2,647	3,447
Right-of-use assets	1,482,552	1,325,049
Property, plant and equipment	14,987,908	14,822,479
Intangible assets	1,072	0
Total noncurrent assets	16,474,179	16,150,975
Total assets	29,993,321	31,634,874
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,291,756	1,601,121
Provisions	1,708,078	1,475,466
Other liabilities	853,756	1,232,975
Lease liabilities	201,138	185,699
Total current liabilities	4,054,728	4,495,261
Noncurrent liabilities		
Provisions	141,580	162,777
Lease liabilities	1,352,824	1,221,857
Total noncurrent liabilities	1,494,404	1,384,634
Total liabilities	5,549,132	5,879,895
Net assets	24,444,189	25,754,979
Equity		
Reserves	566,030	668,930
Accumulated surplus	23,878,159	25,086,049
Total Equity	24,444,189	25,754,979

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

Aggregated Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2025	Accumulated Surpluses	Asset Revaluation Surplus	Future Funding Contracts Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 July 2024	23,878,159	566,030	-	24,444,189
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,192,758	-	-	1,192,758
Revaluation of property, plant & equipment	-	102,900	-	102,900
Initial recognition of Zoe Belle	15,132	-	-	15,132
Balance at 30 June 2022	25,086,049	668,930	-	25,754,979
2024	Accumulated Surpluses	Asset Revaluation Surplus	Future Funding Contracts Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	-	\$
Balance as at 1 July 2023	24,610,408	407,053	-	25,017,461
Net Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(1,030,169)	-	-	(1,030,169)
Revaluation of property, plant & equipment	-	158,977	-	158,977
Initial recognition of Zoe Belle	297,920	-	-	297,920
Balance as at 30 June 2024	23,878,159	566,030	-	24,444,189

Aggregated Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2024	2025
	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Grants received	15,723,469	20,747,963
Payments to suppliers and employees	(20,604,493)	(21,219,845)
Interest received	155,848	162,378
Dividends received	131,823	200,168
Receipts from customers	3,859,966	3,428,047
Donations and bequests received	1,240,342	261,744
Net GST paid	(1,056,752)	(1,499,963)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(549,797)	2,080,492
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for financial assets	2	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(123,092)	(84,621)
Cash acquired on recognition of Zoe Belle	297,922	-
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets	237,271	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	412,103	(84,621)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Loans advances to related parties	(15,654)	-
Repayment of lease liabilities	(281,746)	(248,979)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(297,400)	(248,979)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(435,094)	1,746,892
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	7,783,037	7,347,943
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	7,347,943	9,094,835

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

thankyou!

ACON
ACCEPTANCE MELBOURNE
ADELAIDE PHN
ADELAIDE ROLLER DERBY
LEAGUE
ADELAIDE SHARKS
AESOP
AGMC
ALEPH MELBOURNE
ALFRED HEALTH
ALISON THORNE
ALLA KOLGANOVA
AMIDA
ARCSHS
ASHC
ACSO
ASHM
AUSPATH
AUSTIN HEALTH
AUSTRALIAN DRUG
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
AQUA
BALLARAT COMMUNITY
HEALTH
BARBA
BENDIGO PRIDE
BETTER HEALTH NETWORK
BEYOND BRICKS AND BARS
BOBBY GOLDSMITH
FOUNDATION
BOLTON CLARKE
BOUVERIE CENTRE
BRAVE NETWORK
BREAST SCREEN VICTORIA
BURNET INSTITUTE
CANCER COUNCIL VICTORIA
CANCER COUNCIL SA
CARINA FORD IMMIGRATION
LAWYERS
CENTRE FOR ADULT
EDUCATION
CHEMIST WAREHOUSE
CHILLOUT
CITY OF MELBOURNE
CITY OF PORT PHILLIP
CITY OF STONNINGTON
CITY OF YARRA
COLLARTS
COLIN KRYCER
DAVID CHESHIRE
DAVID OWEN
DEAN ARCURI
DOHERTY INSTITUTE
DRAGGED TO
DRIP
DYKES ON BIKES
EDWINA WRIGHT
EQUALITY AUSTRALIA
FEAST FESTIVAL
FOODBANK VICTORIA
GREEK & GAY SUPPORT
NETWORK
GIPPSLAND PRIDE INITIATIVE
GLAMOURHEADS
HANKY
HEALTH EQUITY MATTERS
HOUSE OF DIESEL
HOUSING CHOICES
INCLUSION MELBOURNE
ITD EVENTS
JAMES SEOW
JD CHARD
JEW MOS
JOE BALL
JONNY PAULET
JOY MEDIA
KAM SHAFATI
LATIN AMERICAN & HISPANIC
RAINBOW COMMUNITY LAHRC
LAUNCH HOUSING
LGBTIQ HEALTH AUSTRALIA
LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA
LORD MAYORS CHARITABLE
TRUST
LUKE GALLAGHER
MAC COSMETICS
MAMA ALTO
MANY COLOURED SKY
MARG HAYES
MELBOURNE CHARGERS
MELBOURNE CITY
MELBOURNE FRONTRUNNERS
MELBOURNE GAY & LESBIAN
CHORUS
MELBOURNE POLYTECHNIC
MELBOURNE RAINBOW BAND
MELBOURNE SURGE
MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY
MELBOURNE WRANGLERS
MENTAL HEALTH VICTORIA
MIDSUMMA
MIND AUSTRALIA
MISS BOBEE PINN
MOFF
MYLK BAR
MY LOVER CINDI
NIK DIMOPOULOS
NWM PHN
NORTHSIDE CLINIC
NOURISH
ORYGEN
OUT IN THE OPEN FESTIVAL
PATRICK NOLAN
POSITIVE LIFE SOUTH

AUSTRALIA
POSITIVE WOMEN VICTORIA
PRAHRAN MARKET CLINIC
PRIDE ADELAIDE
PROUD2PLAY
Q NEWS
Q LAW
QUEER MUSLIM NAARM
QUEER SOUTH ASIANS OF
MELBOURNE
RASA
RACHAEL DE GRUCHY
RAINBOW COMMUNITY ANGELS
RAINBOW HEALTH AUSTRALIA
RAINBOW RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY
SAFE & EQUAL
SA GOVERNMENT
SANDAS
SA RAINBOW ADVOCACY ALLIANCE
SCOTCHMAN'S HILL
SHINE SA
SONDER
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE PHN
SOUTH EAST MONASH LEGAL
STAR OBSERVER
STEPHEN MAHY
SWITCHBOARD VICTORIA
TEX MCKENZIE
TIM LAI
THE DAVID ROCHE FOUNDATION
VAADA
VCOSS
VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT
VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE
VIN TAGE
VOLUNTEERING VICTORIA
YELLOW KITTIES
YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTH

**'UNITY
MEANS A
CELEBRATION
OF
DIFFERENCES,
IN OUR REALLY
DIVERSE
COMMUNITY.
ALSO
ACCEPTANCE.'
- MAHI**

**MAHI & CAS
VOLUNTEERS**





'UNITY IS
ABOUT
COMMUNITY,
UNIFICATION,
UNITED.
COMPLETE
AS ONE.'
- JAY

JAY & ZEN
VOLUNTEERS