



Media Release

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QuAC Brings Back Periodic Survey in 2015

The Queensland AIDS Council will this year be implementing the Gay Community Periodic Survey across four locations – Brisbane, Gold Coast, Cairns and Townsville, with the survey commencing on 11th September and concluding on the 11th October.

The Gay Community Periodic Survey is a survey of the sexual practices of gay and other men who have sex with men, conducted annually, across Australia. It is a collaboration between the Centre for Social Research in Health, the Kirby Institute and the Queensland AIDS Council and is funded by Queensland Health.

The anonymous survey allows data to be collected on sexual behaviour, understanding of drug and alcohol use and the use of risk reduction strategies. This year questions will be asked on knowledge of PEP and PrEP, frequency of sexual health testing and drug and alcohol use.

From 11th September, recruiters will be asking men in various venues to complete the survey. These venues include bars and clubs, sex on premises venues and Pride Fair Days, and aim to survey a cross section of the entire community of men who have sex with men.

Michael Scott, Executive Director of Queensland AIDS Council highlighted the survey's importance: "The annual survey is a vital tool we use to track the changing nature of our community. With data gathered on where men meet other men for sex, how this sex is negotiated and risk reduction strategies used, we can then redirect education to appropriately target our community."

The Gay Community Periodic Survey is far more than a survey, it offers a unique opportunity for education whilst the survey is being conducted. QuAC will train 25 peer recruiters to conduct the survey, and these recruiters will be available to answer questions that may arise from the survey. "Often the questions trigger further discussion from participants, and this is the opportunity for further education," said Scott.

This year the recruiters will be coordinated by Gary Williams who has a strong association with QuAC. Gary was the QuAC Volunteer of the Year in 2014, coordinated the Brisbane 2014 Candlelight Vigil and is implementing World AIDS Day activities in Brisbane in 2015.

Gary, as an outreach volunteer for QuAC highlighted the importance of peer education in the implementation of the survey. "Being a peer is more than just being a person who is LGBTI. A peer has a deep understanding of the diversity within our community, and the skills to reach our community in a language we understand."

For further information on the implementation of the 2015 Gay Community Periodic Survey, contact Michael Scott, Executive Director, Queensland AIDS Council on 0427 138 373 or msscott@quac.org.au.

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The Queensland AIDS Council was established in 1984 and is a community-based, not-for-profit, registered health promotion charity that works to improve the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Queenslanders, prevent HIV and build the capacity of the community.