

Dublin AIDS Alliance Annual Report 2014





Background

Dublin AIDS Alliance (DAA) Ltd is a registered charity operating at local, national and European level. The principal aim of the organisation is to improve, through a range of support services, conditions for people living with HIV and AIDS and/or Hepatitis, their families and their caregivers, while further promoting sexual health in the general population. Since 1987, DAA has been pioneering services in sexual health education and promotion, and has consistently engaged in lobbying and campaigning in the promotion of human rights.

DAA is acutely aware of the cultural and economic barriers that can affect life choices, rendering both men and women more vulnerable to HIV. Our support, prevention, education and training programmes are therefore rooted in capacity building and experiential learning techniques, which enable the negotiation of safer sex and/or injecting practices. While supporting service users around the choices available, DAA's approach broadly reflects a harm minimisation model, which emphasises practical rather than idealised goals.

DAA's individual and group interventions are, at all times, age appropriate and sensitive to the psychosocial needs, learning abilities and life experiences of our clients. We operate under an ethos of equality and are committed to making a positive contribution towards a humane and just society. DAA strives to ensure an environment that promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination, while further enabling our staff, volunteers and service users to experience dignity and respect at all times.

DAA is a voluntary, non-profit organisation, linked to various local and national networks. DAA is the non-governmental organisation (NGO) representative for the eastern region on the National AIDS Strategy Committee (NASC) and its Education and Prevention Subcommittee. DAA is a member of the Irish Sexual Health and HIV Network (ISHHN), the Gay Health Network (GHN), the Drugs Education Workers' Forum (DEWF), Sex Workers Alliance Ireland (SWAI),

Dublin Community Forum, Community Sector Employers' Forum, Employer Resource Bureau, CityWide Prison Links Group, the Treatment and Rehabilitation Subcommittee and the Prevention and Education Subcommittee of the North Inner City Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NICDATF). DAA is affiliated to the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOUE) and the Inner City Organisations Network (ICON). Other initiatives supported by DAA include Narcotics Anonymous (NA), the Union for Improved Services, Communication and Education (UISCE) and Positive Now.

OUR MISSION

To contribute towards a significant reduction in the incidence and prevalence of HIV in Ireland and towards the realisation of an AIDS-free generation.

OUR VISION

Advocating for individuals living with HIV, preventing new HIV infections, and combating HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- To work towards reducing the prevalence of HIV in Ireland through effective prevention strategies.
- To increase public awareness and understanding around HIV and AIDS and to reduce the stigma and discrimination connected with HIV and AIDS.
- To improve the quality of life for people living with HIV through quality evidence-based support and advocacy services.
- To enhance the promotion of broader sexual health objectives through education and training and through health promotion projects/campaigns in line with national policy.
- To inform and to influence policy around issues concerning HIV prevention and sexual health and relating to the lives of people living with HIV.
- To enhance the organisational effectiveness and efficiencies of DAA.

Chairperson's Foreword

**On behalf of the Board of Dublin AIDS Alliance (DAA)
I am pleased to present our Annual Report for 2014. The year has been a busy and productive one for DAA as we continue to deliver a range of services, supports and programmes to people affected by HIV and to people at risk of contracting HIV. We believe our work is of significant importance at a time when there is a certain sense of normalisation, and perhaps complacency, about HIV. We know that people with HIV can live significantly improved lives compared to 20 years ago if HIV is diagnosed at an early stage. However these improvements need to be balanced by an understanding of the fact that there remains no cure for HIV/AIDS and that the stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV is real, deep rooted and impacts negatively on their day to day lives.**

DAA is clear about the main challenges in relation to HIV in Ireland and has continued to take practical and meaningful actions concerning these. There is a clear need to create more public awareness and understanding about HIV. There is a need for more testing for HIV both as a way of encouraging people into treatment as soon as possible and as a mechanism for preventing the onward transmission of HIV. In the course of 2014 DAA together with the GUIDE Clinic in St. James Hospital continued to operate the easy access community testing service at our premises at Parnell Square on a regular monthly basis. In 2014, this HIV/STI community testing service engaged with 220 people who presented for HIV/STI tests.

In 2014 DAA played a strong and active role in the provision of supports and services to

people living with HIV and in the area of HIV prevention and sexual health education. In relation to our work with people living with HIV DAA supported 388 people, providing 1,801 different interventions to people living with HIV. Interventions have included 1-to-1 support, counselling, information on life options, advocacy and mediation concerning a variety of healthcare, legal, employment and welfare issues. DAA has also played a significant developmental role in the evolution of Positive Now and the All Ireland Network of People Living with HIV. Through our education and training services DAA delivered 41 education and training programmes in 2014, involving a total of 387 participants from 59 different organisations.

In 2014 we produced our three year Strategic Plan (2014 to 2017). The compilation and

¹ A HIV-free generation is a generation where (i) virtually no children are born infected with the HIV infection; (ii) as these children become teenagers and adults they are at a far lower risk of becoming infected than they would today on account of a wide range of prevention tools; and (iii) if they do acquire HIV they will have access to treatment that helps them from developing AIDs and passing on the virus to others.

production of this plan involved a significant level of consultation with people directly affected by HIV, various statutory agencies and NGOs. The outcomes from these consultations and analyses of reports produced about HIV have served to highlight a number of priorities for DAA. One of these priorities is to facilitate equal access to HIV support services across the Republic of Ireland with people from rural areas and towns being able to access services in the same way as people living in major cities. The Board of DAA will explore the option of broadening its focus on a national level, including the development of services outside of Dublin. This will be a key target for 2015.

DAA believes it is necessary to be constantly vigilant in relation to HIV. There is concern that HIV has 'gone off the radar' and the problem has been solved. This belief is not backed up by the facts. Whilst there was an encouraging reduction in the number of new HIV diagnoses in Ireland between 2008 and 2011 (from 404 to 319) there has been a worrying 20.3% increase in new HIV diagnoses between 2011 and 2014 (from 319 to 384). There are particularly high levels of HIV diagnoses amongst men having sex with men. Whilst it is very encouraging that people can live longer and healthier lives due to anti-retroviral treatments, there is still a clear need not to become complacent in any way about the issue of HIV. On the basis of 2014 figures there are now over seven people each week in Ireland being diagnosed HIV positive.

DAA believes it is possible to significantly reduce the incidence and prevalence of HIV and achieve a HIV-free generation¹. Within Ireland the challenge is to reverse the disturbing upward trend of new HIV infections and to

reduce the number of people with HIV who have not been treated and do not know they are HIV positive (it is estimated that 20—25% of people living with HIV have not been tested for, nor diagnosed with, HIV). This significant challenge of reducing the prevalence of HIV and increasing the rates of HIV testing in Ireland is a shared challenge and will require significant levels of co-operation and collaboration amongst a wide range of agencies and organisations. DAA is committed to building up our HIV community testing service with the GUIDE Clinic (more testing sessions, new locations); we will collaborate with others on major HIV education and awareness campaigns (using social media and national media outlets); and we will advocate and lobby for the provision of HIV testing within all healthcare settings (in the same way that people get tested for other conditions and illnesses within health centres, hospitals, GP surgeries etc.).

On behalf of the Board of DAA I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and volunteers of DAA for their contributions to the work of the organisation in 2014. It was a time of change and transition as we began to implement our 2014—2017 Strategic Plan. We have also broadened our vision about what is possible in relation to HIV in Ireland. We are grateful to all DAA staff and volunteers for helping us to develop and extend this vision and we are especially appreciative of the contributions made by the DAA management team under the leadership of our Director, Niall Mulligan. Niall joined us in June 2014 and he has played a lead role in a number of significant and positive developments which took place in the second half of 2014. We wish Niall every success in

his position as Director and we would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Erin Nugent for filling this role in an interim capacity in a very effective manner.

We would also like to thank our funders who have continued to support the work of DAA and who have clearly identified the roles which DAA is playing in achieving national policy objectives around the areas of HIV prevention, sexual health education and promotion, support for drug users and the provision of employment opportunities. We are grateful for the ongoing support being provided by the HSE, Department of Social Protection, North Inner City Drugs Task Force and the MAC AIDS Fund. We are also appreciative of the funding and other forms of support which we have received for particular projects from Dublin City Council, Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme, Janssen, GSK, AbbVie and the ESB Electric Aid. In 2015, we would hope to broaden our funding base through securing more financial support from businesses for projects which would be of interest to these funders (especially around HIV prevention, HIV testing and HIV treatment) and from the European Commission for pan-European initiatives which focus on issues that are of relevance to DAA and to other HIV support organisations across Europe.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Board of DAA which has continued to play a key role in overseeing the work of the organisation, ensuring that DAA is compliant with best practice in relation to corporate governance. From a governance perspective the Board has ultimate responsibility for two major developments – approval of the 2014-2017

Strategic Plan and the selection of the new Director for DAA. Both of these developments were handled very well and I am grateful to my fellow Board members for their ongoing advice and support. In the course of 2014 the DAA Board was augmented and strengthened by the addition of new Board members who hold important leadership roles within their organisations. At the end of 2014 there are nine non-Executive Directors on the DAA Board and I believe that we have the range of skills and experiences on the Board to be able to oversee, guide and monitor the effective implementation of the 2014 — 2017 Strategic Plan and to ensure good corporate governance within DAA.

DAA is well positioned to play a prominent and significant role in tackling key issues relating to HIV in Ireland – issues such as stigma and discrimination, reducing the prevalence of HIV in Ireland and creating increased public awareness about HIV. With a full management team in place and a strengthened Board we are confident that, alongside other organisations and agencies, DAA will continue to make important contributions as we all strive towards the vision of an AIDS-free generation.



Stephen Rourke, Chairperson

Service Delivery 2014

DAA's service delivery for 2014 is set out under our organisational objectives. By addressing and furthering these objectives in line with best practice, DAA is contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of NASC's HIV and AIDS Education and Prevention Plan 2008–2012, the National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009–2016, the National Hepatitis C Strategy 2011–2014, and other relevant policies.



Objective 1: To work towards reducing the prevalence of HIV in Ireland through effective prevention strategies

COMMUNITY HIV AND STI TESTING

In conjunction with St. James's GUIDE clinic, DAA continued providing community HIV and STI testing; this service is strongly linked to our street outreach service. In 2014, a total of 220 people tested (126 Males and 94 Females) over 13 testing sessions. Of those who completed voluntary self-reporting forms (n=211), the highest percentage (29%, n=61) were aged between 26 — 30 years old. Those born outside of Ireland accounted for 64% of those who tested (n=134). See Tables 1 and 2.

85% of individuals who completed the voluntary self-reporting forms indicated that it was their first time using DAA's HIV and STI Testing Service.

TABLE 1: AGE RANGE OF TESTING PARTICIPANTS 2014

Age Range	2014	%
17—21	33	16%
22—25	48	22%
26—30	61	29%
31—35	29	14%
36—40	19	8%
41—45	7	4%
46—50	6	3%
51—55	4	2%
56—60	1	.5%
61—65	2	1%

Missing case = .5% (n=1)

TABLE 2: COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF TESTING PARTICIPANTS 2014

Country of Origin	2014	%
Ireland	77	36%
Africa	40	18%
Central/East Europe	24	11%
Western Europe	14	6%
South/South East Asia	7	3%
South America	41	20%
Central America	2	2%
North America	4	3%
Australia/Oceania	1	.5%
Other	1	.5%

No missing cases.

In relation to area of residence, the highest number of testing participants resided in Dublin 1, (n=41) followed by Dublin 7 (n=33) and Dublin 15 (n=18). Postal codes on Dublin's south side represented 27% of areas listed as residences for individuals (n=57) who tested. Of this number, a total of 32% (n=18) resided in the Dublin 2 and 8 areas.

4% of those who tested resided in County Dublin (n=9) and a further 6% (n=14) resided in another ROI county.

TABLE 3: HOW PARTICIPANTS HEARD ABOUT DAA TESTING SERVICE

Medium	2014
Internet	134 [^]
Word of Mouth	47
Poster in DAA Window	25
DAA Testing Flyer	5
DAA Reception	2
Hospital	6
DAA Sexual Health Testing Booklet	4
Other Agency	2

[^] 71 through Google Search; 43 through Facebook (pages undetermined); 20 through the DAA Website

Note: A low level of respondents indicated more than 1 medium.

European HIV Testing week

DAA, in partnership with leading European HIV agencies, participated in European HIV Testing Week (November 21st—28th 2014) promoting the event on street outreach and offering an additional HIV and STI testing session in conjunction with St. James's GUIDE clinic.

And the Gay Men's Health Service HSE, in partnership with the Gay Health Network and the *Man2Man.ie* programme, launched a new community-based HIV and STI testing service in Outhouse LGBT Community Centre. The first two clinics took place on Saturday 22nd and Saturday 29th November, and thereafter will take place on the third Saturday of every month.



OUTREACH AND FREE CONDOMS SERVICE

Dublin AIDS Alliance sexual health outreach services are focused mainly on key population groups at risk of HIV and STI infection. Services include the distribution of HIV and sexual health information and free condoms and lube, which are also available as a walk-in service in DAA's office. Condoms are also provided on request from a range of organisations who wish to provide this service to their clients.

In 2014, a total of 36,627 free condoms were distributed. 37.9% of the free condoms were distributed as part of our street outreach and volunteer outreach programmes which target at risk groups; 35.7% were provided as part of our walk-in service; 13.1% were distributed to drug user population groups including through our partnership with the Ana Liffey Drug Project; and 10.9% were distributed to young people as part of the *Just Carry One* social media STI prevention campaign. Table 4 provides a summary of free condoms distributed in 2014.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF FREE CONDOM DISTRIBUTION 2014

Key Population Group	Total Condoms Distributed
New Communities (outreach)	13,897
Young People	3,990
IDUs	4,817
Sex Workers	200
MSM/LGBT Groups	200
(Ex-)Prisoners	440
Walk-in service (on-site)	13,083
TOTAL	36,627

Outreach Highlights 2014

- A total of 27 organisations and groups were supported in 2014 with the provision of free condoms for events and for distribution to their service users.
- Street Outreach continued in the Dublin 1 and 7 areas providing access to free condoms, promoting HIV prevention and sexual health awareness, and promoting the free monthly HIV and STI testing clinic at DAA. There were a total of 33 specific street outreach sessions conducted by staff and/or volunteers. 11 new outreach arenas within ethnic businesses were established.
- Outreach was conducted at a range of events throughout the year including:
 - SHAG Week and Freshers Week events in third-level colleges.
 - Annual Dublin Pride Parade (in partnership with the GHN).
 - Cairde's Health Fair in Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.

Partnerships:

DAA has a number of strategic partnerships in the provision of its outreach and free condoms service:

- Ana Liffey Drug Project (ALDP): 3,100 free condoms were provided for distribution through ALDP services around Ireland including:
 - Dublin: through the Needle and Syringe programme and through the nurse and GP surgery service.
 - North East Region (Cavan, Louth and Meath): through the Needle and Syringe programme and outreach services.
 - Midlands Region (Longford, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath): through the Needle and Syringe programme and outreach services, and as part of the Open Access Service in Mullingar.
- Mid-West Region (Limerick City): through the Needle and Syringe programme and outreach services.



- **Sports Against Racism Ireland (SARI):** DAA continued its long-standing partnership with SARI to deliver sexual health and testing information as well as free condoms to players and spectators at SARI's Annual Multicultural Soccer Festival, Europe's largest 7 a-side soccer tournament.
- **HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme:** In 2014, DAA's outreach service to migrant communities and the walk-in service were provided in partnership with the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme.
- **SpunOut.ie:** DAA partnered with SpunOut.ie with the provision of condoms for their 'Summer Festivals Survival Packs' which were distributed at a number of Summer Music Festivals.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

DAA's education and training services provide and deliver training to key population groups at risk of HIV, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as providing training to staff, parents, carers and other professional groups and organisations who may work with groups at risk of poorer sexual health outcomes.

Our training programmes also include an annual calendar of training including one-day workshops

on HIV and STIs, half-day workshops on hepatitis, a four-day Training for Trainers programme (*Let's Talk About...Safer Sex*) and HIV training for counsellors, psychotherapists and mental health professionals who may work with people living with or affected by HIV.

Training Delivery 2014

A total of 41 various education and training programmes were delivered in 2014, involving 59 organisations and professional and voluntary groups.

On request from organisations, DAA provides tailored training directly to population groups who may be at risk of poorer sexual health outcomes. In 2014, 29 education programmes were delivered to groups involving 14 organisations – 19 with youth groups; 9 with groups who are affected by drug use/addiction/homelessness; and one with the traveller community.

As part of the DAA annual calendar of training, six training programmes were delivered in 2014:

- 2 Training for Trainers Programme (*Let's Talk About...Safer Sex*) with 22 participants from 20 organisations.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES DELIVERED IN 2014

Education and Training Programmes / Key Population Groups	Type of Training	No. of Programmes delivered	No. of Orgs	Total No. of Participants	Male	Female
Youth Organisations/ Young People	HIV, STIs, general sexual health	19	6	169	73	96
Drugs-related and homeless-related organisations (people who are affected by drug use/addiction/homelessness)	HIV, Hepatitis, STIs, general sexual health	9	7	78	35	43
Traveller Community	HIV and STIs	1	1	10	7	3
Parents Groups	Sexual Health	1	1	4	0	4
Training for Trainers / Professional Training Programmes	<i>Let's Talk About... Safer Sex: 4-day Training for Trainers Programme</i>	2	20	22	11	11
	HIV & STIs one day workshops	3	13	30	12	18
	HIV: An Overview for Counsellors	1	7	13	2	11
	HIV: An overview for Helpline Volunteers/ Staff	2	2	26	17	9
	Foroige REAL U Training for Trainers Programme – STIs and Contraception	2	1	26	8	18
	IFPA Sexual Health Workshop: HIV training	1	1	9	0	9
	TOTALS		41	59	387	165

Objective 2: To increase public awareness and understanding around HIV and AIDS and to reduce the stigma and discrimination connected with HIV and AIDS



Irish AIDS Day on 15th June and World AIDS Day on 1st December are important dates in the calendar which provide an opportunity to highlight the issue of HIV and AIDS and also to launch new initiatives in response to the changing environment.

Know the Score: Get Tested! (Irish AIDS Day)

As part of 2014 Irish AIDS Day activities, a new online testing locator map was developed to promote the availability of free HIV and STI testing around Ireland. This was a joint project of Dublin AIDS Alliance and the Gay Health Network, supported by Janssen. The campaign was further supported by Rory O'Neill (Panti Bliss) and Deputy Jerry Buttimer, T.D., Chairperson of the Oireachtas Joint Select sub-Committee on Health.

The locator map is available on the dublinaid alliance.ie and man2man.ie websites and the campaign launched on 4th June 2014 with promotion throughout the month of June through social media and print media channels.

There was significant media coverage of the campaign and the websites showed increases in visits with man2man.ie recording a 70% increase in visits in the month of June 2014 when compared to the previous month (85% of which were new visits) and dublinaid alliance.ie showing an 11.5% increase in the same period (77% of which were new visitors).

The campaign received a Commendation at the Irish Healthcare Awards ceremony held on the 6th November 2014 in the category of Best Patient Lifestyle Education.





Zero Discrimination Day

UNAIDS launched the first global Zero Discrimination Day which took place on 1st March 2014 and will be an annual event. Zero Discrimination Day is a call to people everywhere to promote and celebrate everyone's right to live a full life with dignity. DAA supported the event through social media promotion on Facebook and Twitter, focusing on zero discrimination for people living with HIV.

Resource Library

The Resource Library continued to be a valuable source of information throughout 2014 with requests for information received from youth organisations, NGOs and community organisations, colleges, schools, statutory agencies and the general public. Information leaflets and booklets are also distributed at key events annually such as Irish AIDS Day and World AIDS Day activities, SHAG week in third-level colleges, community health information events, fundraising events, campaigns, conferences, seminars, and through our training and support services.

• Information Distribution:

21,500 information leaflets, booklets, posters, red ribbons, and DVDs were distributed in 2014 supporting 62 organisations and events.

• DAA NewsDesk Weekly:

This weekly resource is made available to a range of organisations and individuals involved in HIV, hepatitis and sexual health-related services. NewsDesk Weekly includes updates on relevant national, European and international news and policy issues, and offers a summary of relevant weekly news highlights from various sources including national and local print media, and related-websites.

41 editions of NewsDesk Weekly were published in 2014. Individuals and organisations can subscribe to the NewsDesk through the DAA website.

DAA DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook Performance Summary 2014:
(www.facebook.com/dublnaidsalliance)**

DAA’s Facebook page is utilised to promote the services of DAA, and to publicise information and key messages on HIV, STI and hepatitis prevention and testing and to raise awareness of HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Posts include information on key events throughout the year such as Irish AIDS Day, World AIDS Day, and European HIV Testing Week, as well as fundraising initiatives.

- DAA ‘fans’ increased by 49% (from 4,491 on 31st Dec 2013 to 6,693 on 31st Dec 2014).
- Of the information that’s available, 57% of fans are female and 41% are male.
- 22% of fans are aged 18 to 24; 27% are aged 25 to 34; 26% are aged 35 to 44; and 22% are aged 45 and over.
- 93% (n=6,234) of all fans indicate that they are located in Ireland. Location data is available for 5,167 (83%) of these:
 - 65% (n=3,356) are located in Dublin city and county.
 - 14% (n=741) are located across the 11 } other counties of Leinster.
 - 16% (n=822) are located across the 6 counties of Munster.
 - 4% (n=200) are located across 4 counties of Connaught.
 - 1% (n=48) are located in Donegal and Cavan.

**Twitter Performance Summary 2014:
(www.twitter.com/DubAIDSAlliance)**

DAA’s Twitter page is utilised to raise awareness of HIV-related issues in the news, and to promote and raise awareness of specific campaigns.

At the end of 2014, DAA had 1,152 followers, and a total of 2,190 tweets have been sent.

The Gonorrhoea Information Campaign, #OMGsti, trended on Twitter.

For Irish AIDS Day 2014, as part of the joint ‘Know the Score: Get Tested!’ campaign, #HIV trended on Twitter.

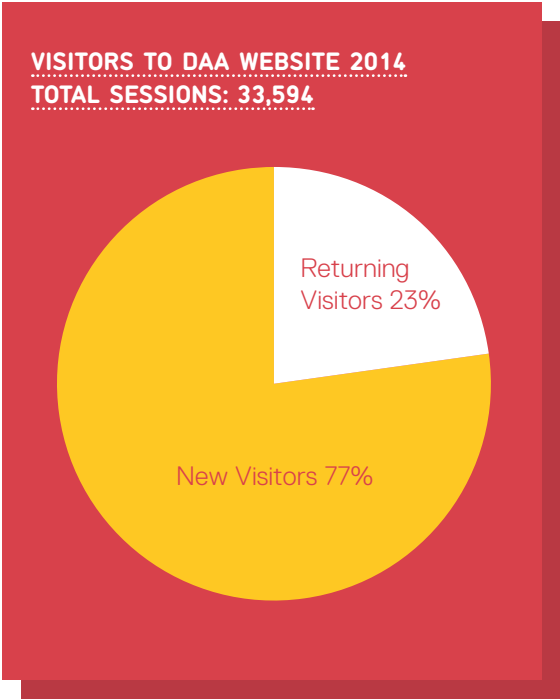
The Hepatitis C Information Campaign, #CThis, trended on Twitter.

For World AIDS Day 2014, #HIV, #1stdecember, #wad2014 and @dubnidsalliance all trended on Twitter.

During the period 1st Oct to 31st Dec 2014, the Twitter page gained 500 impressions per day (the number of times users saw a tweet on Twitter).

**Website Performance Summary 2014:
(www.dublnaidsalliance.ie)**

During 2014 there were a total of 33,594 sessions on the DAA website and a total of 26,148 users. 77.2% (n=25,935) of sessions were new visitors. There were a total of 94,661 page views by visitors with an average of 3 pages viewed per visit. Almost 80% (n=26,681) of sessions were located in Ireland, and the most viewed pages related to free HIV and STI testing information.



Objective 3: To improve the quality of life for people living with HIV through quality evidence-based support and advocacy services

ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

DAA's community support services provide advocacy and support to people living with HIV (PLWHIV) as well as their partners, families, and friends. Services also include capacity building programmes for PLWHIV. General public services include Community HIV and STI Testing and responding to individual queries on issues relating to HIV and STIs.

In 2014, DAA supported a total of 388 PLWHIV (296 males and 92 Females) with a total of 1,801 interventions. 15% of PLWHIV who contacted DAA in 2014 (n=59) were looking to return or move to Ireland, had recently arrived in Ireland, or were enquiring about the cost and availability of HIV treatment in Ireland.

The vast majority of interventions (43%) required DAA to advocate or mediate for PLWHIV in areas such as HIV related discrimination, homelessness, and Social Protection.

TABLE 6: NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF INTERVENTIONS FOR PLWHIV IN 2014

Type of Support	Total No. of Interventions 2014
Advocacy and mediation	791
1-to-1 support	262
Counselling	431
Home and hospital visits	5
Training and further education	40
Health information	109
Welfare information	69
Legal information/support	94
TOTAL	1,801 (4.6 pp av)





Capacity Building Programme

In 2014 DAA continued to build the capacity of PLWHIV to promote self-advocacy amongst their peers and to address issues that affect PLWHIV on a day to day basis. DAA supported Positive Now as they held national focus groups with PLWHIV, in conjunction with Dr Aislinn O'Donnell (University of Limerick), to examine the responsibilities of Irish society in relation to HIV and related issues. The result of this dialogue amongst PLWHIV was the publication of *'HIV: Our Responsibilities'* an invitation to society at large to join in a conversation about HIV. The booklet was launched at the Gay Health Forum on June 6th, and Positive Now and the All-Ireland Network were also invited by Dublin's Lord Mayor, Christy Burke, to promote the booklet at Dublin City Council's World AIDS Day event at the Mansion House.

In conjunction with Gay Switchboard Ireland, DAA provided peer support training to members of Positive Now and the All-Ireland Network of

PLWHIV to enable them to run support groups for PLWHIV in 2015. DAA also worked with Positive Now to develop relevant policies for the core group and the network itself.

In 2014, DAA also supported Positive Now and the All-Ireland Network in designing a website for PLWHIV; this site went live in June. After consultations with PLWHIV, further work was done in late 2014 on developing new features for the site including Members' Chat Rooms and Discussion Forums; these will be launched in 2015.

Throughout 2014, DAA held a series of focus groups for African PLWHIV who are, or have been, in the Direct Provision System, in order to jointly devise the content and structure of a training workshop for professionals working with asylum seekers. This workshop will be piloted in February 2015 and rolled out in May 2015.

Living with HIV in Ireland: A Self-Help Guide

In 2014, consultations were conducted with medical personnel, social workers, and clients to revise and update the 132 paged guide. It is due to be republished in early 2015.

General Public

In 2014, there were 219 walk-in, email, and telephone interventions for the general public who were seeking information on HIV related topics, HIV and STI testing, HIV training resources, and on DAA services. This number also includes interventions for professionals as well as for partners and family members of PLWHIV who sought information or support around HIV related issues.



Objective 4: To enhance the promotion of broader sexual health objectives through education and training and through health promotion projects/campaigns in line with national policy

DAA is committed both to working in partnership with other agencies in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors and to engaging at a policy level on issues relating to HIV and sexual health. Our commitment to social justice and equality also sees us offering support to the work of agencies who are engaged in tackling related issues such as drug misuse, homelessness, human rights and migrant rights.

PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS

Just Carry One

Just Carry One is a national social media campaign targeting young people, primarily those aged 17 to 25 years, and promotes condoms and condom use for STI prevention.

The aims of the project are:

- to promote (consistent) condom use among young people as the primary method of STI prevention.
- to address issues of stigma associated with condom use, and promote a positive attitude towards condom use as part of healthy sexual relationships.
- to raise young people's awareness of taking responsibility for, and taking care of, their sexual health.

Promotion of the campaign is carried out mainly through a dedicated Facebook page (www.facebook.com/justcarryone). Key messages about condom use, STI prevention, STI testing and where to access free condoms are posted on a weekly basis on the page. Competitions are held throughout the year also to encourage young people to engage with the campaign. Seven competitions were held in 2014 with prizes sponsored by Durex Ireland.



Facebook Summary 2014

- *Just Carry One* 'fans' increased by 68% (from 9,454 on 31st Dec 2013 to 15,853 on 31st Dec 2014).
- 35% of fans are female and 65% are male.
- 91% of fans are aged 24 and under – the primary target group. 31% of all fans are female aged 24 and under; 60% of all fans are male aged 24 and under.
- 97% (15,382) of all fans indicate that they are located in Ireland. Location data is available for 10,875 (71%) of these:
 - 40% (n=4,341) are located in Dublin city and county.
 - 24% (n=2,593) are located across the 11 other counties of Leinster.
 - 26% (n=2,862) are located across the 6 counties of Munster.
 - 8% (n=858) are located across 4 counties of Connaught.
 - 2% (n=221) are located in Donegal and Cavan.

Gonorrhoea Information Campaign 2013/2014

The Gonorrhoea Information Campaign was a joint initiative of Dublin AIDS Alliance, the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme, HSE Health Promotion and Improvement Department, *SpunOut.ie* and the Union of Students in Ireland. The campaign was also supported by a Multidisciplinary Control Group convened by the Department of Public Health, HSE East, consisting of Specialists in Public Health, Consultants in Genito-Urinary Medicine and Infectious Diseases, General practitioners, Surveillance Scientists, Healthcare Managers as well as Health Promotion and Public Communications experts.

The campaign was developed in response to increasing gonorrhoea infections in Ireland, particularly in the Eastern Region, and targeted young (heterosexual) people aged 17 to 25 years primarily through social media channels (Facebook and Twitter and Irish lifestyle websites).

The main aim of the campaign was to raise awareness about increasing gonorrhoea infections in Ireland and to promote information about gonorrhoea symptoms, transmission, prevention and testing as well as promoting consistent condom use and regular STI testing.

The campaign was developed in consultation with young people, who also volunteered as models for the development of social media ads. A new information booklet on Gonorrhoea was produced as well as posters and the main campaign website is www.yoursexualhealth.ie.

The campaign was promoted from 9th December 2013 to mid-February 2014, and culminated in a Valentine's Day promotion.



A report on the campaign was completed with the following summary results:

- A 59% increase in campaign website visits compared to the same period a year previous to the campaign.
- A 48% increase in page views on the website, from 9,053 to 13,369.
- A 91% increase in page views on free STI testing clinic information.
- Up to 190,000 people reached through partners' Facebook pages.
- The hashtag - #OMGsti – trended on Twitter in Ireland on the first day of the campaign.
- The editorials on Irish lifestyle websites *Joe.ie* and *Her.ie* were viewed 6,620 times and a Valentine's competition on the same websites received 795 entries.

The main recommendation of the report is to build on the success of the campaign to develop a national STI prevention campaign specifically targeting young people.

Man2Man.ie

This joint Gay Health Network (GHN) and HSE initiative is a national HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Awareness programme targeting men who have sex with men (MSM).

The *Man2Man.ie* programme was sustained throughout 2014 with support funding from the HSE Health Promotion and Improvement Department, HSE Social Inclusion and the MAC AIDS Fund. The programme primarily consists of:

- A dedicated website (www.man2man.ie) providing information for MSM on HIV, STIs, free testing information and where to access free condoms. Sexual health information is available in 9 languages on the website (Arabic, English, French, Irish, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish).
- Social media promotion of key messages on HIV and STI prevention, testing and condom use (via Facebook, Twitter, GCN magazine and Gaydar).
- Delivery of Personal Development Courses for MSM.
- Providing access to free condoms through a number of organisations and outreach services.

It's Hard – It's Easy

A new design concept was developed for social media promotion of the *Man2Man.ie* programme for 2014. 'It's Hard – It's Easy' focused on two key objectives:

- To increase condom use among MSM
- To increase the number of MSM accessing HIV (and STI) testing

From April 2014, a new key message was promoted monthly through social media





channels promoting the consistent use of condoms and regular HIV and STI testing.

World Hepatitis Day

To coincide with World Hepatitis Day on 28th July 2014, the *Man2Man.ie* programme promoted awareness of Hepatitis B including key messages about testing, prevention and the vaccination.

Luv Bugs: LGV

A new Luv Bugs leaflet on LGV was developed promoting awareness of increasing LGV infections among men who have sex with men, including information on symptoms, transmission, prevention, and testing.

World Hepatitis Day/Week

To coincide with World Hepatitis Day 2014, which takes place on 28th July annually, Dublin AIDS Alliance, in partnership with Community AIDS Alliance, and supported by AbbVie, launched the 'CThis' Hepatitis C Information Campaign.

The main aim of the campaign is to raise awareness about hepatitis C and to promote information about symptoms, transmission, prevention, testing, treatment and support. The campaign included the development of a new website (www.hepinfo.ie), a new information leaflet, outreach activities, and social media promotion.

- The campaign was promoted for the week 28th July to 3rd August 2014 with the following highlights:
- The hashtag – #CThis – trended on Twitter on the first day of the campaign with an audience reach of over 76,000 for the first three days of the campaign.
- Facebook promotion reached an audience of over 100,000.
- Five outreach events took place around Dublin distributing over 4,000 information leaflets.
- There was significant media interest in the campaign with 11 articles published in print and online media and 8 interviews broadcast on local and national radio stations.



The GALAS LGBT Awards

In 2014 Dr Erin Nugent was honoured to be shortlisted for the Noel Walsh HIV Activism Award at the GALAS, LGBT Awards. A large team of DAA staff, volunteers, friends and members of Positive Now had the pleasure of attending the awards ceremony held in The Shelbourne Hotel.



Dublin Pride 2014

DAA and Gay Switchboard Ireland joined together to share a float and celebrate in the Dublin Pride Parade.



Objective 5: To inform and to influence policy around issues concerning HIV prevention and sexual health and relating to the lives of people living with HIV

COMMITTEES AND NETWORKS

National Hepatitis C Strategy

DAA participates on the Education, Prevention and Communications Working Group of the National Hepatitis C Strategy Implementation Committee. The working group achieved its two main objectives for 2014:

- To collate and review existing informational and educational materials to identify gaps in information and advice on hepatitis C.
- To provide clear, consistent and updated advice on the transmission risks of hepatitis C through the development of an education and awareness week in July 2014.

Gay Health Network (GHN)

DAA continues to participate and work closely with GHN to support and promote sexual health initiatives within the gay community, and in particular the *Man2Man.ie* programme.

GHN continues to be actively involved in publishing new research and in 2014 the fourth report from the All-Ireland findings of the 2010 European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS) was published. *Man2Man Report 4: Our Sexual Health* focuses on access to sexual health information and services and barriers that prevent gay men and other MSM from accessing the support and services they need. The four reports in the *Man2Man* series can be viewed and downloaded at www.ghn.ie

The EMIS data was significant to the development of the current joint GHN and HSE *Man2Man.ie* National HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Awareness Programme for MSM. GMHS, HSE was the lead partner in promoting the EMIS Survey in Ireland which represents the largest ever sample of MSM across the 32 counties of Ireland, with a total of 2,610 valid respondents.

North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (NICDATF)

Prevention and Education Sub-Committee: As a member of this sub-committee, DAA participated in the organisation and facilitation of two Youth Drug Prevention Seminars on 16th and 21st October 2014. Over 200 young people from the north inner city attended both events.

Treatment and Rehab Subcommittee: DAA participated in developing the T&R work plan, in devising priority questions for TDs, and in promoting the Quality Standards Support Project. DAA attended a NICDATF update on ENDRIC and QUADS in September and completed all NICDTAF surveys on Drug Use Trends and Behaviours throughout the year.

Gonorrhoea Control Group

DAA was invited to participate on this multi-disciplinary group in 2013 convened by the Department of Public Health, HSE East to investigate and control the increase in gonorrhoea notifications. DAA was also a key partner in the Expert Working Group established to develop and roll-out the Gonorrhoea Information Campaign which ran from December 2013 to mid-February 2014. The work of the Multi-disciplinary Control Group was discontinued in June 2014 once the rise in gonorrhoea notifications was halted.

LGV Outbreak Control Team

DAA was invited to participate on this committee convened in October 2014 by the Department of Public Health, HSE East, due to increasing notifications of LGV infections among men who have sex with men, primarily in the HSE East area. DAA, as part of its partnership work with the Gay Health Network,

also participates on an information sub-group convened from members of this committee to prepare and disseminate information materials to men at risk of LGV infection. To date, a new information leaflet has been developed and a new webpage created on the *Man2Man.ie* website (www.man2man.ie/lgv). The work of the committee will continue into 2015.

Direct Provision Forum

As a member of the DPF DAA participated in its work, including lobbying individual candidates running for local elections and requesting the Minister for Health to waive prescription fees for asylum seekers.

On June 18th DAA, along with members of the DPF and the Seanad Cross Party Group on Direct Provision, participated in a Leinster House briefing on concerns surrounding the Direct Provision system.

DAA also presented on issues for PLWHIV within the Direct Provision system at a roundtable consultation on the Protection system (September 18th). Held in the Department of Justice, the consultation was led by the Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald and the Minister of State, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin.

OTHER EVENTS

European Cervical Cancer Prevention Week

DAA supported the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) with the promotion of this event from 19th to 25th January 2014, distributing campaign information packs through our services and promoting messages via social media channels.

Regional Spring Meeting of the SSSTDI

DAA presented on the report of the Gonorrhoea Information Campaign at the Regional Spring meeting of the Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Ireland (SSSTDI) in Galway on 12th April 2014.

Faculty of Public Health Summer Scientific Meeting

DAA presented on the report of the Gonorrhoea Information Campaign at the Faculty of Public Health Summer Scientific Meeting on 21st May 2014.

Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Münster, Germany

On May 23rd DAA, in conjunction with the Union for Improved Services, Communication, and Education (UISCE), continued our partnership with the university's Social Work Department by facilitating a discussion group with visiting senior students on working with PLWHIV and IVDU's.

12th Annual Gay Health Forum

DAA is part of the organising committee for this annual forum in partnership with the Gay Men's Health Service, HSE and the Gay Health Network (GHN). The forum took place on 6th June 2014 in Dublin Castle, with support from Alex White, Minister of State at the Department of Health, Deputy Jerry Buttimer, Chairperson of the Oireachtas Joint Select sub-Committee on Health, and Dr. Stephanie O'Keefe, National Director of the HSE Health and Wellbeing Division. DAA presented at the forum providing updates on the GHN *Man2Man.ie* programme.

Congolese Community of Ireland

To promote HIV awareness in the Congolese community in Ireland, DAA participated in a Q and A session with community leaders which was filmed on June 13th and posted on the CCI's Facebook page.

Global Village, Newstalk 106

To mark Irish AIDS Day (June 15th), DAA was invited by presenter Dil Wickremasinghe to participate in a radio panel discussion on topical issues relating to HIV and AIDS.

National Viral Reference Lab, UCD

On September 1st, DAA was invited along with Positive Now to speak to NVRL staff on DAA services and arising issues for PLWHIV.

World Contraception Day

World Contraception Day takes place annually on 26th September and the event was promoted via social media promoting condom use, the free condoms walk-in service in DAA, and the HSE Think Contraception campaign and website.

Irish Healthcare Awards

Our 2014 Irish AIDS Day project – Know the Score: Get Tested! – in partnership with the Gay Health Network and supported by Janssen, received a Commendation at the Irish Healthcare Awards ceremony held on the 6th November 2014 in the category of Best Patient Lifestyle Education.

ESCAIDE 2014

DAA presented a poster presentation of the Gonorrhoea Information Campaign at the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) in Stockholm, Sweden on 7th November 2014.

Royal College of Surgeons Ireland World AIDS Day Event 2014

On World AIDS Day (December 1st), DAA participated in a panel discussion on HIV related issues along with representatives from Positive Now and the ID Clinic at Beaumont Hospital.

SpunOut.ie Sexual Health Awareness Week 2014

As part of our representation on the HSE Sexual Health Communications Network, DAA supported this initiative which took place from 1st to 5th December 2014. *#GetTested14* promoted the importance of regular STI testing for sexually active young people as well as information on sexual relationships and included the development of new videos available to view at www.spunout.ie/gettested

Objective 6: To enhance the organisational effectiveness and efficiencies of DAA

QUALITY ACTION

Quality Action: Improving HIV Prevention in Europe

DAA participated in this European-wide initiative in 2014, attending six days training and piloting the application of the Quality Action 'Succeed' tool to self-assess and improve the quality of one of our HIV prevention projects. The initiative was organised by the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Education and Prevention sub-committee of the National AIDS Strategy Committee.

Organisational Development

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME (JANUARY–DECEMBER 2014)

This annual report covers the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014. The Community Employment (CE) Scheme operates practical work experience for participants and provides them with access to relevant certified training so as to prepare them for the mainstream labour market, or Third Level education.

2014 saw no increment in the Materials Grant provided by the DSP and this continues to put a strain on our Materials Grant budget for the year. Furthermore, the 50% reduction in the Training budget for individual participants continues to limit the range of accredited training options available to them.

CE Staff:

The year started with sixteen CE staff and ended with thirteen. We had a turnover of twenty two. About 80% of our participants originate from many different countries, including Russia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Albania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Italy and of course Ireland. This clearly reflects the non-discriminatory approach we have towards staff selection. 75% of CE staff is attached to other amalgamated/sub-sponsor organisations such as New Communities Partnership (NCP), Cairde and Outhouse.

Progression:

We had a 100% progression rate for our CE staff during the year, whether internally or externally. While a lot of this involved the development of practical, interpersonal

and communication skills, many successfully completed certified training in subjects ranging from German, Safepass and Childcare, to Oil Burner Servicing, Bookkeeping, Advanced Taxation, Reception and Administrative skills.

As always, we have ensured that all training is from organisations approved by the Department of Education, is relevant to the progression aspirations of the participants and offers recognised certification. This year, participants have achieved the following certified qualifications: seven FETAC Level 5 certifications; four at FETAC Level 4; two at FETAC Level 6 and a HETAC Level 7 Diploma in Social Media from the Dublin Business School. One participant was awarded a self-sponsored HETAC Level 9 Masters degree in Law (LLM) from Trinity College, Dublin.

Ongoing programmes include an Information Providers Programme (FETAC Level 6), and an Irish Payroll Association (IPASS) Certified Payroll Technician course (FETAC Level 6). One participant has almost completed an Advanced Taxation course with the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown. Another is continuing her part time studies towards a BA degree in Community and Family Studies with the University of Galway and one has been admitted to the Dublin Business School to study towards a HETAC Level 8 BA degree in Business in International Business.

Of the nine CE staff that finished during 2014, one transferred to another project, one got into full time employment and two returned to full time education.

Dublin AIDS Alliance Limited

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)
Summarised Financial Statement extracted from the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014		2013	
	€	€	€	€
Income				
Donations & Fundraising	11,282		10,951	
HSE Dublin North City Social Inclusion	280,000		358,867	
HSE National Social Inclusion	40,000		-	
D.S.P.	239,732		220,787	
HSE (NIC2-16)	68,400		71,000	
Other grants	98,994		110,733	
Other income	18,623		15,513	
		757,031		787,851
Expenditure				
Salaries incl. Employer's PRSI	590,595		526,559	
Training & Consultancy	35,754		19,482	
Rent payable	43,200		53,925	
Building Reinstatement Provision	(30,000)		100,000	
Project costs	72,665		69,107	
Combined Overheads	46,609		74,087	
		758,823		843,160
Deficit for the year		<u>(1,792)</u>		<u>(55,309)</u>

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2014

	2014		2013	
	€	€	€	€
Current assets				
Debtors	11,943		11,560	
Cash at bank and in hand	291,883		306,839	
	<u>303,826</u>		<u>318,399</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(174,973)</u>		<u>(187,754)</u>	
Net current assets		<u>128,853</u>		<u>130,645</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		128,853		130,645
Net assets		<u>128,853</u>		<u>130,645</u>
Capital and reserves				
Revenue reserves account		<u>128,853</u>		<u>130,645</u>
Members' funds		<u>128,853</u>		<u>130,645</u>

Acknowledgements

DAA would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to all who worked with and supported our organisation throughout 2014.

The Directors holding office during the year comprised Colin Fallon, Seamus Kennedy, Paul Quigley, Annmarie O'Connor, Ali Dennehy, Emiline Le Prince, Jeanne McDonagh, Bob Jordan, Bernard Condon and Stephen Rourke.

Administration: Brona Cousins (Office Manager), Olusola Martin Ade-Onojobi (CE Supervisor), Patricia Dillon-Killeen, Nelly Kadima (until June 2014), Lorcan Curran (until September 2014), Raymond Cunningham (until March 2014), Richard Delaney, Grzegorz Skoczylas (until September 2014), Barbara King and Gianni Palazzo.

Prevention Education & Training Programme: Susan Donlon (PET Coordinator), Sue Carter, Niamh Fingleton, Maria Elnor, Silvana Avigliano.

Community Support Programme: Erin Nugent (CS Coordinator), Lily Hyland, Rebecca Seery and Richard Boyle.

Our Volunteers: Pierre Deprez, Michael Hohenwarter, Eugene Arkins, Marthe Mutanda, Guylaine Mbaki, Joel Biongo, Marcello Malanda, Fuad Danishani, Danielle Rourke, Robyn Byrne (MAC), Bronagh Carton (MAC), Aisling Lynch (MAC), Jessica Malone (MAC), Jessica Rogan (MAC), Michael Standen (MAC), Natalie Achamallah (RCSI), Jack Lynch (RCSI), Nastasia Nianaris (RCSI), and Alison O'Connor (RCSI)

Our express thanks to our principle funders...

Health Service Executive Northern Area; Department of Social Protection, Parnell St.; North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; HSE Office for Social Inclusion; MAC AIDS Fund;

...and additional organisations and individuals for their support in 2014:

Declan Mulvey, HSE Office for Social Inclusion; Diane Nurse, National HSE Office for Social Inclusion; Gilead UK and Ireland Fellowship Programme; Sandra Delamere, Siobhan O'Dea and Grainne Kelly of St. James's GUIDE Clinic; Grainne Farrell and Adam Stubbs of Glaxo Smith Kline; Declan Hayden and Hugh Fahy of Dublin City Council; James Baille and all at Friends for Friends; Mel MacGiobúin, Miriam Coffey and all at NICDTAF; Anne Corrigan and all at Neart Le Cheile; Dr Ann Nolan; Michael Moriarty and the team at the Ana Liffey Drug Project; Anita Ghafoor-Butt and the team at the Irish Family Planning Association; Emily and Ruaidhri, UISCE; Nicola Perry and the team in Community Response; Gillian Brien and the team at BeLonG To Youth Service, Maria Keogh, Tony Cooney and the team at Gay Switchboard Ireland; Mick Quinlan and the team at the Gay Men's Health Service, HSE; Positive Now and the All-Ireland Network of PLWHIV; John Buckley and the team at SpunOut.ie; Louise Monaghan, National Youth Council of Ireland; Caoimhe McClafferty, Foróige; Roisin Guiry and the team at the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme; Dr. Fionnuala Cooney, Department of Public Health, HSE East; Mark and the team at Form; Joey Teehan at Subliminal Design; Maurice Farrell at Creationpod; Outhouse LGBT Community Centre; Deputy Jerry Buttimer, T.D., Chairperson of the Oireachtas Joint Select sub-Committee on Health; Minister for Justice Francis Fitzgerald; Minister of State Aodhán Ó Riordáin; Dr. Shay Keating; Irish Refugee Council; Gay Health Network Members and Organisations; Barrie Hanson, Pasante Healthcare; Durex Ireland/ Reckitt Benckiser Ireland; Dr. Derval Igoe and the team at the

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