ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY





GIPA/MIPA

I also want to thank people living with HIV who have supported the work we do. Our fight against HIV and AIDS is indebted to people living with HIV both past and present.



BEACH OUTREACH - ACON NORTHERN RIVERS - PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Brief historical and demographic overview of Northern Rivers region
- Provides innovative targeted health promotion in unique settings for Gay and Bisexual Men (Cis and Trans)
- Overview, outcomes and challenges



ACON NORTHERN RIVERS





POPULATION IN NORTHERN RIVERS IS APPROXIMATELY 296,000¹





1 "3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2016 (Urban Centre)". Australian Bureau of Statistics. August 2017. Retrieved 9 August 2017.

LGBTIQ POPULATIONS

Where LGBTIQ respondents live in the NCPHN region¹...



1 North Coast Primary Health Network, 2016. Results from the 2016 NCPHN Primary Health Needs Community Member Survey, document in preparation.



TROPICAL FRUITS





TROPICAL FRUITS NYE FESTIVAL ATTRACTS A LOT OF GAY MEN!





BRIEF HISTORY OF BEATS/BEACH OUTREACH IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS



HOW DOES BEACH OUTREACH WORK?

- ACON Community Health Promotion Officer and volunteers attend Tyagarah Beach/Lakes and Broken Head (Kings Beach)
- ACON outfits worn and showbags/info offered
- Occurs in last 3 days prior XMAS day and 3 days post
 New Year's Day (around Tropical Fruits Festival)



SHOWBAG CONTENTS

- A small recyclable brown paper bag
- Containing a broad spectrum of resources and can be used as a rubbish receptacle
- Safe sex information and safe sex packs provided
- ATSI cultural awareness leaflet, map and beach safety tips



A HARD DAY AT THE OFFICE!

- Some people think this is my day job!
- 6 days during summer season
- Unique intervention opportunity with many challenges



THE LOCATIONS - TYAGARAH







THE LOCATIONS - TYAGARAH







THE LOCATIONS – BROKEN HEAD/KINGS BEACH





OUTCOMES OF BEACH OUTREACH 2010-2018

- Reached over 1500 gay and bisexual men
- Trained 5 peer volunteers
- Distributed over 20,000 condoms and lube
- Distributed over 4000 health and information resources
- Maintained strong key agency partnership's and ACON's profile

CHALLENGES AND ONGOING ISSUES

- Anti social behaviour such as parties, littering, flashing, unwanted attention and graffiti
- Degradation of littoral rainforest (the 'bush turkey track') where people cruise
- Media and community hysteria
- Tourism and population growth



CHALLENGES AND ONGOING ISSUES



CHALLENGES AND ONGOING ISSUES





LET'S FINISH ON A HAPPY SLIDE!



THANK YOU

- Tobin Saunders
- Community Health Promotion Officer
- ACON Northern Rivers
- 6622 1555
- •0418 730 571
- tsaunders@acon.org.au



