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MANAGER, ACON**

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7 NOVEMBER, 2017 ASHM

**PRINT, PEER OR ONLINE:
FINDING THE RIGHT MIX FOR HIV AND STI
SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION TO ASIAN GAY
MEN**

**[TEST
OFTEN] + [TREAT
EARLY] + [STAY
SAFE] = [ENDING
HIV 2020]**



Sydney Asian Gay Men (AGM) background

HIV/AIDS is a significant and growing disease in Asia.
In 2011 the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific was nearly 5 million.

Sex, sexuality and attitudes to HIV among Asian gay men are rapidly changing, both for men living in Australia and in Asian countries.

Access to health care for migrants' is often impeded by a variety of linguistic, cultural, socio-economic and even environmental obstacles

Mobile, moving from one place to another temporarily, seasonally or permanently for a host of voluntary and/or involuntary reasons.

A significant and growing proportion of the Sydney gay community



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Sydney AGM's HIV & STI and sexual behaviour

2016 the CALD Gay Men's Action Group* conducted the Asian Gay Men's Periodic survey (n=501, 2002: n=457)



RECRUITMENT

- Gay social venues
- Events
- SOPVs
- Clinics
- online



AGE

- 16.1% < 25
- 28.5% 25-29
- 32.8% 30-39
- 17.2% 40-49
- 5.3% 50+



SEXUALITY

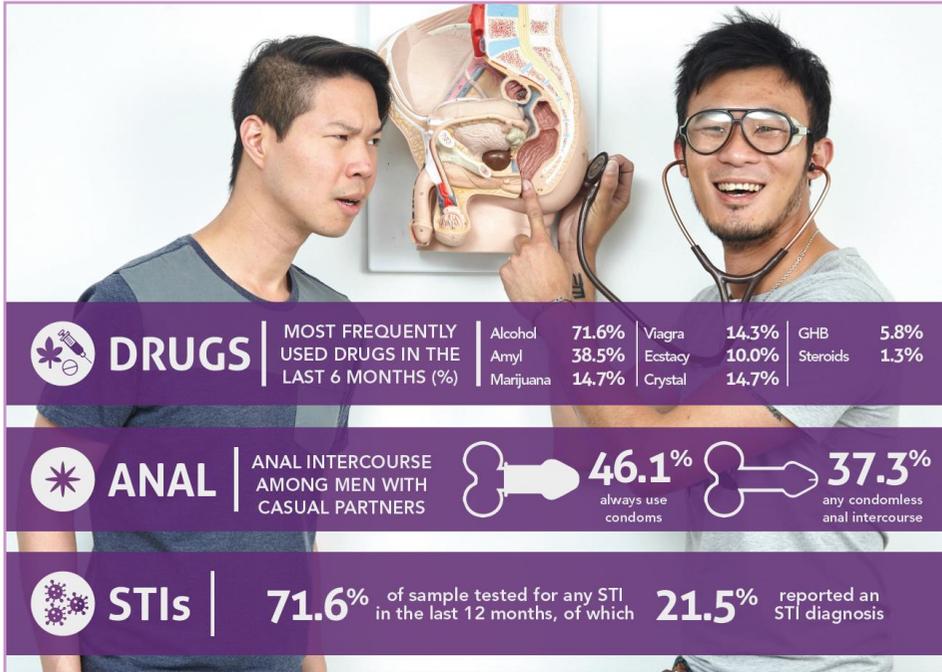
- 88.7% gay
- 9.2% bisexual
- 2.1% other



CALD GAY MEN'S Action Group

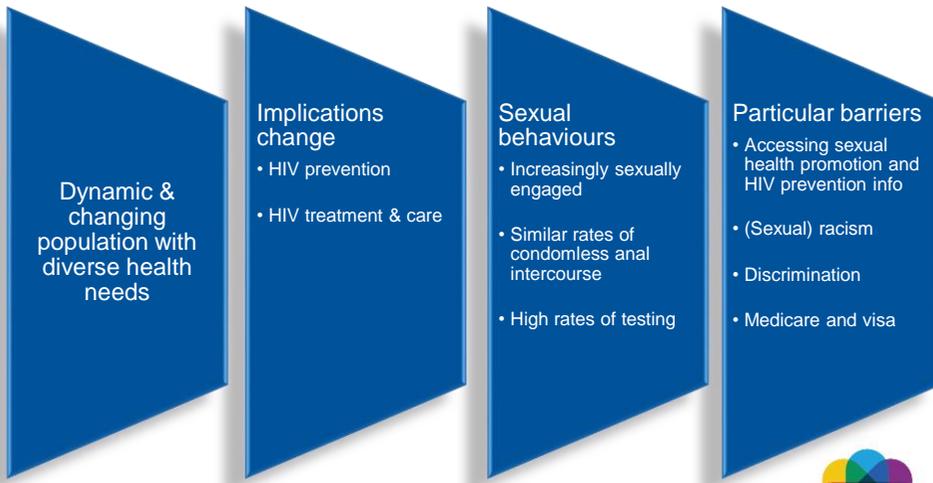
* Wong HTH, Chen T, Lewis D, Mackie B, Haque A, Stone A, Ubrihien A, Stackpool G, Dabbhadatta J, Janssen M, Prihaswan P, Kao S, Mao L







OVERALL

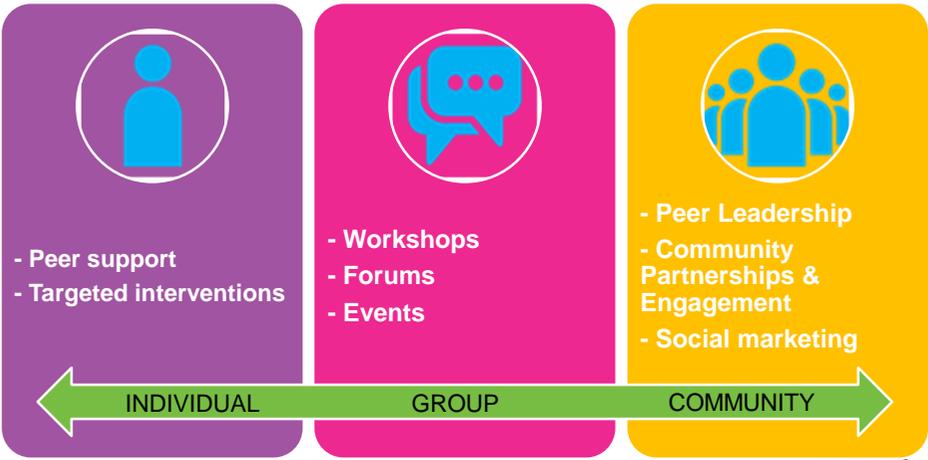




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ACON's Asian Gay Men's Project Targeting sexual health education



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INDIVIDUAL

- **Peer Support**
 - Referrals
 - HIV and medication,
 - Coming out,
 - Discrimination,
 - Visa
- Peer educators (aTEST)
- **Targeted Interventions**
 - International students (peer mentor)
 - GAMCS – Chinese, Thai, Philippine and south Asian

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GROUP

A support group/workshop for Asian gay men*.



Every 2 month

40-50 participants
1/4 new

Various topics:
Sexual health,
Coming out,
Dating,
Sexual racism
...

Outcomes

- A safe space
- Make new friends
- Upgrade knowledge & skills
- Develop leaders

www.acon.org.au/asia



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Start Making Sense 同志101

SPARK. 火花.

新州最大的同志公益机构ACON旗下的青年同志项目- SPARK.火花 和亚洲同志项目 将提供免费的华语沙龙**Start Making Sense同志101**。我们会在同志101沙龙讨论同志身份认同, 出租, 性安全, 交友, 悉尼的同志圈等您感兴趣的话题。 欢迎18-30岁说华语的同志前来报名参加。10月5日, 不见不散!

Are you a Mandarin speaking guy aged 18 to 30 who is attracted to guys? Have you always wanted to do a SPARK workshop but your English skills have held you back?

SPARK & ACON's Asian Gay Men's Project are running a FREE workshop called *Start Making Sense* delivered in Mandarin. What are you waiting for? Get in touch today to find out more!

地点 Location ACON, 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills
 邮件 Contact asia@acon.org.au or 电话 call 9206 2080
 起始 Starting 10月5日 5 October
 时间 Time 6 30pm to 9 30pm



- Chinese speaking young gay men from 18 – 30
- 12 participants: Taiwan, HK, Malaysia and PRC.
- Facilitated in Mandarin Chinese and resources bi-lingual
- 6 weeks journey:
 - Identity
 - Explore the process of coming out
 - Learn about the gay community, and how to develop social networks
 - Explore friendships, relationships and communication
 - Learn about HIV and sexual health



HERE FOR ASIAN GAY MEN

Join writer and journalist Benjamin Low, bestselling author of *Orange and The Family Law* - now a TV series screening from 18:30 - 19:00 on ABC Gay Men's Forum & discussion about sex, relationships & PEP.

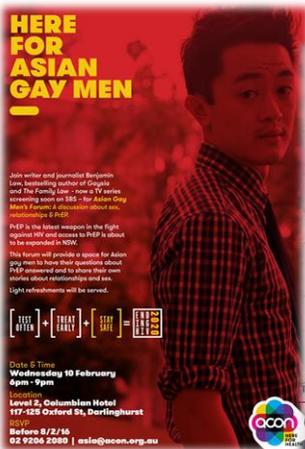
PEP is the latest weapon in the fight against HIV and comes to PEP is about to be expanded to MSM.

This forum will provide a space for Asian gay men to have their questions about PEP answered and to share their own stories about relationships and sex. Light refreshments will be served.

DATE & TIME: **Wednesday 10 February 6pm - 9pm**

LOCATION: **Level 2, Columbian Hotel 117-125 Oxford St, Darlinghurst**

RSVP: **Before 8/2/16 02 9206 2080 | asia@acon.org.au**



FEBRUARY 2016

SEX MARRIAGE PrEP HOOKUP ANAL HIV STD DEPRESSION COMING OUT RACISM HEALTH

LET'S TALK

TRIKONE

SATURDAY, 15TH OCT 2016 | 2 PM
 RED RATTLER, MARRICKVILLE
 TRIKONESTALEVENTBRIE.COM.AU

Speakers:

- Alan McGregor: Community Engagement Lead, ACON
- Alan Maurice: Co-Founder & Board Member, TriKone
- Gayaramanathan: Member of National Council, ACON
- Azizul Haque: PhD Candidate, University of Sydney
- Nooreen Younis: Psychologist, ACON



OCTOBER 2016

Finding Our Voice

A community forum for Asian gay men

GAY ASIAN MEN COMMUNITY SURVEY FEEDBACK SESSION

Ever wonder where Asian gay men look for and find partners? How they negotiate sex, condoms and PEP? What about relationships or dealing with stigma?

If you're curious about these and many more things, join us for *Finding Our Voice*, a community forum for Asian gay men. This forum will share the key findings from the *Gay Asian Men Community Survey 2015-2016* and provide a space for Asian gay men to discuss all questions about our sex, relationships and health. Light refreshments will be served.

DATE & TIME: **Wednesday 14 December, 6pm**

LOCATION: **L2 Columbian Hotel | 117-125 Oxford St, Darlinghurst**

RSVP: **Before 11/12/16 asia@acon.org.au | (02) 9206 2080**



DECEMBER 2016





HERE FOR ASIAN GAY MEN
www.acon.org.au/asia

ImaginAsians

This special edition of ConversAsians is a workshop for us to talk freely and explore what being sexually adventurous means to us as gay Asian men!

Even if you are just curious about what being sexually adventurous could be - or you are well-experienced - this event will be an open discussion about hooking up, threesomes, SM, feathers, kink, group fun and how we can play safely and respectfully.

Hosted at Headquarters, we will hear from a panel of men from our community and have a guided tour of the venue afterwards. This workshop will be a safe, confidential and non-judgemental space for gay men from all Asian backgrounds.

Date & Time
Wednesday 16 August, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Location
Headquarters, 273 Crown St, Surry Hills

RSVP or for more info
asia@acon.org.au | 02 9206 2080 | 0419 714 213

www.acon.org.au/asia | /ACONAsianGayMensHealth



AUGUST 2017

The first Asian gay men's HIV and sexual health event in Asia had a profound impact on me. Growing up in conservative and religious cultures, the subject of sexual desire were never discussed. It was the first time in my life where I saw so many people gathered in one place to learn from each other what sexually means to them and how it's expressed.



SocialisAsians, a gay social group with volunteer-led events held every two months

BUSH WALK



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MARRIAGE EQUALITY OUTREACH



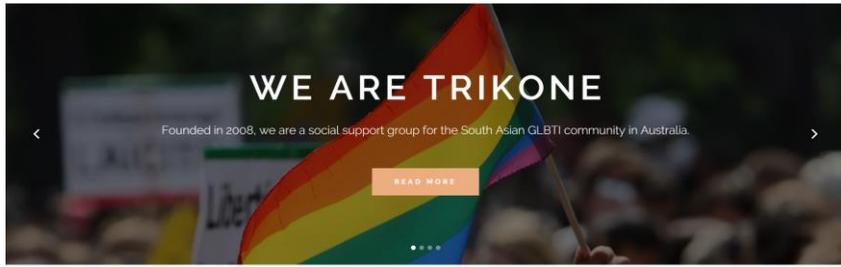
Community

- Peer leadership
 - Active members supporting the AGM project
 - Develop AGM communities

- Community partners
 - Trikone (South Asian GLBTI community organisation)
 - Flagcom & Friends (Filipino community organisation)
 - Sydney Mardi Gras Queer Screen
 - Sydney Queer Muslims Group

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**Online strategies for AGM
Findings from a series of focus groups**

The most popular Apps



To connect friends and families



Hook-up apps



Community language advertising with follow through to in-language websites

PrEP – well informed but cultural barriers



ACON's Here for Asian Gay Men's Facebook Page

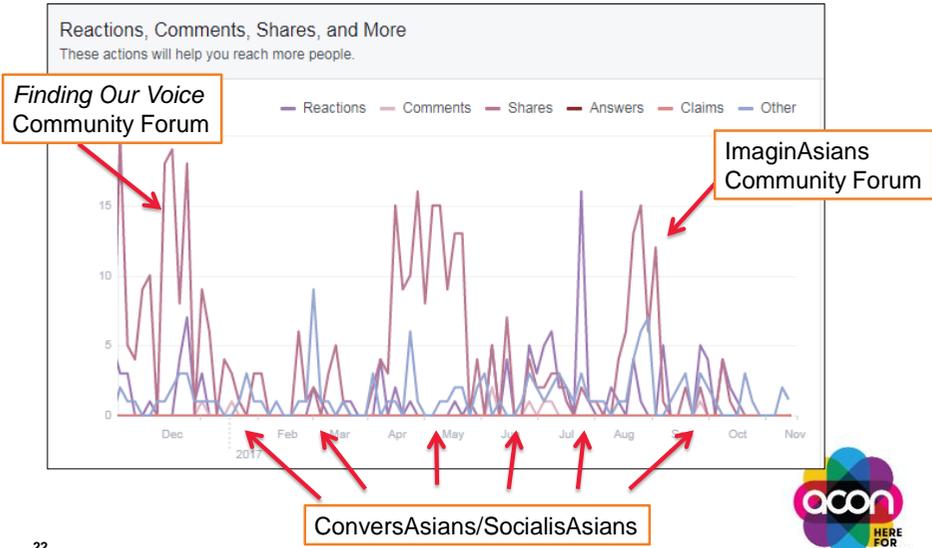
Since the start of 2017 the face book site has reached over **2,300** people online monthly, with the majority of 'love/like' responses to page views.

The site's reach is increasing by around 40% monthly. The site:

- provides HIV and STI information;
- updates on key community events, workshops and forums; and
- a direct communication platform to the Asian gay community



INSIGHTS



Culturally relevant, targeted and tailored health promotion

ALL THAT I AM

by King Nguyen

I was born in Saigon. But I do not have too many memories of Vietnam because I left when I was 2 years old. Together with my family, I spent the next 10 years in a refugee camp in Palawan, Philippines before moving to Manila. We were then resettled to Cabramatta where I have been for the last 10 years.

We escaped Vietnam as refugees and spent 7 days on a boat. Our boat was one of the luckier ones; no pirates, no storms. But I've heard from my close friend at the time that he was on a boat where they'd run out of food and were adrift in a storm. **His youngest brother died from sickness and hunger and my friend had to throw his dead brother into the sea just so others could not eat him.**

Camp conditions were horrible, although I was just a kid at the time and did not realise how horrible it was. In fact, I thought we had it all. Electricity from 7 - 10 at night (even then most times it would cut out), an egg for two and a can of fish for 3. We were lucky if we got some more meat on Thursdays and some watermelon on the weekends. There wasn't a whole lot of food but somehow I didn't feel like I was missing out on anything. No television, cartoons, computer games etc. But there were trees to climb and a beach to visit. Us kids invented games to play with each other.

Despite leaving Vietnam at such a young age, I feel very strongly Vietnamese.

I have been incredibly lucky to inherit this culture from my parents. Even without formal Vietnamese education, I speak it fluently because my father gave me Vietnamese books to read, and I taught myself by with a dictionary alongside. I love languages and can also speak Tagalog, English and a bit of Spanish. A lot of my friends who are Vietnamese but were born here in Australia seem less connected with their history. What if my parents fall sick tomorrow and the last words they speak to me are in



A-MEN
2012



CONCLUSION

Overall sexual health promotion activities, including HIV and STI information, targeting Asian gay men need to:

Mix of strategies

- Combines mass communication, such as online health promotion supported by peer based community engagement strategies

Provide sexual health information

- Clear, accurate and concise
- Culturally appropriate and in community languages
- Particularly among recent arrivals



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Thank you
Questions?

