



MAGNET

Providing ageing gay men
with relevant and up to date
sexual health information and
community connectedness

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Why?



- Counselling feedback
 - Older Gay/Bi men expressing difficulty in connecting
 - Missed out on the “social media revolution”
- Limited places for older Gay/Bi men to socialise in Canberra and the surrounding areas
- Navigating the uniqueness of Canberra’s guarded scene
- Community discussion
- MAGNET in Sydney gave permission to use the name

How?



- Advertising through networks:
 - Facebook / Twitter
 - Community discussion boards/ Community groups
 - Counsellors/ Clinical staff
- Intake process for men to ensure compatibility or referral to other services programs as required
- Series of Saturday workshop events held monthly
- Stand alone sessions - participants could attend one or all

How?



- Peer facilitated
- Group set goals for what they wanted to achieve/ learn
- Facilitators created content to respond to topics raised
- Ongoing communication with participants between sessions

Topics



Some of the topics discussed:

- Being gay/bi and growing older
- Growing older and finding a partner
- Navigating the social media apps
- Dealing with stereotypes – the 'gay' look
- Safer Sex – what if something goes wrong
- Navigating Canberra's unique 'guarded' scene
- Coming out while married

Process



- 20 men enquired through the AIDS Action Council
- 6 to 10 participants at each session
- After the workshop series social gatherings at cafes & pubs
- Participants encouraged to catch up independently

Outcomes



- Took a break for the winter months
- Returned in the spring with new sessions
- Renewing with social events in 2018, e.g. movies, dinner nights, cafes.



Celebrate Success!



Friendly and supportive

Getting to meet other guys in the same situation (or close to)

The whole program worked very well ! – great group and presenters

I really liked the discussion and the subjects discussed !

Meeting others in the same situation in a safe space with similar issues

Initially I felt liked walking out the door – but I persisted and glad that I did



- QUESTIONS?