

Newsletter Edition 4: 28 August 2015

This is the fourth e-newsletter intended to keep subscribers informed of the implementation of the HIV SA program.

The team commenced work on Monday 17 August, and the week began with the team rebranding HIV SA to **SAMESH** (SA * Mobilisation + Empowerment for Sexual Health). The **SAMESH** team have a new vision of community engagement for sexual health and wellbeing. The visual brand takes its identity from the iconic HIV/AIDS awareness ribbon as the basic component, with the shape being refined to a simpler graphic to allow for flexibility in the design. The shape has then been inverted to symbolise V for 'victory', and finally the circle is added to provide focus to suggest an abstract figure of movement and action. It further emphasises that people are at the centre of **SAMESH** and reinforces the purpose of the program, that of mobilisation and empowerment of community. The M acknowledges the partnership between SHine SA and VAC in overseeing **SAMESH**; it further reinforces the idea of meshing, integration, linkages and partnerships, all central to the **SAMESH** team's aim of effective and meaningful community engagement.

Procurement of the city office is expected to be confirmed within the next two weeks. An announcement will be made through **SAMESH** social media platforms, the rainbow network and Feasters. **SAMESH** will be operating from the Karrparinthe Aboriginal Health & Wellbeing Centre at 51 Bower Street, Woodville until the city site becomes available.

The counsellor's position has been offered to Mr Robert Willoughby, and we offer our congratulations to Robert and welcome him to the **SAMESH** team.

September and **SAMESH**

- The **SAMESH** website will be active from 28 August as will be the new **SAMESH** Facebook page.
- The Drama Down Under Spring Campaign has begun with a full-page advert in September's issue of Blaze and a half-page advert promoting our new Get PEP campaign.
- The **SAMESH** team have been in Melbourne for two days receiving Rapid HIV Testing Training (RHT), and **SAMESH** will provide peer-based RHT from the city site.
- The HIV positive peer support worker has met with Clinic 275, RAH and Flinders Medical Centre staff to establish a peer-based support service for newly diagnosed HIV positive people.
- **SAMESH** is establishing a volunteer program and we want you to help us build a community connected program. To be part of **SAMESH** and volunteer, contact Wills for further information (details below).
- **SAMESH** has agreed to sponsor Feast and the partnership agreement is currently being written.
- The **SAMESH** team will be out and about meeting community members and groups throughout the month of September.

The **SAMESH** team looks forward to working with community in partnership to improve the health of all gay men, MSM and PLHIV.

For further information please contact Wills Logue (**SAMESH**), new email coming soon!

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