

STATEMENT

The Board of QuAC has recently had to consider, at a Board Meeting, allegations circulated on social media, that one of its board members, may have been a participant in a decision by the Wickham Hotel not to allow the Gay Community Periodic Survey (GCPS) from being conducted at the venue, and that such person expressed on a personal dating profile, a preference for persons with a negative HIV status.

In relation to matters concerning GCPS, the Board is satisfied that the relevant person declared as necessary any conflicts of interest to the Board of QuAC, and that there was no information available to them which would otherwise have affected the outcome of the decision made by the Wickham Hotel.

Our board members, work tirelessly to further the efforts of QuAC on a voluntary basis, which we appreciate and support. When board members participate generally in other community groups or employment, conflicts may arise from time to time. Provided those conflicts are disclosed as and when they occur, they can be appropriately resolved, as in this case.

While individuals may have a right to describe what their preferences are on such applications, QuAC believes that its board members have an obligation to ensure that they never treat, nor be perceived to treat, anyone in a discriminatory manner. We are informed by the relevant board member, and accept, that any such statement has been removed from the profile.

The publication of someone's personal information on public social media forums, including Facebook and Twitter, can in some cases be tantamount to cyber bullying. The LGBTI community are all too aware of the significant impact this can have upon the mental health and wellbeing of the community we serve. If anyone has a problem with individuals within QuAC, we encourage members of the community to contact us. All of our contact information is available at www.quac.org.au.