



Media Release

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Partnerships the Key for 2 Spirits

The 2 Spirits Program - the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program of Queensland AIDS Council, recognises that developing strong partnerships whilst engaging with diverse Indigenous communities across Queensland, is the key to success.

Now in its nineteenth year, 2 Spirits is recognised as a leader in Indigenous gay men and sistergirl sexual health and a program of which Queensland should feel proud.

Last week saw 2 Spirits provide services to two marginalised communities, Rockhampton in Central Queensland and Saibai Island in the Torres Strait.

Staff from Brisbane worked with Queensland Health, Juwarki Kapu–Lug and the Woorabinda Aboriginal Medical Service to promote LGBTI inclusion, Indigenous workforce development and breaking down barriers to Indigenous sexual health. 2 Spirits provided this service by the invitation of the community and Queensland Health as a result of years of relationship building with the region.

In Saibai Island, 2 Spirits staff from QuAC Cairns were invited to be a part of the Saibai Youth Week and worked in partnership with Queensland Health and Population Health staff to promote youth sexual health with Indigenous communities.

Michael Scott, Executive Director of Queensland AIDS Council, highlighted the importance of partnership saying “Our relationship with Queensland Health and local communities allows us to break down access barriers within Indigenous communities, and ensures 2 Spirits brings our cultural way of working to each community”.

The 2 Spirits Program will again be featured in this week’s NAIDOC celebrations at Musgrave Park in Brisbane, and Cairns celebrations at Fogarty Park. 2 Spirits will be distributing culturally appropriate resources, and promoting popular sexual health characters Condoman and Lubelicious in conjunction with providing radio interviews with BIMA (Brisbane Indigenous Media Association) throughout the day.

The success of the 2 Spirits approach was recently rewarded with an extension of contract with the Department of Health. The contract, which places requirements on board governance, human resources, acquittal of funds and management of the program has been successfully managed by QuAC for several years.

“The Queensland AIDS Council’s strong management of the 2 Spirits contract, and the success and longevity of the program demonstrates that QuAC is ready, willing and able to manage other contracts if they were to eventuate. We have a highly skilled and qualified board and administration, and significant experience of over 30 years in working with our communities,” said Mr Scott.

For further information contact Michael Scott, Executive Director, Queensland AIDS Council on 0427 138 373 or mscott@quac.org.au.

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The Queensland AIDS Council was established in 1984 and is a community-based, not-for-profit, registered health promotion charity that works to improve the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Queenslanders, prevent HIV and build the capacity of the community.