



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAINBOW ADVOCACY ALLIANCE INC.

Annual Report prepared for AGM, Tuesday 28 May 2019

The last year has been a period of change and opportunities for the SARAA Board.

The last AGM (27 March 2018) occurred at a period of change for South Australia, with a new State Government elected in the same month. The Safe Schools Anti-Bullying Initiative and Cheltenham Place were defunded in the months that followed, and cuts to funding led to the closure of two SHINE SA clinics in early 2019.

SARAA was able to consult with the Department for Education to ensure LGBTIQ+ youth would be recognised in a new Anti-Bullying Initiative that is currently in development. SARAA has also sought for LGBTIQ+ people to be identified as a priority population in the State Government's *Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 - 2024* in an effort to ensure that future cuts are avoided and that more inclusive services are developed.

Nationally, SARAA provided a submission to the Senate inquiry for the *Sex Discrimination Amendment (Removing Discrimination Against Students) Bill 2018* in an effort to safeguard the welfare of LGBTIQ+ students and teachers in religious schools throughout Australia. SARAA also provided a submission to the Human Rights Commission calling for greater protection of the human rights of people born with intersex variations.

SARAA's greatest advocacy accomplishment for the year though was its involvement in an LGBTIQ Ministerial Roundtable hosted by Michelle Lensink MLC, Minister for Human Services in April 2019. Alongside staff from the Department for Human Services, SARAA played a crucial role in the preliminary coordination of this Roundtable, which saw experts, advocates and community members come together with Ministers and advisors to discuss policy priorities. SARAA will be working with DHS to ensure actions discussed at the Roundtable are enacted.

Looking beyond advocacy, SARAA once again coordinated and held the Ian Purcell Oration in November 2018 as a part of the Feast Festival. Delivered by Jenny Scott, a long-time friend of Ian's, the Oration was well attended and will be continued in future years. Generous sponsorship helped SARAA to host this event, and we thank ECH, SHINE SA, Peter Hall & Co Chartered Accountants and the Parkestone Foundation for their support.

Membership of SARAA's Board is stable. The Board's Chair and Deputy Chair stepped down as Office Bearers in early 2019 due to changes in their circumstances, however both remain as members of the SARAA Board and they are providing support to the Acting Chair. Additionally, the capacity of the Board has increased through LGBTIQ leadership and advocacy training that three Board members completed via The Equality Project and the Human Rights Law Centre.

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Financially, SARAA is solvent. Donations, contributions from sponsors and support from the Department for Human Services (to host preliminary meetings prior to the LGBTIQ Roundtable) have enabled SARAA to complete its various activities over the last 12 months. An audited financial report is currently being finalised.

Thinking to the year ahead, SARAA is poised to work together with advocates both in South Australia and nationally to address advocacy issues both current and emerging. To do this effectively, the Board will be exploring opportunities such as a membership structure, recruitment of additional Board members, and greater collaboration on larger advocacy projects. By building upon existing efforts from the previous year though the future for SARAA continues to look bright.

We thank the Human Rights Law Centre, SAMESH and all of our sponsors for their support. Most of all though, we thank South Australia's LGBTIQA+ communities for their support and assistance as we continue to work together for our health and wellbeing.

Matthew Morris

Acting Chair