South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance Inc. 2020 achievements

We’re a not-for-profit, volunteer-based community organisation that:

* advocates for decision-makers to make changes to promote LGBTIQ+ health and rights
* creates spaces for the LGBTIQ+ community to discuss issues that matter to them
* educates the broader South Australian community about the importance of LGBTIQ+ health and rights.

We're proud to have realised the following achievements in 2020.

# Advocacy

We saw legal reforms that led to:

* the **elimination of the outdated and demeaning gay panic defence** that allowed convictions for the murder of queer men to be reduced to manslaughter if the attack was “provoked” by an unwanted sexual advance on a heterosexual man
* **a simplified process for redressing historical wrongs** caused by remaining convictions for consensual same-sex activity
* **reduced** **blood donation waiting times,** from 12 months to 3 months, for men who have sex with men.

These reforms reflect years of hard work and advocacy by the LGBTIQ+ community, and SARAA thanks every community member, advocate and organisation that has contributed to this body of work over this period of time.

We also made progress on:

* supporting the LGBTIQ+ community and allies to contribute to **community consultation on changes to the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*** that will remove exceptions allowing religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ South Australians
* **engaging** **survivors of conversion practices** alongside Activate Church and Brave Network to inform efforts to ban these practices in South Australia
* advocating for **government** **funding for gender affirming healthcare** at the Women’s and Children's Hospital gender clinic
* **fighting against the proposed Religious Discrimination Bill** (Cth)
* **stronger protections against hate crime** for all marginalised South Australians
* liaising with government about the need to address issues such as LGBTIQ+ **domestic violence and mental health.**

We look forward to progressing these issues in 2021.

# Community engagement

In the vital area of engagement with our community we:

* established an **LGBTIQ+ Community Advisory Group** to ensure community voices inform South Australian law, policy and program planning
* hit **38,000+ signatures on our joint petition with Equality Australia** to abolish the gay panic defence in South Australia
* celebrated the life and work of prominent LGBTIQ+ advocate Ian Purcell AM with an **oration delivered by Dr Nikki Sullivan** focusing on ‘Pride in Protest’
* hosted an online Q&A featuring prominent LGBTIQ+ South Australians on the theme of ‘Breaking the Silence’ to celebrate the 2020 **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia**
* **grew our Facebook** platform to 1,500+ followers
* engaged with services that **support older LGBTI people** to ensure community needs were being met during COVID lockdowns.

# Governance

Despite 2020 being a year that was challenging on so many levels, we still managed to make significant advancements by:

* **hiring our first employee**, Kelly Vincent, to support our advocacy efforts and enable direct engagement between decision-makers and the LGBTIQ+ community
* recruiting **3 new Board members** with skills in governance, policy, fundraising and community engagement
* **securing grant funding** from the Department of Human Services, SA Government to boost our capacity
* **raising over $1,500 in our first ever fundraising campaign** through GiveOUT Day 2020
* gaining financial **support from the Parkestone Foundation** to work on revamping our website
* implementing a suite of financial reporting, budgeting, risk management and decision-making frameworks, along with human resources policies, which **improved our governance, transparency and accountability**.

Thank you to everyone who supported SARAA in 2020: we couldn't have achieved all this without you!

* Activate Church
* Brave Network
* COTA SA Rainbow Hub
* Department of Human Services, SA Government
* ECH
* Equality Australia
* Equality Project
* Feast Festival
* GiveOUT
* Neha Maddock
* Nikki Sullivan
* Rights Resource Network
* Sarah K Reece
* SACOSS
* SHINE SA
* SOGICE Survivors
* Transcend
* Uniting Communities
* YACSA
* Zac Cannell

We acknowledge that the land we work on is the traditional land of the Kaurna people. We respect their spiritual relationship with their Country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage connections are as important to the living Kaurna people today.