

SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

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- the elimination of the outdated and demeaning gay panic defence that allowed convictions for the murder of queer men to be reduced to manslaughter if the attack was “provoked” by an unwanted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.



More Advocacy

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.



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 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.



SARAA acknowledges and pays respects to the Kurna people, whose land we operate and live on. Kurna land was stolen, never ceded, and we stand in solidarity with Kurna people, especially those who are also members of the LGBTIQ+, Brotherboy and Sistergirl communities.