



South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance

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2019-2020 has been a period of new opportunities and vigorous advocacy for SARAA.

Since the last AGM (28 May 2019), SARAA has advocated on a range of State and Federal issues. Most notably, the Morrison Government's Religious Discrimination Bill has been a key focus for SARAA and for LGBTIQ+ advocates Australia wide. SARAA signed a national joint statement with other advocacy groups in July 2019, met with representatives from the Centre Alliance and ALP in September/October 2019, hosted community consultation meetings in August, September and January, and wrote submissions to the Attorney-General's Department regarding both the first and second exposure drafts of the Bill. SARAA also authored a South Australian joint statement against the Bill in February 2020, which was signed by fourteen South Australian organisations.

At the State level, SARAA provided a submission regarding the *Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2019* calling for LGBTIQ+ inclusive homelessness and domestic violence services, and took part in community consultation to help develop Wellbeing SA's five year strategy. Advocacy has also commenced around the issues of transgender healthcare and LGBTIQ+ suicide prevention, with both issues due to be explored further in 2020.

Importantly, SARAA co-authored a summary report of the April 2019 LGBTIQ Ministerial Roundtable. This report was provided to the South Australian Department of Human Services in late 2019 and is serving as a foundation for ongoing discussions with DHS about how key recommendations in the areas of health, education, human services, policing and legislation can be achieved. SARAA greatly looks forward to progressing with this work throughout 2020.

SARAA also supported campaigns to decriminalise sex work and abortion in South Australia, and to make it easier for gender diverse people to change the gender on their birth certificates in Victoria. Support was also provided to the National LGBTI Health Alliance in their efforts to have questions about gender identity and sexuality added to the 2021 census to ensure that population level data about LGBTIQ+ people would be collected for the first time.

Beyond advocacy, SARAA has also focused on several key goals identified in the Board's 2019 strategic planning.

To help build internal capacity, three Board members have attended training offered by The Equality Project and the South Australian Council of Social Service to improve the Board's abilities in the areas of media engagement and not-for-profit governance. The Board also conducted an internal audit of skills and capacity, and recruited three new Board members in early 2020 to fill skill deficits and to replace three Board members who resigned in 2019 due to other commitments. The Board remains stable.

To build SARAA's profile and community engagement, the Board has built stronger relationships with government officials and decision makers, with other advocacy groups, and with LGBTIQ+ South Australians. This final point is demonstrated by the co-hosting of three 'Queer Network' meetings together with The Queer Society between August and December 2019. In total, approximately 75 community members attended these meetings, which allowed them to meet with SARAA and other LGBTIQ+ advocates, to ask questions, and to share their insights about what issues SARAA should focus its attention upon. These meetings will be ongoing in 2020.

SARAA has remained financially solvent and an audited financial report has been finalised. SARAA thanks ECH, SHINE SA, Camatta Lempens Pty Ltd Lawyers and Peter Hall & Co Chartered Accountants for their ongoing sponsorship of the Ian Purcell Oration. SARAA is also in discussion with the Department of Human Services about potential funding opportunities that will enable SARAA to support DHS in implementing the recommendations from the 2019 LGBTIQ Ministerial Roundtable.

In regards to the Ian Purcell Oration, the 2019 Oration was delivered by Damien Ralphs, a Gunnai man who spoke about Aboriginal Australia and the importance of LGBTIQ+ communities standing in solidarity with Indigenous people. This sentiment has been put into practice with the Board agreeing to reserve a Board position exclusively for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, ensuring Indigenous Australians have a voice on the Board.

Looking to the next twelve months, SARAA intends to continue collaborating with other advocates both locally and nationally on issues of importance to the LGBTIQ+ community. Ongoing activities allowing for consultation with community will assist SARAA in providing a voice for LGBTIQ+ South Australians, and strengthened relationships with politicians and Government departments will aid SARAA in achieving these goals.



Matthew Morris

Chair, South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance