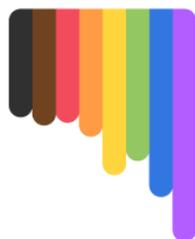




2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



SARAA
rainbow alliance



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

SARAA is a group of First Nations and non-Aboriginal LGBTIQ+ people.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, meet and advocate, which include the Kurna, Nukunu and Ngarrindjeri people.

Aboriginal land was stolen and sovereignty was never ceded.

SARAA acknowledges that racism and oppression is still enacted in LGBTIQ+ spaces, and we take seriously our responsibility to reflect, challenge, and change this for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sister Girls, Brother boys and other LGBTIQ+ community members.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance is committed to creating an LGBTIQ+ inclusive, healthy and safe South Australia. In 2020-21 we've seen great advances towards our mission in a time of great change and uncertainty.

This year we transitioned from a volunteer run community organisation to an employer, with support from the Department of Human Services (SA) enabling us to recruit former MP and renowned disability advocate Kelly Vincent to drive our work.

With support from over 38,000 Australians who signed our joint petition with Equality Australia, finally saw the abolition of the outdated and cruel gay panic defence. We also saw changes to South Australia's spent convictions scheme that make it easier for historic homosexual convictions to be removed from criminal records.

We also continued to advocate on a range of issues important to support LGBTIQ+ South Australians, including improved access to gender affirming healthcare, stronger anti-discrimination laws and ending LGBTIQ+ conversion practices.

In a time when our world has been kept apart, we prioritised creating spaces for LGBTIQ+ South Australians to connect. We established our LGBTIQ+ Community

Advisory Group, a diverse but collective lived experience voice to support SARAA in lobbying decision-makers to advance LGBTIQ+ rights.

Importantly, we supported over 75 LGBTIQ+ South Australians to attend Better Together, a national LGBTIQ+ rights conference hosted by our friends at The Equality Project. We also highlighted local LGBTIQ+ voices, hosting our annual International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) and Ian Purcell Oration events.

At SARAA, we know we're stronger when we work together. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank our key partners who work collaboratively to make our shared vision happen.

I also want to thank the hard working staff and volunteers at SARAA. Your passion, dedication and resilience make SARAA an incredible place to work.

We've got a huge year ahead and are committed to making sure LGBTIQ+ South Australian voices are heard and our lives are valued.

**Varo (they/ them)
Chair**

A vertical graphic on the left side of the page, featuring a rainbow color palette. The colors are arranged in diagonal bands from top to bottom: grey, brown, pink, orange, yellow, light green, blue, and purple. The text 'ABOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAINBOW ADVOCACY ALLIANCE' is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font across the top three bands (grey, brown, and pink).

ABOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAINBOW ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

We're a community of South Australians working to advocate, inform and educate for a LGBTIQ+ inclusive, healthy and safe South Australia.

At SARAA we:

ADVOCATE

for decision-makers to make changes to improve LGBTIQ+ health and rights

CREATE SPACES

and opportunities for LGBTIQ+ communities to discuss issues that matter to us

EDUCATE

the broader South Australian community about the importance of LGBTIQ+ health and rights.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

38,000

people signed our joint petition with Equality Australia to end the gay panic defence

75+

LGBTIQA+ South Australians supported to attend national LGBTIQA+ rights conference Better Together

\$1,760

raised in our first ever fundraiser through GiveOUT Day

100

people at our International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) event

1,953

followers on social media

ADVOCACY

GAY PANIC

We were incredibly proud to have fulfilled the legacy of LGBTIQ+ advocates before us to finally get rid of the outdated and cruel gay panic defence.

Used in South Australia as recently as in 2015, the defence allowed convictions for the murder of gay men to be reduced to manslaughter, simply if a heterosexual male killer says he was provoked by a gay man making a “pass” at him.

In October 2020 our joint petition with Equality Australia was signed by over 38,000 Australians calling for an end to the gay panic defence. 2 months later the South Australian parliament finally abolished this outdated law.

As part of our petition we also proposed an amendment to the Sentencing Act that would strengthen protections against hate crime for all marginalised South Australians. We look forward to Parliament debating this issue in 2021/22.



Image: SARAA Policy & Project Officer Kelly Vincent and SARAA Board Chair Matthew Morris present SARAA and Equality Australia's joint petition to end the gay panic defence to Attorney-General Vickie Chapman

SPENT CONVICTIONS

As recently as 1975, homosexual activity between men was a crime in South Australia.

Today we know that homosexuality never should have been a crime in the first place.

To recognise this, SA Parliament made changes in 2020 to make it easier for people convicted of this outdated offence to apply to have it wiped from their criminal records, known as spending a conviction.

South Australian laws have allowed people to remove homosexual activity convictions from their criminal record since 2013. The difference is the new laws mean that a Magistrate can no longer take the person's other criminal history into consideration - the main consideration is now whether or not the conduct still constitutes an offence.

We supported the South Australian government to ensure these changes were easy to understand and access for our communities.

GENDER AFFIRMING HEALTHCARE

We want our transgender and gender diverse community, especially children and young people, to be able to access the vital gender affirming healthcare they need when they need it.

Throughout 2020, we repeatedly called on Minister for Health Stephen Wade MLC to increase funding for the Women's and Children's Hospital Gender Clinic.

After months of silence, we were pleased to see SA Health commence public consultation on a State-wide gender diversity model of care. We'll be keeping a close eye on the model as it develops.



Image: Hon Michelle Lensink, Minister for Human Services and SARAA Policy & Project Officer Kelly Vincent at SA Parliament

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Loopholes in our anti-discrimination laws currently allow religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ staff and clients.

In November 2020, the SA government released a draft Bill that would make it unlawful for these organisations to discriminate based on their religious beliefs when providing services.

We supported the intent of the Bill because we strongly support anti-discrimination laws that better protect LGBTIQ+ people. But we still need the laws to go further to protect all LGBTIQ+ South Australians, including teachers in religious schools.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

LGBTIQA+ people are vastly over represented in suicide statistics, especially those at the more vulnerable intersections of our communities including young people and trans and gender diverse people.

Consulting closely with LGBTIQA+ South Australians with lived experience of suicide and suicidal ideation, we fought to ensure our communities are a key cohort in the South Australian Suicide Prevention Bill and Suicide Prevention Plan.

We look forward to continuing this important work next year as the Plan is released and Bill progress to Parliament.

CONVERSION PRACTICES

Conversion practices such as “praying the gay away” have been repeatedly shown to be extremely damaging to the long-term health and happiness of LGBTIQA+ people. These harmful practices have no place in modern Australia.

We were pleased to see the South Australian Labor Party’s announcement that they’re drafting legislation to protect LGBTIQA+ South Australians against conversion practices, which received in principle support from Liberal Attorney-General Vickie Chapman and Greens MP Tammy Franks.

We’re working closely with our partners at Brave Network and Activate Church to ensure the voices of survivors of sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts are at the forefront of this important reform.



Image: SARAA staff and Board members at SARAA's International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia event

COMMUNITY

LGBTIQA+ COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

This year SARAA was funded by Department of Human Services SA (DHS) to establish an LGBTIQA+ Community Advisory Group to serve as a diverse but collective voice for the LGBTIQA+ community in public policy and decision-making. This builds upon the 2019 LGBTIQA+ Roundtable held by Minister for Human Services, Michelle Lensink MLC.

The LGBTIQA+ Community Advisory Group helps SARAA advocate by:

- sharing insight and advice regarding issues relevant to the LGBTIQA+ community
- providing feedback on existing and proposed legislation and policy that may affect the LGBTIQA+ community
- providing constructive feedback on the work of SARAA
- identifying opportunities where community groups, agencies, and organisations can have a shared agenda
- contributing to LGBTIQA+ research and issues.

The group's report was delivered to DHS in July 2021 and outlines key priorities for LGBTIQA+ inclusion, health and wellbeing in South Australia under 4 themes of:

- Represent and lead for our communities
- Advance our equality and safety under the law
- Include and respect us in the services we access
- Improve our health and wellbeing.

We look forward to progressing these important recommendations in 2021.



Image: members of SARAA's LGBTIQA+ Community Advisory Group

BETTER TOGETHER 2021

In June 2021, we were proud to sponsor over 75 LGBTIQ+ South Australians to attend The Equality Project's Better Together 2021 LGBTIQ+ conference, hosted in Adelaide.

The 2021 conference provided our communities with a key moment to gather and discuss issues that matter to us. It strengthened our skills and built our relationships as LGBTIQ+ advocates.

7 of our incredible SARAA volunteers presented at the conference on issues relating to First Nations people, lesbians, intersex people, sex workers and disability.

Kelly Vincent, SARAA Policy & Project Officer, presented at the conference on the learnings and outcomes from SARAA's Community Advisory Group project. Their session was highly commended, being rated in the top 10 sessions of the conference.



Images: SARAA staff and Board members at The Equality Project's Better Together conference

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA, INTERSEXPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

In 2021, SARAA was joined by members and allies of our LGBTIQ+ communities to recognise IDAHOBIT's theme 'Together: Resisting, Supporting, Healing!'.

We heard a powerful and stirring speech from Dominic Guerrero, a Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Italian person who's primary work has been as an Aboriginal Health Worker and Educator for 17 years, with a focus on sexual health.

Dominic spoke about the need for the LGBTIAQ+ community to tackle its own prejudices and blind spots by committing to decolonisation and greater inclusion of First Nations peoples, and others who can be marginalised as a result of ableism and fatphobia.

Heartwarming performances were also held by Phi Theodoros, AKA. Ukelele Dream Girl, and Nancy Bates, a Song Woman originating from Far Western NSW.

This event was opened by The Hon. Michelle Lensink, Minister for Human Services and supported by generous funding from the Department of Human Services, SA Government.



Image: Community members and performers at SARAA's International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia event

IAN PURCELL ORATION 2021

Each year as part of the annual Feast Festival, SARAA hosts the Ian Purcell Oration to commemorate one of South Australia's greatest LGBTIQ+ advocates, Ian Purcell AM - a founding member of SARAA and a prominent advocate for the LGBTIQ community in SA, known as the 'Godfather of the Gay Community'.

For 2020, Dr Nikki Sullivan, Manager of the History Trust of South Australia's Centre of Democracy and Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Humanities at the University of Adelaide, delivered an oration on the importance of protest for our community.

From the Stonewall Riots and first Pride Marches through to Marriage Equality rallies, protests have been a fundamental part of pursuing and protecting LGBTIQ+ rights for generations.

REBRAND AND WEBSITE REFRESH

This year saw a new look and feel for SARAA as an organisation. With generous support from The Parkestone Foundation we were able to update the overall look and feel of SARAA's brand, including our logo and website.

Big thanks to Digital Barn who worked to help us design a beautiful brand that helps us more effectively advocate for social and legal equality for LGBTIQ+ South Australians.



Image: Board Chair Varo showcasing SARAA's new brand at the Better Together conference



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We'd like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the people and organisations whose support has made our work possible.

OUR PARTNERS

Activate Church
Brave Network
COTA SA's Rainbow Hub
Catalyst Foundation
Department for Human Services SA
Digital Barn
ECH
Equality Australia
Feast Festival
LELAN
The Parkestone Foundation
Peter Hall Chartered Accountant
Queer Amnesty
Rights Resource Network
SACOSS
SAMESH
SHINE SA
SOGICE Survivors
Uniting Communities
Transcend
TransMasc SA
Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA)

LGBTIQA+ COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

Mariam Owrang	Em O'Loughlin
Zac Cannell	Jenny Scott
Heather Eckerman	Keenan Smith
Saoirse Ewart	Paul Stone
Alex/John Kelly	G Treloar
Manasvi Muthukrishnan	Sandie Zander

OUR TEAM



KELLY VINCENT
Policy & Project Officer
She/ her or they/ them



BERNIE BARRETT
Project Officer | She/ her



MATT MORRIS
Chair - outgoing | He/ him



VARO
Chair - incoming | They/ them



MICHAEL FORDHAM
Treasurer - outgoing | He/ him



JOSHUA BRADLEY
Treasurer - incoming | He/ him



LUCY HACKWORTH
Board member | She/ her



HOLLEY SKENE
Board member | She/ her



CJ HANNAFORD
Board member | She/ her



CHERRIE ROGERS
Board member | They/ them



JAE JAENSCH
Board member | They/ them



RAJINI VASANI
Board member | She/ her