

COUNSELLING SERVICES

COUNSELLORS – provide counselling services for clients on a range of issues including living with HIV, sexuality and coming out, grief and loss and safe sex. Volunteers must be qualified counsellors.

HEALTH EDUCATION

OUTREACH – conduct outreach programs using the internet and in sex on premises venues. Opportunities also exist to conduct outreach at special events, including Pride, Midsumma, etc.

PEER EDUCATION FACILITATORS – facilitate groups and workshops for gay men.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

NIGHT MANAGERS – staff the VAC/GMHC reception area in the evenings and provide general administrative support.

FUNDRAISING – assist with a range of activities and events including making red ribbons and working at events, including our annual Street Appeal, in the lead up to AIDS Awareness Week. Volunteers may also occasionally be required for other events.

RECEPTION – front of house customer service including answering the telephone, dealing with enquiries from a range of people and providing administrative support.



Contact Us

The Victorian AIDS Council
6 Claremont Street
South Yarra VIC 3141

Phone: (03) 9865 6700
Fax: (03) 9826 2700

www.vicaids.asn.au

Register to Volunteer

To register your interest contact the Coordinator Volunteer Program on:

Phone: (03) 9865 6700
Email: volunteer_coordinator@vicaids.asn.au

For more information about volunteering with VAC/GMHC, visit www.vicaids.asn.au/volunteer



Volunteer Information

A GUIDE TO
Volunteering for the
Victorian AIDS Council /
Gay Men's Health Centre

Who we are & What we do

The Victorian AIDS Council / Gay Men's Health Centre works to confront the continuing challenges of the HIV epidemic and, increasingly, the GLBTI community's broader health concerns.

VAC/GMHC was formed in 1983 as the central part of the Victorian community's response to HIV. We are a community organisation, funded primarily to deliver health promotion, care and support to those living with and those at risk of HIV and STIs.

From the beginning, we have worked in a way that has capitalised on interaction and interdependence with affected individuals and communities and our response to the continually changing epidemic has always been in partnership with them.

Our effectiveness and inspiration come from the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and paid staff, who are men and women of many backgrounds, and from the ongoing support of the communities we serve.

Volunteers make up 85% of our total workforce, with over 250 people. When you volunteer for the VAC/GMHC, you bring to our organisation valuable experience, knowledge and skills that enable us to achieve our organisational objectives.

Getting Started

Anyone interested in volunteering is required to attend a 1 hour information session.

Before commencing work at VAC/GMHC, volunteers are also required to undertake comprehensive training. Topics covered include:

- Introduction to VAC/GMHC
- Information about HIV and STIs
- Volunteer Position Descriptions
- The Role of a Volunteer
- VAC/GMHC Code of Conduct
- Providing Non-Judgmental Service
- Gender and Sexuality
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Stigma and Discrimination
- Effective Communication

This highly interactive training also includes guest speakers including speakers from the Positive Speakers Bureau.

There may also be a requirement to complete further training specific to individual Programs.

Volunteer Positions

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LOCAL TEAMS – social, emotional and practical support through local teams of volunteers working with clients in their area. Includes individual support and group activities.

DAYTIME DRIVERS – transport for clients to and from medical appointments. Drivers licence and car are required for this role. Travel costs are reimbursed.

POSITIVE LIVING CENTRE (PLC)

PANTRY – pick up supplies and stock shelves as part of this weekly service which provides clients with items to supplement their grocery shopping.

KITCHEN HANDS – food preparation, dishwashing and general kitchen duties for lunches (Tuesdays) and dinners (Thursdays).

PLC OPERATIONS – day-to-day activities. Light domestic duties around the centre.

PEER SUPPORT – facilitate groups for people living with HIV and provide mentoring. Volunteers must be HIV positive.

COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY – provide health care treatments that complement conventional medicine, including acupuncture, massage therapy, various forms of exercise, and meditation. Therapists must have an Australian recognised qualification.

HIV/AIDS LEGAL CENTRE – provide legal advice on issues relating to HIV and offer administrative support to legal staff at the centre. Volunteers must be currently practicing or studying law.

RECEPTION – front of house customer service including answering the telephone, dealing with enquiries from a range of people and providing administrative support.