



CALLOUT

Did you volunteer for a HIV/AIDS organisation in Australia during the 1980s and 1990s?

Historians at Macquarie University and the University of Adelaide wish to interview individuals who volunteered in HIV/AIDS-related capacities in the 1980s and early 1990s as part of a new nation-wide project.

Volunteers played a critical part in Australia's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemics but their contribution is yet to be fully acknowledged. This project is interested in the roles they played, the impact of their involvement on both individuals and HIV/AIDS organisations, and the place of these volunteers in Australian history.

Volunteers came from diverse backgrounds, including gay men and members of the lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, people living with HIV/AIDS, people living with Hepatitis C, people with hemophilia, intravenous drug users, sex workers, and members of the broader community.

They made a wide range of contributions from answering telephones, conducting community outreach, caring for and nursing people, providing administrative and business skills to AIDS organisations, publishing newsletters, serving on Boards as officials, and much more.

Project Leader Dr. Shirleene Robinson explains, "it is crucial we acknowledge the role that volunteers played in managing what threatened to become one of the biggest public health crises in this country in the twentieth century." She adds: "many of the men and women who served as volunteers were members of marginalised communities and their role has never properly been recognised."

The project is being conducted by Dr. Shirleene Robinson and Associate Professor Robert Reynolds at Macquarie University, and Associate Professor Paul Sendziuk at the University of Adelaide, with support from the Australian Research Council. The project has ethics approval from both universities.

To learn more about the project and express your interest in being interviewed, visit: www.hivaidsvolunteers.com.au

For further details, please contact Dr. Shirleene Robinson on 0412 308 174 or on shirleene.robinson@mq.edu.au

www.hivaidsvolunteers.com.au