

Open Doors Youth Service Inc.



Annual Report 2006/07



open Doors
YOUTH SERVICE INC

Philosophy Statement

Open Doors values and celebrate the legitimacy of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identities and the diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender culture and communities. We believe that all young people have the right to explore their gender and sexuality in safe and supportive environments. All aspects of Open Doors are underpinned by a genuine commitment to the principles of participation, access, equity and collaborative action.

Open Doors believe that the exploration and experience of sexuality and gender is diverse and life-long. Open Doors recognises that young people exploring lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues do so in a cultural environment that can disadvantage, discriminate against and marginalise them both directly and indirectly. Open Doors actively works toward creating environments and opportunities that empower young people to live with pride in their lives as valued and equal members of their communities.

Open Doors is based on an innovative and dynamic service delivery model. This service works with young people in accessible and culturally appropriate ways to reduce isolation, share information, develop support networks and enhance young peoples participation and connection to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender cultures and other communities. Open Doors works to enhance the capacity of communities to understand and support young peoples expressions of their gender and sexuality.

Open Doors advocates for the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender young people to access a variety of services and support appropriate to their needs. We work collaboratively with others to:

- a) meet the needs of young people, either directly or indirectly;
- b) identify gaps and enhance capacity to meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender young people.

Through participation in relevant networks and undertaking community education and training, we challenge negative stereotypes and misconceptions which hinder the access of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender young people to a full range of services and supports. Open Doors is committed to the development of sustainable networks across sectors.

Open Doors value the contribution opinion and experiences of each member and the practice of open and honest communication. We aim to achieve a shared understanding and direction through equal access to information and an active commitment to consensus where possible. We employ supportive processes that encourage learning and development for all members of the organisation. We are committed to the positive resolution of conflict to enable effective organisational growth and change.

In these ways, Open Doors aims to make a significant difference to the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender young people and their communities. We will operate ethically, transparently and accountably in all facets of our service. We acknowledge the challenge and responsibility of this opportunity and welcome the participation of all communities who share this commitment.

MINUTES

Meeting Commenced: 2.15pm

Attendance: Bobby Noone, Kathy Noble, Linda Petrie, Tony Robertson, Steve Griffiths, Joseph Nadler, Jennifer Crow, Leisa Brandon, Nerida Ackerman, Jeremy Parker, Susan Booth, Abbie Grant-Taylor, Michelle Ackerman, Kerry Shuttlewood, Ann Stewart, Susan Murray, Rodney Kent, Wendy Revell, Carole O'Neil, Russell Flynn, Janet Fitzgerald, Leanne Francis, Pauline Rushton, Scout Archer.

Apologies: As Read

Proxies: As Read

Previous Minutes: Proposed – Russell Flynn
Moved – Janet Fitzgerald
Seconded – Leanne Francis
Accepted

Chairperson's Report: Moved – Russell Flynn
Seconded – Kathy Noble
Accepted

Co-ordinator's Report: Moved – Russell Flynn
Seconded – Jeremy Parker
Accepted

Treasurer's Report: Moved – Pauline Rushton
Seconded – Russell Flynn
Accepted

Appointment of Auditor: It is proposed that Haywards Chartered Accountants be appointed for the next 2007/08 financial year
Proposed – Russell Flynn
Seconded – Linda Petrie
Accepted

Election of Committee Members:

All nominations were unopposed and declared elected

Pauline Rushton
Jacqui Pearce
Russell Flynn
Leanne Francis
Lisa Thorpy
Jeremy Parker
Scout Archer
Karen Leatherbarrow

The committee thanks all staff for their efforts throughout the year. Meeting Closed 2.27pm.

Committee Report

Russell Flynn
Chairperson



The AGM is the one grand opportunity for committees to be profound and stirring; to reflect on the achievements of the past year and great strides made toward addressing the immutable inequities in society; to rally the troops and excite members and supporters to take on the new and exciting challenges of the year ahead.

Well, Open Doors has never been one for the hyperbole...

When sitting down to write this report from the Committee to members and interested community supporters, my second as Chairperson, I am struck by the simplicity of our core messages:

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people who are vulnerable and their families, need support;
- Here at Open Doors we are working together to provide this support;
- We are appreciative of the support of the community and different levels of government for the work we do;
- Open Doors is looking to the future, understanding the issues facing young people and their families and identifying the unmet need for support, information and advocacy.

But just because these messages are simple, does not negate their importance in the lives of the young people and their families to whom Open Doors provides much needed support. The operations report from Lisa Thorpy is replete with the details of the activities undertaken by Open Doors as a service in the past year:

- Drop-in
- Individual, intensive support
- Family support
- Sector development
- Advocacy

all form the daily business of the organization, with the “Reconnect Programme” at the centre, as it has since the commencement of the service in 2001.

But there is more for us to do...

This year the Committee and staff have commenced a facilitated planning process to consider what, if any, other supports and services Open Doors may be able to provide into the future, and where these might be located. Cecilia Gore has been very helpful through this and we are looking forward to working with her further and completing our strategic planning at the beginning of the New Year. In this process, the Committee has wrestled with important planning and decision making issues which essentially amount to “Where to from here?”

It has always been the intention of Open Doors to deliver more than our “Reconnect” services. We know of course that younger people 13-18 years, who

are homeless or at risk of homelessness, are highly vulnerable. There are others outside of the age group though - 18-25 - who are also at risk and we are continuing to look at how we can engage and support this cohort. There have been some opportunities this year with partnerships with other groups to provide support to vulnerable people in this group and the Committee hopes that services can be further expanded where resources are available in addition to our "reconnect" funding.

We are also acutely aware of the continuing lack of support to regional, rural and remote young people and their families in Queensland. This year we have partnered with other groups and continued, despite our lack of resources, to provide some sector development through conferences, workshops and the provision of other resources for professionals. This area is one of serious concern for Open Doors and is high on our agenda in 2007 / 2008.

Rules, Policies, DGR!

The biggest area of policy review has been the continuing review and re-drafting of the Rules of Incorporation. The outcomes of this are before the membership today. We have been more explicit in our wording and engaged the advice of solicitors and other, similar organizations in order to effectively communicate our eligibility for "Deductible Gift Recipient" (DGR) status from the Australian Taxation Office.

We have reported in the past the rejection of previous applications on the basis that we have not demonstrated that Open Doors "alleviates suffering". We are confident this time that our Rules, if amended, will be congruent with those of similar organizations that HAVE received DGR status.

Having had recent Policy development and review and with the re-drafting of our Rules, in 2006 / 2007 the Committee hasn't prioritised general policy review, though some new areas in operational policy have been adopted. So from last year there has been no appreciable alteration to the governance or operational charters of the organization.

Support in Queer Places...

Something for which the Committee is appreciative is the increasing and solid support for the work of Open Doors from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and our allies in organizations like Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFlag), our colleagues in the youth and human services sectors and local queer businesses. The organization has never energetically pursued promotion or high visibility within the queer communities for a number of reasons, non-the-least being that the young people who need our support are generally not actively engaged there.

Because of our limited resources, we are pragmatic about directing them to promotion where young people aren't connected / are isolated, in the community at large. Having said this, our queer communities are increasingly aware of the work of our small association and its importance as an initiative of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to support vulnerable young people.

It is to the credit of our communities that the first significantly and recurrently funded queer organization in Queensland is Open Doors Youth Service.

I said recently that Open Doors does not accentuate the negative. It is important that we do not compound the vulnerabilities of the young people we support and their families by promoting poor images or stories. It is not helpful. But there is a serious side to our work and there is an increasing awareness of this in the queer communities.

The young people we support are often amongst the most vulnerable members of the community; facing issues of dis-engagement from school, family and community, homelessness, rejection, self-harm and suicide. It is important for us to acknowledge that though we maintain a positive vision of and for young people, these are the issues with which many grapple daily and over which they can prevail with the right, skilled support. ***The experiences of young people accessing our services are serious and real and if there was a proportional and similar experience in the community at large, it would be declared a national disgrace.***

In the past year, through connections and networks, Open Doors has received a ton of moral and practical support, however it has also been recipient of generous fund-raising initiatives. There have been a number of people whom have been behind each one of these – from organizers through to volunteers. I have to tell you, people are committed if they choose to cook a BBQ at 2.00am! We are, as an association, very grateful for this support and the awareness it shows of the importance of our work.

Minus 1 Plus 1...

Open Doors has always been a professional service, employing skilled and experienced human services professionals. In 2006 / 2007 one of our long-time staff, Nerida Ackerman, who was then Coordinator, resigned, moving with her family to New South Wales. Nerida was a sad loss, as a highly skilled and experienced worker she brought a wealth of knowledge to our organization. The Committee subsequently hired current Coordinator Lisa Thorpy for a time limited locum role and in August offered her an extension of her contract to February 2008. At this time we will again recruit the vacancy. Lisa has been a welcome and again, skilled addition to our team.

Thanks by Association...

AGM's are also the opportunity for Chairs to thanks their Committees. This year, like past years, we have had some great input from our members, each bringing their own interest, perspective and skills to the table. We have met 11 times for regular Committee Meetings since the last AGM with people attending as their availabilities have allowed.

Pauline, Jeremy, Jacqui, Scout, Karen, Leanne, and Meaghan all deserve our thanks as an association.

I also want to acknowledge the team, Lisa Thorpy, Leisa Brandon and Kerry Shuttlewood, who do the actual work of the association, along with those on student placement from time to time. They are dedicated and highly skilled as individuals and as a collective are a tremendous gift to our organization.

Rally to the Troops...

I'd love to excite you about the challenges and opportunities ahead – but the only person who can do that is you, as a member. Unlike other groups, like those for sports or hobbies, the work of our association is not focused on the membership, rather on a different and more vulnerable group. Unintentional, but very pleasant outcomes for us all however, are the connections and community we develop as a result of our own involvement with the organization.

We do not have a mortgage on good ideas and welcome members to come along and contribute. If you are unsure as to how to start, give the office or myself a call, or easier still, come along to a Committee Meeting. Within various activities through the year there are opportunities for members and allies to help, support, volunteer.

Committee Meetings are open meetings and we welcome the participation of everyone. They are the 2nd Tuesday of the Month, 5.30 to 7.30. Please be welcome.

Service Report

**Lisa Thorpy
Coordinator**

I am constantly amazed by the capacity of the broader Open Doors Team which includes young people and their families, workers and past workers and their partners, management committee and their partners and our friends and allies to produce the activity and outcomes that we do on a such a limited budget.

The following report gives you an idea of the broad range of activities provided by Open Doors and our fellow travellers over the past year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made this possible.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the young people and their families who have accessed the service and taught and inspired us through living their daily lives.

Young People and Families:

Between July 2006 and June 2007, (with the exclusion of public holiday's and Christmas closures) there have been 1027 visits to 'Drop in' on a Wednesday each week. Separate to Drop In, Open Doors provided individual support to over countless young people and their families and on average we provide scheduled one on one support to well over 15 young people each week.

I would also like acknowledge the work of Jenna Gray, Scout Archer, Jaycee Corbo and Michael Irwin who have represented Open Doors at a number of events in the past year including the Health in Difference Conference.

Volunteers and Management Committee

Secondly I would to thank like the Management Committee and members of the community who have volunteered in a range of roles over the year. Thanks to Sam Triglone, Mary Gennari, Clarissa Lester, Red Robyn, Karen Neilson, Sonia Jordan and Karen McCosker for all your support over the year, particularly at the Bake Off – speed raffling, Gay Day – gate attendants and setting up and closing down, Queens Ball – for that freezing cloakroom experience, the Pride Stall for all that selling and setting and up and closing down and for decorating, chaperoning and bumping down Night Vision. I would also like to thank Brian Christie from QuHIN and Jake Lewis for providing security at Night Vision and Sonia Jordon for her great poster.

Staff

As always Open Doors has been staffed over the past year by dedicated workers. However, the absolute privilege of working with young LGBT people at Open Doors comes at a financial cost to these workers. To date two unsuccessful attempts to gain PBI (Public Benevolent Institution) status from the Australian Tax Office has meant that workers at Open Doors are prepared to accept a salary package of up to \$15 000 less than their counterparts in similar services. Over the past year staff and management committee have worked towards rectifying this and hope to redress this inequality in 2007/08. Those occupying paid positions in the 2006/07 financial year were:

Coordinator - fulltime

- Meagan Probert, Open Doors' first Coordinator resigned in December 2006 after taking maternity leave

- Nerida Ackerman acted in the position from June 2006 to February 2007 when she also resigned
- Lisa Thorpy was appointed in the position in an acting capacity in March 2007.

Youth and Family Support Worker - fulltime

- Leisa Brandon was appointed in March 2006 in an acting capacity and appointed to the position in February 2007.
- Nerida Ackerman took leave from the position to act as Coordinator and resigned in February 2007.

Finance and Administration Worker - part-time

- Kerry Shuttlewood the Finance and Administration worker gave us another fabulous year of her dedicated organisational skills.

Project Workers

- Michelle Ackerman July-August 2006
- Natalie Scales April - June 2007
- Christy Nash June 2007

Cleaner

- Scout Archer

Additionally, Both Kerry and Leisa need to be acknowledged for continuing to provide a high quality service earlier this year when they were working without the support of a Coordinator.

Students

As in previous years Open Doors was a popular choice for placement of students undertaking courses of studies in the human services fields. We had more students apply than we were able to place in the organisation and I would also like to thank those students who were successful in winning a placement with Open Doors each of whom had impact on the service in their own ways. They were Natalie Scales and Vickie Strydom in 2006 and Christy Nash in 2007.

Snapshot of provided services.

Open Doors remains focused on our core business of provided realistic services to young people who identify as same sex attracted and/or transgender, or who are questioning their sexuality &/or gender identity. Over the last year we have continued to develop, implement and provide the following services to young people & their families:

- Individual Counselling and Support work with young people – we work with young people around issues related to sexuality, gender identity, mental health, sexual abuse/assault, violence, housing and homelessness, relationships, self harm, suicidal ideation, family relationships, school issues, employment and training, income support, drug and alcohol misuse, homophobia and heterosexism.
- Provision of food and transport money where identified
- Referral of young people to accommodation and the provision of support to ensure young people maintain their housing
- Support and group work for family members
- Personal Development Support Group with young people
- Christmas Party
- Beach trips
- Picnics
- Night Vision
- Pride Rally, March and Fair Day
- International Bisexual Day BBQ
- International Lesbian Day Luncheon

Pride Rally, March and Festival

The 2007 Pride March and Festival were very successful for Open Doors. In the weeks preceding the Pride Festival, Open Doors staff worked with young people to design t-shirts and a banner for their use on the day of the march and festival. Young people were actively engaged in designing, scanning, ironing and painting both items. This process allows young people to be actively involved prior and during the event. Approximately 100 people including young people and their families, workers, management committee and our supporters marched with Open Doors.

Open Doors provided a safe chill out space in our tent which was utilised by young people throughout the day. Open Doors staff made new contacts with young people who had not previously accessed the service. Follow up resulted in a number of young people accessing the service, and in particular, a cohort of young people from the south of Brisbane who travel up to Open Doors during the school holidays for Drop In and other events.

The Pride March and Festival provides LGBT young people with an opportunity to express themselves with pride and make connection with a community who is supportive of them. This is an essential part of young LGBT people feeling comfortable with their own identity and assisting with the development of a healthy sense of self.

Night Vision Dance Party

Night Vision was also a successful event this year. Approximately 60 young people were at Night Vision – which was a fantastic outcome. The drag queen performances by past service user, the lovely Ms Taylor, were very popular with the young people in attendance. A further outcome from the Night Vision dance party was the establishment of contact with young people that had not previously accessed Open Doors. This suggests that the modes of publicity were successful, far reaching and engaging.

Young people who attended on the night reported that they enjoyed the experience, made new friendship networks and would attend future Night Vision events. In addition, young people who attended Night Vision have been accessing Drop In and individual support as a result of this event.

Projects:

Through our work with young people, their families and key service providers within the community, Open Doors has identified the need for short term projects to address emerging issues and link young people with the community to reduce isolation and respond to the issues presented. Throughout the year Open Doors has worked collaboratively with key stakeholders to provide a range of projects including:

CAP Project

Through the CAP project we have progressed the reality of a social services HUB in the Valley area which will provide an opportunity to access more affordable rent options for community organisations such as Open Doors. The project's key stakeholders are ourselves, Brisbane Youth Service, QUIHN drug service, New Farm Neighbourhood Centre, Multicultural Community Centre and the Gay and Lesbian Welfare Association. Expected date of residency is currently mid 2009.

What We Don't See Training

In 2006/07 Open Doors undertook a major training project in conjunction with Queensland Association of Health Communities. QAHC funded the project costs, including one facilitator, travel and accommodation costs and resources. Open Doors provided a second facilitator, in Leisa

Brandon, and the expertise of our work with young people. A training DVD was developed and produced with the young people who attend the service.

368 people registered to attend the workshops, with all but two workshops completely booked out. A total of 306 participants participated in the 11 workshops conducted throughout the state.

35 participants attended the Cairns workshop, 22 in Townsville, 22 in Mackay, 31 in Rockhampton, 30 in Ipswich, 24 in Toowoomba, 30 in Maroochydore, 19 in Cleveland, 22 in Bundaberg, 35 in the first Brisbane workshop and 30 people in the second Brisbane workshop and 6 in Roma.

A full copy of the "What We Don't See Training" Report which was compiled by Hilary Knack of QAHC is available via the QAHC website.

Thank you to whole "What We Don't See Training" Project Group for project development, facilitation and administration. Nerida Ackerman, Michelle Ackerman, Hilary Knack, Leisa Brandon, Jan Thwaites and Blake Gibson

And particular thanks to the young people who participated in production of the DVD.

Training and Community Development Provided

In addition to the What We don't See training, Open Doors provided one off training and community development initiatives within south east Qld to directly address sustainable work processes/ practices with young people throughout South East QLD. Listed below are examples of the government and non government services, community organisations, and services that we have provided training events for:

- Yeronga TAFE Community Training Workshops - The workshops are for students studying certificate IV in Social Work and Youth Work ;
- Kangaroo Point TAFE Community Work students
- UQ Alliance Network;
- State Youth Support Coordinator Training – provided information and training for the YSC within the state;
- LGBTIQ Information Sharing Forum with QLD police- re violence towards LGBT people in the Valley;
- School Based Youth Health Nurse Cluster Training – Information and resources on Open Doors Youth Service and working with LGBT young people;
- Brisbane State High School – health and wellbeing expo;
- Child and Youth Mental Health Service –Statewide Worker in service program.
- QUT students; and
- USQ Toowoomba students

Conferences, Forums, Consultations and Networks

Open Doors recognises that collaboration and relationships with key stakeholders within the sector are vital to ensure services respond effectively to the issues our young people identify. Open Doors is committed to working proactively within the community and the sector to ensure transparent processes, as well as ensuring young LGBT peoples issues remain a focal point for government and non-government services.

Conference and Forums

- ***Health in Difference Conference***

Leisa Brandon and Lisa Thorpy presented two papers at the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender health conference held in Brisbane. This is a national conference and is based in different states.

- Co-presentation with QAHC regarding the experience and outcomes of the “What We Don’t See Training”.
- Presentation regarding the Open Doors Drop In program, the “Coming Out About Coming In” Report and a young people’s panel.

The conference provided us with an opportunity to dialogue with our equivalent services from interstate to explore collaborative projects and share resources.

- **QLD Alliance – Altering States Creating Futures Conference**

Leisa Brandon presented a paper at this statewide conference for mental health:-
Predominant issues, risk and protective factors relating to the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender young people

- **Reconnect Good Practice Forum**

Consultations

- 2007 Consultative Forum: Queensland HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2005-2011;
- 2007 National Enquiry into Youth Homelessness .
- LIFE (Life is For Everyone) Community Consultation regarding their “handbook” for suicide prevention.

Networks

- Anti Discrimination Commission Youth Advisory and LGBT Advisory committees;
- Reconnect regional network;
- Organising committee, Health in Difference conference;
- CAP project;
- Redback Housing – Kerry is on their management committee; and
- Queensland Youth Housing Network.

Action Research

As part of our funding agreement Open Doors undertakes an Action Research process every year. In 2006/07 we undertook two Action Research activities, the first relating to the “What We Don’t See Training” and the second relating to data collection.

Research Question No 1

What We Don’t See Training

What would it take to increase the knowledge and confidence levels of government and non-government workers in relation to working with young people who are exploring their sexuality and / or gender identity or identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and / or transgender?

Research around the training found the following

Reasons for attending the training

- The top three reasons that participants indicated for wanting to attend training were:-
 1. Increase their knowledge of sexuality and gender identity issues;
 2. have had or have clients with sexuality issues;
 3. wanted a greater understanding of the impact of sexuality and gender identity of the health and wellbeing of LGBT young people.

Frequency of LGBT clients

- 14% of participants identified that they worked with LGBT young people on a daily basis,
- 22% identified that they worked with LGBT young people on a weekly basis,
- 19% indicated they worked with LGBT young people on a monthly basis,
- 19% considered that they worked with LGBT young people a couple of times a year, and
- 26% were not sure how often they worked with LGBT young people.

Level of content in the training and participants expectations of the workshop

- 9% of participants indicated that the content had been “too basic”,
- 1% indicated that it was “too advanced”, and
- 90% indicated that the content level was “just right”.
- 89% of participants considered that their expectations were “very well” to “well met”. 12% considered their expectations had been “moderately well met”, and
- only 1% of participants considering that the workshop had “poorly met” their expectations.

Research Question No 2

Data Collection

What do we need to be aware of, and what is the current status, of health and wellbeing for LGBT young people in Queensland and how does this impact on their ability to maintain stable and engaged living situations?

In direct line with the recommendations from the 2005/06 Report “Coming Out About Coming In” Open Doors developed an LGB, 20 years and under, state wide questionnaire. This questionnaire was extensive and asked young people questions around; health, school, sex and sexuality, housing, emotional health, drugs and mental health. It was developed to investigate young people’s experiences of homophobia, internal homophobia, self harm and suicide and included a section to investigate young people’s experience of school. The questionnaire ran for 10 months and 180 responses were received of which 164 could be used. This data is being collated in 2007/08.

Treasurer's Report

Pauline Rushton
Treasurer

For the year ended 30 June 2007

The financial year ending 30 June 2007 resulted in a net surplus for the year of \$17,304.21. The financial statements have been audited by Haywards, Chartered Accountants, who have formed the opinion that the financial report presents fairly the financial position of Open Doors Youth Service Inc. and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

Income

Total income for the year was \$225,423.55. Reconnect Program funding for the year was \$191,185.74 which was a slight increase of \$818.58 or approximately 0.43% from the previous financial year. Reconnect again provided us with a One-Off Grant of \$4,000.00, this year for the purpose of enhancing the engagement of young people and families in the Reconnect Program by developing promotional and marketing exercises to promote and increase awareness of the service. The receipt of this grant was very timely as it was used to update and reprint "The Only Way Out Is In", a resource booklet produced by Open Doors, which is much in demand.

The most significant increase in income this year came from Donations. We received \$24,164.40 which was an increase of \$20,627.77 from last year. These donations have enabled Open Doors to continue to supplement the Reconnect program and our sincere thanks must go to all the members of the LGBT community who have supported us so generously this year. Please refer to the attached List of Donors for further details. We also received \$500.00 from Lesbians Incorporated, a small community group based in NSW, for the purpose of organising an event for International Lesbian Day 2006. Other minor income was received from Education and Training, Counselling Fees and Bank Interest. We also earned net income of \$1,025.00 from the sale of rainbow bracelets at Pride Fair Day 2007.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was \$208,119.34 which was a decrease of \$38,805.46 from last financial year. The majority of this saving was in Wages & Salaries which decreased by \$31,581.51 or approximately 21%. This was due to the fact that we did not fill the Sector Development position this financial year and was also due to the temporary vacancy of the Coordinator position. You will note that we did not receive the same number of smaller grants as last year, consequently our expenses have reduced accordingly.

There were some unavoidable increases in administration costs namely Advertising & Promotion, Computer Supplies & Support, Consultants, Motor Vehicle and Telephone, but overall, expenses have been carefully monitored and this has enabled us to achieve a surplus this financial year.

2007/2008 Financial Year

The projected Reconnect Program budget for the next financial year indicates that we can expect a deficit in the vicinity of \$8,000.00 (excluding Depreciation). We are facing an increase in Rent of approximately \$3,500.00 and Wages & Salaries and On Costs will increase due to the latest AIRC

decision. Our aim, once again, is to fundraise as much as possible to cover the anticipated deficit and therefore, your ongoing support is vital and greatly appreciated.

List of Donations:

Big Gay Day - LHG Pty Ltd - The Wickham Hotel;
- Klub Kruise Pty Ltd; (total \$13,747.00)

Sportsman Hotel Bake Off - Q News Pty Ltd;
- Outrayjus Pty Ltd;
- Klub Kruise Pty Ltd; and
- Corpco Pty Ltd; (total \$5,417.50)

Roger Sawkins on behalf of the late Ron Kitchen (\$2,000.00);

Roger Sawkins and Gary Yong Gee (\$1,000.00);

Queens Ball - Corpco No 17 Pty Ltd
- The Sportsman Hotel; (total \$720.00)

Alicia Bennett and Kim Blinco (Poets for Pride);

Brisbane Unitarian Universalist Fellowship;

Mark Picone;

Gay Dad's Group;

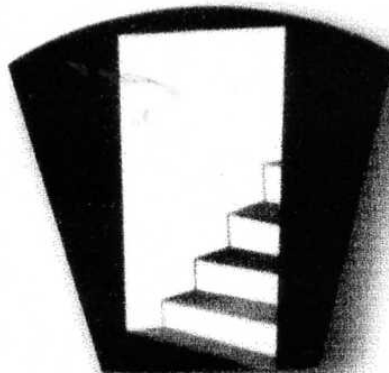
Sabrina Allen (Outside The Lines) – supplying Rainbow Bracelets at cost;

All the members of the LGBT community who supported Open Doors by making donations and buying raffle tickets at various events throughout the year.

OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007



Haywards
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

1.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Open Doors Youth Service Inc. which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2007, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

2.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Open Doors Youth Service Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Open Doors Youth Service Inc. as of 30 June 2007 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.


HAYWARDS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

PETER GESCH - PARTNER

3 SEPTEMBER 2007
BRISBANE

3.

OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 4 to 9:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Open Doors Youth Service Inc. as at 30 June 2007 and its performance for the year ended of that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Open Doors Youth Service Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President

Chair person

Treasurer

Dated this 3rd day of September 2007.

4.

OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
Balance at 1 July 2006	23028.97	48587.14
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	17304.21	(25558.17)
<u>TOTAL ACCUMULATE FUNDS</u>	<u>\$40333.18</u>	<u>\$23028.97</u>
Represented by:		
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Cash at Bank and On Hand (Note 2)	38092.88	23244.39
Debtors & Prepayments (Note 3)	4862.49	4238.25
	<u>42955.37</u>	<u>27482.64</u>
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		
Furniture & Equipment (Note 4)	23426.57	32312.57
	<u>66381.94</u>	<u>59795.21</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Trade Creditors (Note 5)	13804.59	13166.44
Grants Received & Unexpended (Note 6)	-	500.00
Provisions (Note 7)	12244.17	23099.80
	<u>26048.76</u>	<u>36766.24</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$40333.18</u>	<u>\$23028.97</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

5.

OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs		
- Reconnect Program Funding	191185.74	190367.16
Reconnect One-Off	4000.00	4000.00
- One-Off	-	124.67
- AR Funding	-	2911.73
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	195185.74	197403.56
Brisbane City Council	-	10000.00
Donations	24164.40	3536.63
Education and Training Income	790.35	1181.46
Interest Income	2909.86	3251.97
Membership	50.00	77.00
Sundry Income	1823.20	2490.99
Department of Communities	-	1500.00
Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund	-	1925.02
Lesbians Incorporated	500.00	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	225423.55	221366.63
<u>LESS EXPENSES</u>		
Total Expenses (Schedule Attached)	208119.34	246924.80
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>NET SURPLUS FOR YEAR</u>	<u>\$17304.21</u>	<u>\$(25558.17)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

6.

OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.
SCHEDULE TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Advertising & Promotion	2747.04	685.77
AR Funding Expenses	-	2911.73
Audit Fees	1500.00	1400.00
Bank Charges	314.84	276.17
Brisbane City Council Grants	-	10000.00
Cleaning	858.70	529.45
Computer Supplies & Support	2338.85	1184.08
Conferences	670.91	-
Consultants	1166.94	50.00
Depreciation	8886.00	9397.00
Electricity	2122.87	2172.76
Fees	-	475.15
Insurance	12989.93	12834.50
Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund	-	1925.02
Legal Fees	37.00	912.00
Lesbians Incorporated Expenses	500.00	-
Meeting Expenses	130.89	109.71
Memberships	530.00	340.00
Motor Vehicle	1294.55	699.33
National Youth Week Grant	-	1500.00
One-off Expenses	4000.00	1233.76
Postage, Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	2364.31	1182.22
Rent	23370.00	22475.00
Repairs & Maintenance	423.63	415.89
Resources	1236.37	848.64
Security	468.48	512.36
Sundry Expenses	1174.61	711.07
Superannuation	11217.87	12573.95
Supervision	680.00	1410.00
Support Activities	1491.40	882.80
Telephone	5316.43	4407.21
Training	-	1000.00
Wages & Salaries	120287.72	151869.23
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$208119.34</u>	<u>\$246924.80</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirement of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112 Income Taxes
AASB 1031 Materiality
AASB 110 Events After Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The report is also prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

(a) Fixed Assets - Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on all Fixed Assets on the prime cost method and is brought to account over the estimated economic lives of all Assets.

(b) Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the organisation's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within in year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their nominal amount. Other employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those entitlements.

Contributions are made by the association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

(c) Income Tax

The Association is exempted from tax under section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(d) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures, where necessary, have been reclassified in order to comply with the presentation adopted in the figures reported for the 2007 financial year.

8.

OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
2. CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND		
Cash on Hand	100.00	100.00
Cheque Account	648.46	1460.72
Cash Management Account	505.93	7329.98
Cash Management Account	30336.62	8161.43
Term Investment	6501.87	6192.26
	\$38092.88	\$23244.39
3. DEBTORS & PREPAYMENTS		
Access Arts Inc.	600.00	-
Australian Taxation Office – GST	1294.00	1084.00
Department of Family & Community Services	30.00	-
Motor Vehicle Expenses	585.20	609.95
Rent	1960.00	1885.00
Security	120.45	117.12
Telephone	272.84	542.18
	\$4862.49	\$4238.25
4. FIXED ASSETS		
Furniture & Equipment - at Cost	42296.48	42296.48
Less Accumulated Depreciation	32424.00	28179.00
	9872.48	14117.48
Motor Vehicle – at Cost	23205.09	23205.09
Less Accumulated Depreciation	9651.00	5010.00
	13554.09	18195.09
	\$23426.57	\$32312.57

9.

OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
5. TRADE CREDITORS		
Audit	1500.00	1400.00
Australian Taxation Office – PAYG	10244.00	10630.00
BCC – Active & Healthy Grant	-	61.07
Computer Expenses	-	317.27
Consultant	-	200.00
Electricity	83.78	99.59
Motor Vehicle	55.40	-
Reconnect AR Expenses	-	410.07
Stationery	238.01	17.08
Sundry Expenses	-	31.36
Superannuation	1028.04	-
Supervision	440.00	-
Telephone	155.16	-
Union Fees	60.20	-
	<u>\$13804.59</u>	<u>\$13166.44</u>
6. GRANT INCOME RECEIVED & UNEXPENDED		
Lesbians Incorporated	-	500.00
	<u>NIL</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
7. PROVISIONS		
Provision for Annual Leave	7170.68	8700.60
Provision for Long Service Leave	4524.25	13732.77
Provision for Superannuation	549.24	666.43
	<u>\$12244.17</u>	<u>\$23099.80</u>
8. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION		
Apart from the remuneration disclosed the auditors received no other benefits.		

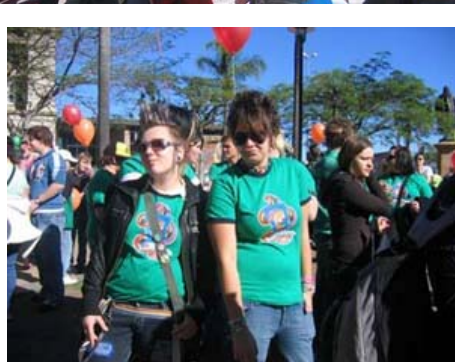
We'd like to Thank:

- ★ All of the young people that access our service – you are the reason we are here and the inspiration in our lives
- ★ The young people who are brave enough to share their stories so other people can learn from them at training, through completing surveys and participating in forums
- ★ All of the members of the Management Committee – for your ongoing support of our work and your dedication to and passion for the organisation
- ★ Department of Families and Indigenous Affairs – for our funding
- ★ Abbie Grant-Taylor – for being a supportive FACIA STO
- ★ All of the service providers that have accessed our training and community education – for trusting us to give you support and information to be better equipped in working with young people
- ★ All of the service providers that have provided us with support in our work
- ★ Brisbane Pride Festival Inc. – for ensuring young people had another visible and included presence in this years Pride Festival and for waiving the admission fee to this years festival
- ★ The LGBT community for their kind donations
- ★ Kathy Noble – for her ongoing support of our organisation
- ★ Linda Petrie – for her ongoing support of our organisation
- ★ To all of those who have volunteered their energy and time over the past year to make Open Doors what it is

Night Vision 2007



PRIDE 2007



Random Fun 2007

