



Report

on the

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) Health and Wellbeing Forum

held on 1 November 2004

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Background

In October 2003, the ACT Minister for Health sought advice on whether an advisory body on gay and lesbian health might be appropriate for the ACT.

Following consultation with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) communities it was agreed that a consultative forum should be held.

On 1 November 2004 a forum to discuss GLBTI health and wellbeing in the ACT was held at the National Museum of Australia. The forum was hosted jointly by ACT Health and the AIDS Action Council of the ACT (AACACT).

The forum was promoted via:

- the AACACT website;
- the AACACT ACTQUEER and Jellybabies Club email lists;
- the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Email List Server administrated by ACT Health;
- an ACT Health all staff email; and
- the ACT Health Promotion website.

A copy of a flyer used to promote the forum is at [Attachment A](#).

Attendance at the forum was open to members of the GLBTI community, health care professionals and interested persons although numbers were limited to 177 due to the size of the venue.

The forum was opened by the Minister for Health and facilitated by Ms Julie McCrossin. There were just under 170 participants in attendance with representation from the target communities, the health sector, various government and non-government agencies and members of the Australian Federal Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) network. There were also about 60 other people on a waiting list for any tickets that might become available.

Ms McCrossin was supported by a panel of eight – Llewellyn Reynders, Dr Clare Willington, Peta Cox, Joo-Inn Chew, Stephen Lawton, Andrew Barr, Peter Hyndal and Adam Kolberg. All of the panel members either represented the GLBTI community or had an interest in GLBTI health and wellbeing in a social or professional context. A copy of the agenda that was provided to Ms McCrossin and the panel members is at provided at [Attachment B](#).

With the encouragement of Ms McCrossin and the panel, participants contributed to the discussion of the many issues that were raised on the night.

Summary of Issues

The main issues raised at the forum include:

- insufficient awareness of, and sensitivity to, GLBTI issues amongst a range of health care and other professionals;
- experiences of homophobia and discrimination both generally and in particular with reference to health care services;
- difficulties for young people 'coming out' within the school system and the lack of support for parents and families;

- particular needs of transgender people;
- the need for 'healthy' GLBTI communities to ensure healthy individuals;
- an appreciation of recent ACT law reform;
- the need for a formal voluntary means of registering and legitimising same-sex relations¹;
- lack of ACT specific GLBTI data; and
- the need for a 'whole of government' approach to the issues.

Positive achievements noted at the forum

Participants noted that there have already been some positive measures to help with GLBTI issues. This included the work done by the AACACT, Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT and the Canberra Sexual Health Centre. In particular the AACACT's initiative at setting up the Qnet website² for young people was applauded.

Issues around young people 'coming out' is being spoken of more in schools and colleges and participants noted the importance of this, particularly as it may help address the sense of isolation experienced by some young GLBTI people.

There was also considerable appreciation of the GLLO network within Canberra Community Policing. GLLOs are not necessarily gay or lesbian themselves; they have been trained to deal sensitively with GLBTI issues and are 'safe' contacts for people who require assistance from the police. Forum participants suggested that a similar concept could be extended to ACT Health, the ACT Department of Education and Training and other appropriate departments.

The ACT Government was also praised for removing discriminatory references from ACT legislation. Participants also noted that some issues relating to domestic partnerships had been addressed in the ACT *Domestic Relationships Act 1994*.

Other Concerns

Other areas of concern were also raised during the forum although the limited time available on the night precluded in depth discussion of these issues.

- Suicide prevention – it was suggested that suicide rates among young GLBTI are of concern. Participants recommended that information and education on GLBTI issues be included in schools. Participants also agreed that national conferences on queer health should include suicide prevention and sexuality education, and that suicide prevention conferences should recognise the suicide risk within the GLBTI community.
- Bisexual community – it was recognised that this group seems to be the least visible of the GLBTI community and that education and information on bisexuality is needed.

¹ It is noted that there has been progress on the issue of recognising same sex marriages by way of the August 2005 *Recognition of Same Sex Relationship in the ACT* discussion paper released by the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

² See <http://qnet.org.au/>.

- Addiction – it was suggested that approximately 37% of the GLBTI community has some form of addiction. Information on the specific services available for this group would be of assistance.

Participants agreed that these important issues should be highlighted for future discussions.

Suggestions for further action

Participants called for ACT legislation to recognise an individual's change of gender when (surgical) gender reassignment has not occurred. Some saw gender reassignment surgery as surgical mutilation and stated they would like ACT legislation to be amended so that change of gender is legally recognised in the absence of surgery.

The importance of recognition of long term same sex relationships was also raised. Participants stated that their partners should be able to:

- be included in decision making in medical emergencies;
- provide health care consent; and
- provide guardianship where powers of attorney may not have been prepared.

Participants called for an Advisory Council or Central Agency (possibly in the Chief Minister's Department) to be established to provide coordinated educative policies so that people are provided with a suitable skills base to deal sensitively and respectfully with GLBTI persons and issues, similar to the GLLO network. It was suggested that these policies be aimed at ACT Government staff, health care workers, front-line community workers, and other people who deal with GLBTI matters.

It was also suggested that more outreach activities are conducted at places where young people congregate, for example shopping centres and skate parks, to promote safe sex education. Some participants felt that there is still a lot of ignorance among young people and that outreach for this group was important.

Feedback Forms

Feedback forms were distributed on the night with an excellent return rate of almost 70%. The information from the feedback forms provided a valuable insight into who attended the forum, their motivation for doing so, their opinions on the forum, suggestions for improvement and most importantly issues they felt required particular emphasis. A copy of the feedback form is provided at [Attachment C](#) and a summary of participants responses is at [Attachment D](#).

Almost all of the participants indicated that their main motivation for attending the forum was to gather information. The forum was seen as an opportunity for work related learning, personal learning and a way to "...learn more about the issues affecting this part of the community".

A number of participants also suggested that another forum be held and that a larger venue would allow more people to attend.

Other ideas for gathering information from people who did not attend the forum included providing online survey facilities on the ACT Health website and the possibility of gathering information on ACT Health forms by asking "Do you identify as part of the GLBTI community".

The feedback forms also provided participants with an opportunity to list other issues of concern within the health sector that were not discussed during the forum. The issues raised included:

- aged care;
- mental health;
- having Health Liaison Officers (similar to the GLLOs); and
- education and training within the sector (for example to increase GP and other health care providers' awareness).

In addition about fifty people provided contact details so they could be sent updates and information on future forums.

List of Attachments

Attachment A – flyer used to promote the forum

Attachment B – forum Agenda provided to Ms McCrossin and panel members

Attachment C – feedback form distributed to participants

Attachment D – summary of feedback form responses

**ACT Health and the AIDS Action Council of the ACT
invite you to a night of serious fun and frivolity
as we ask the big questions at ...**

AN EVENING WITH JULIE McCROSSIN



**A discussion about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex
health and wellbeing in the ACT.**

**MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER
7.30 PM VISIONS THEATRE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA**

**FREE
TICKET REQUIRED FOR ENTRY - FOR BOOKINGS CALL THE AAC ON 6257 2855**



A forum hosted by ACT Health and the
AIDS Action Council of the ACT.

GLBTI FORUM

1 November 2004 (7.30 – 9.30 pm)
Visions Theatre
National Museum of Australia

MC: Julie McCrossin (Life Matters, ABC Radio)

1. Key Objective

Respond to Minister's request for a roundtable:

- identifying GLBTI health and wellbeing concerns in the broadest sense;
- considering how well existing services meet GLBTI needs; and
- gathering suggestions for the improvement of GLBTI health and wellbeing.

2. Aims of Forum

1. Meet Key Objective (above)
2. Identify the key current concerns about the health and wellbeing of people from diverse gender and sexuality backgrounds in the ACT.
3. Summarise recent developments, particularly law reform, and discuss the outcomes so far.
4. Identify current services and initiatives that are working well or showing promise (in the ACT and elsewhere).
5. Discuss recommendations for future action.
6. Enjoy a lively panel discussion with time for questions, comments and suggestions from the audience.

3. Trigger Questions

Panel members will be asked to consider in advance the following trigger questions to discussion which will be explored as a means to achieving the above aims (*not necessarily in this order*).

1. In your experience, what are the two or three most positive developments in health or community services for people in the ACT with diverse gender and sexuality backgrounds?
Please give brief, specific examples to illustrate your points.
2. Are there any law reforms or policy changes in the government, non-government and private sectors that you think have made a positive difference?
Please give brief examples to illustrate your view.

3. What are the one or two most important changes we still need to achieve in the ACT?
Please focus on specific areas of concern that you think need urgent attention. Precisely, who needs to do what to achieve these changes?
4. Overall, how effectively are we meeting the health and wellbeing needs of people from diverse gender and sexuality backgrounds in the ACT? How would you rate current health and wellbeing services on a scale of 1 to 10?
5. Tonight is an initial step. What further steps should be used to seek the views about services for people with diverse gender and sexuality backgrounds?
6. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make?

Key points recorded on whiteboard.


4. Agenda

Subject to indication from Minister re attendance and any opening remarks

6.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Schamburg, Daniel Coase set up • Sound/lighting level tests • Linda Johnson, Kay Blemings roving microphone for audience comments 	
6.45		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Members arrive, meet Julie 	
7.15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors Open • Panel Members and Julie in auditorium (interaction with audience as arrive) 	
7.30 – 7.35	(5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome 	Department
7.35 – 7.40	(5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and Purpose of Forum * • Introduction of Julie McCrossin 	Department
7.40-7.50	(10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of Agenda • Agreement to audio-taping (why) • Introduces Panel Members 	Julie McCrossin
7.50-9.20	(90)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion (with audience contribution) of trigger questions 	Julie McCrossin Panel members Audience
9.20-9.30	(10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary (draw attention to feedback/evaluation form) • Wrap Up • Where to from here * 	Julie McCrossin
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to panel, audience, AIDS Action Council and Julie. 	Department

** emphasising that this is a first step and has been organised to gather feedback on the issues; commitment to writing up the main points for distribution.*

Pat Brant engaged to do write-up.

	<h2>FEEDBACK FORM</h2> <h3>AN EVENING WITH JULIE MCROSSIN</h3> <p>A Discussion about GLBTI Health and Wellbeing Issues in the ACT</p>
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We would appreciate your assistance in providing feedback on this evening's discussion. If there is insufficient space for your comments, please continue over the page.

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1. What was your particular interest in attending this forum?

 2. To what extent did the forum meet your expectations?

 3. Do you have any suggestions to improve the organisation and/or content of such a consultative forum in the future?

 4. Do you have any suggestions as to how ACT Health might gather additional information from people who did not or were not able to attend the forum?

 5. Please provide any additional comments you wish to make about GLBTI health and wellbeing issues:
 - That you did not feel were raised in the forum:

 - That you particularly want to emphasise:

Thank you for providing your feedback.

Optional:

If you wish to be on a contact list for future discussion of these issues, please provide whatever contact details you wish to provide. **All details will be treated as confidential.**

Name:	Mailing Address:
	E-mail:

**GLBTI FORUM – 1 NOVEMBER 2004
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA
SUMMARY OF AUDIENCE FEEDBACK FORMS**

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Julie McCrossin! – issues on lesbian health	Good – opportunity to find out existing services	More accessible, more often, more specific (e.g. youth)			GP training & awareness
Just to learn	Informative		Questionnaires, surveys at GLBTI events	non-English speaking communities	
Health care re HIV/gay men's issues	Health care/HIV/gay men's issues	More direct questions – areas to talk over limited – greater detail over a smaller area	Get its information OUT THERE, make sure all sorts of information covered in as many areas/situations as possible. Questionnaires and/or pamphlets etc in every government-associated area/office	Ageing population, ongoing chronic diseases, e.g. HIV	
As drug & alcohol nurse, interested to increase my knowledge	Exceeded expectations		Survey health care workers	Definitions of topics	
My own sexuality & working in health			Anonymous questionnaire in A&E waiting room, sound theatre, family planning, GP waiting rooms		Education in schools & Health
Young Queer person	Enjoyable, made me consider new things				Support for capacity building services – Gilberts Friends, Bit Bent, qnet, etc
Work as nurse in sexual health clinic	Increased awareness of issues around complexities of being 'queer' GLBTI	Bigger venue so more could attend			
Educate myself	Now know more	Make it larger			
Further enlightenment	Very well	More of the same	Media follow-up & ask for responses by various means		

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
			Send flyer/questionnaire to online groups/chat lines, etc		Services in the community who could be making of an impact whose funding is insufficient, e.g. women's health, sexual health, family planning
More education for myself – health pro	Excellent – good start	Great – bigger venue, more participants	Forum – focus group – start with participants of evening		Youth, parents
		Hard to tell if this was about 'health' or 'legalities' though they go hand in hand – thought legal was covered	Downloadable questionnaire/interactive web page & invite participation via ACT Queer, etc		Drug & alcohol addiction issues
Gay issues	Yes				
	Great			Parents & children need support – child's health & wellbeing	Treat gay issues as whole family issues – that families deal with together
To find out what's happening on gay issues/ what more can we do	Got to see lots of people	Need more politicians on the panel, DOCS, police officer	Media	More information in the public with easy access	
Gaining information	Not sure	More time			
Employed in drug/alcohol services	Insight into the issues		Surveys in public places	Disability field – gay clients & multicultural	
Connecting with community about what's working & what's not in a place that's overall pretty progressive	Greatly – wanted more time though	Longer time, ask for participant preparation in advance, but it was really good – high profile facilitator good idea	Ask attendees to open conversation with others, provide easy feedback		
To be educated more on the issues that GLBTI people face on a day to day basis	Very informing.	Larger venue available to straight people as well	Hold another forum, same issue		Education at all levels
Information about health issues	Well	Use panel a bit more	qnet, organisations	Children – touched on, not explored	

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
General interest re lesbian issues & issues for broader Queer community	Really enjoyed, but would suggest a day's forum would be a lot more useful	More time for forum	From ACT Queer		
Julie McCrossin	Exceeded				
Julie McCrossin	It didn't – underwhelming	Specifically directed questions, less general			
Work in sexual health centre	Great open discussion		qnet	Building sexual health into school curriculum	Sexual health sector is absolutely committed to this group of people
Sexual health in the community	Exceeded	Yes, regular forum			
Julie McCrossin & knowing how much work went into it	Bigger & better than expected		Call for public submissions – more people need to tell their stories		
To be involved in community consultation	Really interesting & informative		Surveys in which people can be anonymous	Issue of information for parents of lesbians – (more information already available for/on gay men than lesbians)	
Seeing Julie McCrossin! & gathering information	Got to see Julie McCrossin!	More door prizes, more audience input	Public forum		
To learn	Need more focus groups	Smaller focus groups	Hold more forums	Sexual needs for aged health	GLBTI aged health
Free ticket	Great	Longer time frame	Gather information across health centres on informal basis (University researchers)	Intersex – what is it?	Open discussion great
Health care worker	Well	Good that the facilitator was so good as it kept the forum going and interest was held			
Education – learn more about members of my community	Fairly well		Make it a community issue	Sexual issues – learn in schools	
Have worked in sexual health centre	Interesting	More forums	Conduct surveys		

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Opportunity to raise my own awareness of health issues in my own community	Excellent as an initial event, but too many issues to be covered in the time				
Support my partner	Greatly exceeded expectations	Prolong time – no point rushing when there are still important/vital ideas around	Focus group – poll		Partnership status/recognition
As health worker, interested to see how GLBTI issues were being addressed by the government sector	Riveting		Collect information on ACT Health forms in the same way we do about ATSI identification – difficult, but maybe “ <i>Do you identify as part of GLBTI community?</i> ”		
To learn about the issues faced by the queer community of Canberra	Brilliant!	Keep on meeting!	Survey?	Parenting issues/ legal issues around custody	
Education	Totally	Fine as it was	Internet, email, ACT Queer, link to a feedback page	Re-emphasise issues of higher rates of drug & alcohol abuse	
Lesbian health & addiction issues	Not very much	Smaller panel			
Lesbian health & law reform	Good fun but too general				
Attend as a listener – to hear what the ‘community’ was seeing as problematic	Very much so	Public availability of the transcript	Internet feedback access	More needs to be said/looked at sex work, substance abuse & prison sex	
Knowledge, interest & understanding	Surpassed expectations	Televised forum, radio broadcast	Survey, radio		
Julie McCrossin	Good	Someone to draw together history of achievements to date and possible future initiatives to be pursued	Gay & Lesbian liaison officers in education (schools) system & hospitals	Strengthen anti-discrimination initiatives within health/education systems & media representation	Positive public gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, intersex role models

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Keen to hear what initiatives on GLBTI wellbeing are working well in ACT	Powerful & refreshing that such a forum could be held in ACT. Also very supportive to see government and political representation at forum		Call for public submissions regarding issues of concern to the GLBTI community	GLBTI & addiction was mentioned briefly, but needs more investigation	Wellbeing for GLBTI community. Feeling that GLBTI community is both accepted and supported in ACT. Healthy societies support diversity
Mental health & addiction services	Limited	Mainstream services unable to meet the needs of GLBTI people	Need to clearly identify health issues	Interest HIV was barely mentioned	
General interest in how it would be run	Extremely good	There is no real need to preach to the converted	Run others and online surveys that can be anonymous		Invisibility really needs to be addressed
To become aware of health issues in ACT for lesbians in particular	Excellent – people shared far more than I expected & Julie McCrossin was phenomenal	Very well done	Survey in <i>The Canberra Times</i>		
To hear community issues	Covered most issues – good to have ‘experts’ available		Online surveys, etc		Further development of a government advisory forum
Learn about the many different issues	To a high extent		Through the internet		
To see and hear Julie McCrossin & learn more about issues affecting this part of community	Large extent`		More accessible (local) forums on various issues, including legislative changes, also transsexual issues		
For more education	Exceeded them – personal experiences really brilliant				
General – Police GLLO training	Fine – interesting & thought provoking				
Teacher in private school	Very informative	More of them			
Listening to the facilitator & general information	Highly		Survey	Health issues for mature age lesbians	
I am lesbian and I like Julie	It was more amusing than I expected – as well as being moving	Rather fewer members of panel. All were good but we could have managed without so much input	Via internet		

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Learn more about the issues	Informative & enjoyable		Website, but may not just be ACT resident responses		Information for parents of GLBTI kids
Work at AAC and have an interest in issues	Very informative & entertaining				
The issues of the community	Broad range of topics covered		Broaden it from a health perspective – advertise through other departments & target areas, i.e. education, sports & recreation, etc		
Work-related issues	Quite well	Longer – perhaps with breaks so people get the opportunity to discuss issues further	Contact community groups, surveys etc		
Information on issues	Well aware now of the major issues	Perhaps day long forum	Through AAC, SHFPACT, AFP etc – existing networks? major TV sponsorship	Family violence & general hate crimes	Report all crimes committed
These forums are long overdue	I had some issues I had not thought about, e.g. transgender	Hold forums regularly		Maybe look at ethnic groups as well as Aboriginal	
Gain better understanding of issues facing the Q community		Bigger venue, more time, a call for agenda items	Email out on ACT Queer, community events, etc		
Interested in knowing more about the issues	Very informative		More ads in <i>The Chronicle</i>		As a straight parent of a lesbian I needed more information & support from the ACT community, especially from her school
Work with GLBTI community at AAC	Very much	Extremely well done & well facilitated	Ongoing consultation, advisory committee		Acceptance of all diversity
To see Julie McCrossin	To a great extent	More detailed objectives			
I'm a librarian/information provider in area of sexual & reproductive health	Excellent!	Repeat performance	Email lists, electronic survey via community stakeholders		
To understand needs	Moderately	No – found this very positive	Public notice, <i>The Canberra Times</i> ?		

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Lesbian, a mum, a doctor, a teacher in the medical school, came to gather ideas and do more	Good – hard to get to specific suggestions	Get people to write down their specific suggestions for change mid-way – collect into box and draw out for lucky door prizes	via ACT Queer. There are 5 lesbian doctors & members of Australian Lesbian Medical Association in ACT – we'd all be glad to liaise, do some training etc		What about Education & Health GLLOs – the work that the AFP is doing at a community, personnel & policy level is fantastic and serves as a model for us all
Personal & professional	50% in latter, 70% in first	Have follow-up program/forum soon leading on to some focus groups to take up issues raised this evening	Include G, L, intersex & transgender people in focus groups in Canberra		
Event	All				
Interest in health issue – plus ways of doing my job better	General interest				How important equality is for all
Information			Greater advertising	Education for children of lesbians who come out, when children are teenagers	
My life as a lesbian, health issues (I work for DOHA), my community talking and Julie of course!	Need to keep to details and focus on where to and what with		Yes, but not enough room to write here		
To learn	Helpful	Well organised, would a repeat be helpful?	Education for ACT staff to illustrate the deficit	Education, educate	
Learning about aged care & lesbians	In general terms yes, in particular no				
Seeing Julie McCrossin	It was divine	Mainstream advertising, bigger venue	Offer free prize gift to respondents	Public queer friendly doctor register	Youth & suicide prevention
To connect with GLBTI community and be an active member of my community	Yes – it has made me aware of issues which I would like to help where I can	A great start to the process	ACT Queer	Nothing on intersex	
To further understand queer issues of the ACT and become inspired by stories that matter	Fulfilled them, though I realise that each issue could have been discussed for a long time	More discussion and more money	Fully funded surveys, ACT represents a unique situation in Australia and this should be explored	Youth issues (safe sex)	Transsexuals, intersexuals

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
To know more about GLBTI community in the ACT and what they identified as issues	Very good/entertaining and presented many different points of view				
Nurse working in public health area & have brother who is a gay man	Didn't what to expect but enjoyed the discussion a lot – many issues relevant to me personally and professionally		More forums		Suicide, family support, i.e. families who want support in supporting their gay loved ones, central access point, health professional education
Interested in education & sexuality	Exceeded expectations! Much wider issues than appreciated ranging from health to civil rights	More widely advertised, i.e. not just ACT Queer and AIDS Council – reach the mainstream community for a change	Set up a website and advertise its existence in <i>The Canberra Times</i> , local papers. Also badly need to reach schools – not sure how		
Learn more about GLBTI issues in an entertaining way	Definitely, but need follow up forums on legal issues		Distribution of survey forms to GLBTI organisations, hold more forums		
Work in Commonwealth area dealing with HIV/AIDS issues, was interested in community/ACT perspective	Didn't have expectations	Good if ACT health people explained how the advice from such a forum would be used	via ACT Queer, mainstream media	Recognition of same sex relationships in a nursing home environment	
Being gay & accessing health – also work for health and attending ANU medical school next year	Issue of education well covered. Approaching a medical degree I hope that these issues are part of the course work	Perhaps pre-seminar feedback to identify issues	Website questionnaires for young people/closeted people		Education is the course work for allied, nursing and medical staff
Gay and work in health	Very much – wide range of topics covered	Less of a scramble for tickets (I know of people who wanted to come but couldn't)	Not concentrating only on community related media, i.e. looking beyond ACT Queer – get out and ask	Invisibility of MSM without community attachment – mental health issues (very broad topic)	

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Lesbian sexual issues	Well – obviously had to be general – good start		Establish working party/advisory group containing GLBTI people to run workshops (with Dept of Health secretariat & \$)	As a grandmother, how to tell your grandchildren and give them strategies at school (obviously too specific for a forum such as this!)	
Increase knowledge of GLBTI issues. I am a nurse working in sexual health and a post grad student in sexual health doing gender studies	Surpassed them	Televise it – it is a wonderful opportunity for education			Education of health professionals – via peer education within the system? Parenting information for parents
Developing ideas/responses to current GL issues in ACT	To some degree – would like more depth of issues, i.e. follow the transgender issues deeper, follow the drive for women and sexual health, i.e. aged care, menopause	Perhaps some break-away groups so that those more inhibited (to speak in forum style) can contribute	Survey on gay & lesbians – in depth social, cultural, mental and physical health survey	Mental health issues	
Highlighting issues for GLBTI people	Needed more time for both audience participation and panel	Longer, smaller groups – too intimidating to speak up for some people	Survey to all ACT households – could do it for election, why not for this important issue?	We need recognition of our relationships. Straight people don't need to educate themselves on legal rights – they assume they are next of kin and this is unchallengeable	It is about time this is no longer an issue. When will we all finally be equal?
Because this is the first forum of its kind that I am aware of. I believe it is vital to educate myself on issues. I am a social work student and we do not cover GLBTI issues	Completely. I have learnt so much and have many questions	No, it was excellent. Some forums I've been to organise interest and project groups which aids implementation	Outreach consultation	Mental health services – what are GLBTI's experience of these CALD issues with GLBTI?	
Communication between government and community	Well facilitated open discussion		Online resource/advertising and discussion with community groups		Good level of service from ACT Sexual Health Clinic in Woden

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Julie McCrossin. Personal interest: this is my community – work interest: Health worker	Begun a conversation, where to from here for me?	Pre forum papers or questionnaires		GLBTI violence and health service resources – health of older GLBTI	
Listen to issues and suggestions and report back to youth group			Anonymous school survey		
Hearing more of what's happening with relevant issues	Excellent – hopefully there will be more!	No, just keep it open and continuing	Email groups perhaps, i.e. ACT Queer		Education in schools is an excellent idea as was the parent/son/daughter in schools concept
To hear community issues	In the time allowed, it met most, but needed more time	Focus on issues discussed, i.e. health professional education	Survey the community	Junior athletes, coaching education, top level athlete education – happy to discuss issues	Education of professionals – doctors
Transgender issues	More than usual experiences	Still learning how these things work			
Health of GLBTI people	Wonderful but needed more time	More time	Yes, through the PH system	Yes, those of educating Christians [??? not sure of this last word as written on the form]	
To hear ACT issues – I have moved here from NSW	Could have been longer – with a break	Longer, with performance, i.e. singing!		Aged care – homophobia within families	
Gay man involved in HIV/AIDS issues – interested in other gay men's health issues	Partially – too many people able to articulate concerns, better able to articulate actions	Outlined process of how going forward with consultations	Survey over SpringOut/via Interchange GP, women's health service etc. Establish consultation group of diversity – people/service providers	Linking health to education, housing etc – whole of government. Mainstreaming special service (I think need both)	Access to GP services – and allied health services – access to mental health/general counselling – access to aged care services, especially issues of church run institutions -
Just interested – and to listen	Very high – enjoyable and informative	Well organised and flowed, good balance between panel and audience and well facilitated	Surveys and internet to seek views	Good range of issues raised	

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Just interested	Totally – really good	Reps from a greater variety of organisations in the ACT	Questionnaires on other health organisations – newspaper article informing people where to go to complete questionnaire		Medical discrimination
I work in a health service that provides care to GLBTI	More than I expected as I didn't know purpose of forum	Yes! Implement the AFP GLLO network into health especially and all of government eventually – absolutely essential!	Additional Services in <i>The Canberra Times, Chronicle</i> , email submissions, individual interviews	How it is not safe for ACT health staff (clinical) to be out	The need for a strategic approach to GLBTI health and wellbeing in ACT
Addiction, mental health	Some	No. Maybe a break in the middle and go for 3 hours	Advertise in the mainstream media	Domestic violence	None on aged care, mental health and addiction (all ages)
Health provider to community, personal interest	Wonderful	Additional sessions as it was so popular	Surveys, emails		Education!
Professional	More than	Longer, small groups discussions		Media education – community education	
As a police offer to better understand issues relevant in the ACT	Definitely did		Internet surveys?		It was excellent to have the opportunity to speak about GLLOs in the ACT
GLBTI issues discussion and Julie McCrossin	Excellent	More forums/more forums!	Small groups continue – media specific notices, government lead	More discussions	
Passion!		Ensure we get some concrete ideas for action and priority areas for improvement	More forums – select consultations with organisations such as Good Process		
Lesbian – great interest in health issues for GLBTI	Yep	Have more & regular forums	Forums for young people (identified GLBTI) – community organisations, GLBTI communities	Keep talking – better funding of health services – keep services accountable by ensuring that they are accessible	Take these issues seriously – respond to feedback – all major health services discriminate and do not encourage accessibility. This must change!

What was your particular interest in attending?	To what extent did forum meet expectations	Suggestions for improvement	How ACT Health might gather information from people not in attendance	Issues not raised in forum	Requiring particular emphasis
Have an interest in queer issues & discussions. I feel without discussion you have no change. Also I came to see the people I know on panel	Very well – most interesting and positive	Thought the forum & content was very good and a good mix of personal & professional	Attend other queer community groups and speak – ask the question of people’s sexuality on a consultational level	One of the most positive aspects of Canberra is that there are great social groups – reading groups, queer sports groups, film groups. I think these are very important for people to meet. One of the hardest things I found about coming out was actually building up courage to meet people	
My mum made me and I am interested in the concept of sexuality	Yes but I find the constant focus of I am rather than this is me services in Canberra are low no matter your need	Use the board more and less question time for group	Internet, email	The need to support transgender people with coming out	
See who turned up, what was discussed if we got beyond health services	Worthwhile, entertaining and broad-ranging	This was one of the best and best attended I have ever seen – even comfy seats	Via ACT Queer or survey during SpringOut	Whole of quality of like re policy issues across all government portfolios	Community/ies development of GLBTI groups
Just to hear everyone talk about the issues	It was great				