

Media Release

Men bursting at the seams!

For immediate release, February 9 2007

Gay Men's Health, a program of
the AIDS Council of South Australia Inc.

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NEW Thursday Night Drop-In draws big crowd

On Thursday 1st February – opening night – *Gay Men's Health's* new Thursday Night Drop-In attracted 40 gay and same sex attracted men from across Adelaide.

Planned to be held in the SIN Lounge at the rear of the Darling House complex at 64 Fullarton Road, Norwood, the crowd had to spill into the Darling House Conference Room and the Community Library, which was also open for the evening.

"There is obviously a need for a place where gay and same sex attracted men can meet and socialise, outside of pubs, clubs and sporting groups," said Gary Spence, Manager *Gay Men's Health*.

"Meeting other men can be difficult, so it's great to know the Thursday Night Drop-In is a safe and fun environment where men can form friendships and establish new networks."

The Thursday Night Drop-In operates on the first Thursday of every month.

"And you can get there any time between 5.30 to 8.30pm," Gary added.

Responses from men attending the first Drop-In included "great topic and very relevant," "What a wonderful idea, we look forward to the next one," and "What a great night, lets have more like this one."

The Drop-In's first guest speaker was Ian Purcell from *Let's Get Equal*. Ian provided a comprehensive overview of changes for same sex couples under the *Statutes Amendment (Domestic Partners) Bill 2006*.

Next Drop-In

The next Drop-In will be Thursday 1st March.

Guest Speaker will be Terry Evans. Terry's topic will be *Sex and Intimacy for Same Sex Attracted Men*.

Why Sex and Intimacy?

As counsellor at *Gay Men's Health*, Terry deals with many of the emotional issues gay and same sex attracted men face. How to deal with intimacy in an increasingly sexualised culture is something many men grapple with. Sex is easy: what to do about feelings and emotions – before, during and after sex – and how to express these within loving relationships, can take a bit more work.

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As Paul Sussman writes on the *Selfhelp Magazine* website
(<http://www.selfhelpmagazine.com/articles/glb/intgayme.html>),

"For many gay men in our sex and gay-negative culture, the integration or balancing of sex and intimacy is a challenge. Connecting our hearts and genitals often means "moving into fear." Often our hearts and genitals are disconnected because they've each been wounded by the scorn and rejection of them over the years of growing up gay in a culture, community or family that rejects a fundamental aspect of who we are and how we love."

For more information contact the **Man2Man Information Line** on **8334 1617**.
Country Callers **1800 671 582**.