



Karumah Annual Report 2015

2015 has come to a close and Karumah can be very happy with the year it's put in. We've had more changes in service delivery and approach and we've finally moved into new offices and reduced our expenditure on rent. This year our performance targets have also changed which has sent us off into new directions which have proved to be both positive and successful. The major change is that Karumah no longer operates 'centre days' but has moved all centre activity offsite. This started with Thursday lunches at the local pub where Karumah pays \$5 of the \$10 lunch menu for its members and after a slow start this has picked up momentum and now we have a regular crowd who really enjoy the event. These lunches are on every second Thursday and they start again on Thursday 11th February 2016 at the Wickham Park Hotel.

Tuesdays starting this year will be a combination of Tuesday lunches for those who can't make Thursdays and coffee clubs for specific groups like women, carers and open groups. We are also endeavouring to make all our work outreach to meet funding targets and this includes Catherine visiting you either in your home or at a mutually agreed location like a coffee shop or park. Because she has become more mobile and will be on the road quite a bit you can contact her on her new mobile number 0447 003 386.

We've had a couple of 'getaways' in 2015 which were very well received and supported by our members financially as well as in numbers, we will be running more this year. And we had some very successful workshops which were run in collaboration with other organisations.

2015 also saw us complete our QIP obligations and become accredited; this puts us in a good place for future funding when it happens. Currently we are still only funded until the 30th June 2016, until we hear otherwise. Below is the report from the QIP assessor:-

"This is a very well-managed organisation. Discussion with the Board indicated that members have a high reliance on the skills and integrity of the CEO. It was evident that it has been the CEO and Case Manager who have driven the accreditation process for the organisation. Their work has been thorough and comprehensive.

This is very small organisation that is totally reliant on government funding. There are some real concerns around sustainability. However, discussion with the CEO was positive, and there were indications that some planning has begun in relation to strengthening the position of the organisation.

Karumah provides support to people living with HIV. A considerable amount of this work is done through a drop-in model and group activities. However, there is also a significant one-to-one counselling and case management service. Service users were very positive about the benefits that they have received from this component of the service. The CEO and Case Manager have

researched and developed an assessment and evaluation methodology around case management that is based on a progression matrix. This is very high quality work and demonstrates an extensive understanding of evaluation and performance measurement. It is superior to work often observed in many much larger organisations.

This organisation has a very good feel to it. It was consistently described as being like family by all stakeholders. The CEO and Case Manager are to be congratulated for the excellent work that has gone into bringing the organisation up to its current standard in relation to accreditation against the ASES”.

Our new office is more than adequate for our needs and is very centrally located in Islington; we have more than halved the outlay in rent and were able to negotiate 3 months free rent and free power. We are happy with the results and very comfortable and although there is no centre our service users are welcome to call in anytime. Our new address is 1/24 John Hooker Street Islington our postal address and phone contacts have not changed.

Karumah has met and exceeded all service objectives and targets. Highlights of our case management program include

- 3 service users (SU) who have been on a disability support pension for many years have gone back to full-time TAFE and two other SU's are working again.
- We also have one SU who was regularly hospitalised for mental health issues has had less hospital presentations in the last two years and none during the last 12 months.
- Karumah has also had 14 new SU in the last 12 months and has increased significantly the size of our Pozhet population by 10. The Pozhets group are becoming more pro-active in developing their social and educational event's needs, wanting them more often and wanting to extend it out to include other HIV populations including MSM.

All our work and results support Karumahs aims – objectives and outcomes and align perfectly with Karumahs strategic direction.