



The Consortium for **Social and Policy Research** on **HIV, Hepatitis C** and **Related Diseases**

Workshop Researching sexual risk online: a hands-on workshop

Monday May 17, 2004

The Powerhouse Museum, Sydney

Aims

- ▶ To understand gay men's use of the Internet as a subject for research;
- ▶ To understand gay men's use of Internet chat rooms as a meeting point/pick up bar;
- ▶ To better understand how to use the internet as a research tool; and
- ▶ To gain hands-on experience of using the internet to carry out research on gay men's sexual practice.

The Workshop

The Workshop will be held at the **Powerhouse Museum** in Ultimo, Sydney on **Monday May 17** from **8.30am–5.30pm**.

The workshop is designed to increase skills and knowledge of delegates around social research online. The speakers will demonstrate what information can be gathered from online chat rooms for social research, the ethical issues involved and how information gathered online has been used in recent research. Delegates will also learn how the internet can be used as a methodological tool for gathering information and the benefits and problems that this can cause.

The workshop format has been planned to maximise delegates' involvement, with hands-on, practical online research skills and methods demonstrated by leading international academics. Computers, with internet access, will be supplied.

Delegate profile: who should attend?

The workshop is designed for researchers, educators, managers and policy makers working in HIV/AIDS education and health promotion in NSW. Delegates should have a good understanding of how to navigate the Internet prior to attending.

Guest Speaker Harm Hospers, PhD

Harm Hospers graduated in personality psychology at the University of Groningen. In 1985 he joined the Department of Health Education and Health Promotion in the Netherlands. Since 1991 he has been involved in HIV prevention research, focusing on men who have sex with men (MSM). Specifically, his research interest concerns behavioral determinant studies and the planned development and evaluation of HIV interventions for MSM. In September 1999 he moved to the Department of Experimental Psychology of the Faculty of Psychology at Maastricht University.

Some of Harm's most recent work is a research project based on chatting on the Internet, and subsequent dating and sex with dates. For more information about his work and the work being conducted at RESHAPE (Research on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education at Maastricht University) visit <http://www.caphri.unimaas.nl/reshape/>

Guest Speaker Michael Stevens

Since 1993 Michael has been active in both HIV/AIDS peer support, community education, and as a Trustee of the NZ AIDS Foundation of which he has been Chairperson since 2000.

Michael has just embarked on a PhD investigating social factors in the lives of newly diagnosed HIV positive men. His MA is titled "Cybermen in Cyberspace: Gay Men, HIV Risk, Identity and the Internet" and looked at how the identity and behaviour of gay men in chat rooms might indicate HIV risk in that new social environment. He has worked as a tutor, guest lecturer and course co-ordinator in the Department of Sociology at the University of Auckland, been a guest speaker at the Auckland College of Education and also as a social-science consultant to the Auckland Regional Health Board.

Cost

There is a registration fee of \$55 (including GST) per participant per workshop.

You may be eligible for funding from NSW Health Workforce Development Program to attend. Funding covers registration fees and, where appropriate, travel and accommodation costs. Check the guidelines for applying for a WDP Grant in the *WDP Training Directory* or at www.wdp.nsw.gov.au

Registration

To register, please email Rodney McDonald at rodney.mcdonald@unsw.edu.au and include your name, job title, the organisation you work for, postal address and contact phone numbers (work and mobile) in the email.

Please note: There are strictly limited numbers and delegates will be selected on a first come first serve basis contingent on them meeting the delegate profile above. **Registrations open on April 13 and close on May 7.**

Proudly brought to you by The Consortium members

The National Centre in HIV Social Research AIDS Council of New South Wales (ACON) **People Living With HIV/AIDS (NSW)** Social Policy Research Centre **Hepatitis C Council of NSW** **Supported by the Powerhouse Museum. Funded by NSW Health.**