

BOBBY
GOLDSMITH
FOUNDATION –
ANNUAL REPORT
2008-09

Introduction to Report
July 2009.

BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09
INTRODUCTION
THE HON. MICHAEL KIRBY AC CMG

This has been a big year for the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF).

A high point of the year was the celebration in February 2009 of the 25th anniversary of the Foundation. A large event at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney was introduced by Ita Buttrose who has been with us on the journey of HIV/AIDS in Australia since the very beginning. She showed, once again, her remarkable skills in reaching out to all Australians and in emphasising the common humanity that demands a positive response to the epidemic. It is this positive response which the BGF has been providing for the past quarter century.

During that time the outreach to many of the most vulnerable people in the epidemic, living with HIV and AIDS, has been at once the objective and achievement of BGF. Once again, I pay tribute to everyone who has been involved: workers, volunteers, supporters, donors, media, other helping organisations, private individuals and corporations. This is a great team effort.

I also pay a tribute to Bev Lange and her co-workers of BGF for maintaining the enthusiasm and dedication which has been the hallmark of the activities of BGF. The demands on the Foundation in the future will continue. AIDS is not over. This is not a challenge for the short-winded. It is a predicament that continues to face young and not-so-young Australians. Moreover, the outreach of BGF must extend beyond the Sydney region into other parts of New South Wales and hopefully

still further and wider. The example of BGF is one to be shared with the entire nation. It points the way for national and international responses that are practical, compassionate and unfailingly energetic.

The AIDS pandemic is now reaching its third phase. The first was one in which it was essential to alert humanity to the presence of this new and dangerous virus. The second was one in which it was essential to provide health care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS. The third is one in which the focus will shift to prevention. The world will not be willing, or able, to afford the current cohort of 1.7 million people every year who become infected with HIV. In the global financial crisis, it is unlikely that the international community will keep funding an ever-expanding number of persons dependent on expensive therapies. Hence new strategies to tackle prevention become essential. I would like BGF to be involved in these new strategies. Making sure that people do not become infected is part of the mission of all institutions concerned with HIV. And in Australia this has meant reaching out to communities of vulnerable people, winning their confidence and trust, and conveying effectively the messages that have helped them to avoid infection.

On behalf of all good citizens, I congratulate BGF on the achievements of the year past. The challenges of the years ahead will be greater than ever.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patron', written in a cursive style.

Patron