



PRIDE  
INCLUSION  
PROGRAMS

## COVID-19, Awards Events, Meetings and Training Programs

*Monday, 16 March 2020*

**Pride in Diversity • Pride in Sport • Pride in Health + Wellbeing Communication**

ACON is Australia's largest not-for-profit health organisation for people of diverse sexualities and genders. We are a fiercely proud community organisation, and our first priority will always be the health and safety of those we engage with: our colleagues, members, event attendees and all event partners.

As a result of Prime Minister Morrison's weekend announcement on the cancellation of events with over 500 attendees and the need to seriously consider any other non-essential events or gatherings alongside social distancing protocols, we would like to inform you of the precautionary steps that we have taken to protect the health and safety of all.

### **Pride in Sport Awards and Australian LGBTQ Inclusion Awards (AWEI and HWEI)**

As a result of government advice regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian LGBTQ Inclusion Awards, scheduled for 22 May 2020, and the Pride in Sport Awards, scheduled for 1 April 2020, have now been postponed. New dates will be announced shortly.

We do not want to postpone these important awards events but obviously, the timing could not have been worse. It is important however, that we celebrate the amazing work and achievements of those participating in the index, alongside the work of individual award nominees who have really made a difference in terms of inclusion.

We will update you with all details as soon as we have secured dates, but at this point in time, we are anticipating holding both the Australian LGBTQ Inclusion Awards and the Pride in Sport Awards later in the year.

Of course, we will refund full ticket prices for those who cannot attend on the rescheduled date. Any tickets reimbursed will be offered first to those on our waiting list and then opened to the general public.

### **AWEI, HWEI and PSI Awards Results**

All those participating within the AWEI, HWEI or the PSI will receive their results by the date of the original awards event. Results will include your overall scorecard detailing all scores obtained, employee survey results for those that participated and an AWEI, PSI or HWEI 2020 electronic logo to show participation that you are free to use both internally and externally.

However, all employer, sport and health tier rankings (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze etc) and associated index and individual award winners will not be announced until the rescheduled event later in the year.

### **Virtual roundtables, training programs (where possible) and meetings**

If you have scheduled roundtables, training programs, panel events or face-to-face meetings with any of the Pride in Diversity, Pride in Sport and/or Pride in Health + Wellbeing teams over the next couple of months, your relationship manager will work with you to either reschedule or to discuss alternative methods of participating in these events.

The situation here in Australia is evolving quickly. At this point in time we are discouraging all external meetings and group events but will work with you to the very best of our ability to ensure that you get all the support you need, when you need it. Our level of support will not change, only the mode in which it is being delivered and this will only be while social distancing measures are in place.

### **Supporting you in the best way that we can**

The health and wellbeing of our team, our members, key stakeholders and all who we engage with is of paramount importance to us. These social distancing measures have been put in place to protect everybody. While we understand that this may be inconvenient particularly during the early stages of this pandemic, we are acting on the recommendations of health and government authorities in the best interest of all.

The situation is changing daily. ACON is working closely with Health and government authorities to ensure we have access to the latest advice on how to keep everyone safe. We are following their guidance as we receive it.

### **Keeping you updated, answering your questions**

Should you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact your relationship manager or the Pride Inclusion Programs Team on 02 9206.2319.

We will keep all event attendees informed of event details as we are able to secure them.

Thank you for your understanding.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Hough', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dawn Hough  
Director, ACON's Pride Inclusion Programs  
Pride in Diversity • Pride in Sport • Pride in Health & Wellbeing