

## Media Release Poof at Pride

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# POOF! @ PRIDE

The Gay Men and Tobacco Project will be the focus of the *Gay Men's Health* float at this year's PRIDE march.

During the march – to be held from 6.30pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November – the Tobacco Project's **POOF!** slogan will be much in evidence.

"*Gay Men's Health* received further funding to continue the great work the Gay Men and Tobacco Project commenced two years ago," said Gary Spence, Manager *Gay Men's Health*. "So we're starting this second stage with a bang at PRIDE."

For many gay men, smoking and "the gay scene" go hand in hand. And there are particular pressures gay men and lesbians face in the general community that often lead to them take up smoking at increasingly alarming rates.

"Lack of legal recognition, discrimination, poorer access to health services – all have an effect on the general health and well-being of many gay and same sex attracted men," said Gary. "And this can lead to them taking up smoking as a means of coping with these stresses."

Workshops looking at the particular issues gay men face with their tobacco addiction – and overcoming them – are planned for later in the year.

For more information on the Gay Men and Tobacco Project or the POOF! campaign, contact *the Man2Man Information Line* on (08) 8334 1617 or 1800 671 582.

PRIDE will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, from 6.30pm.

Ends.