

MEDIA RELEASE

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VALE LEVINIA CROOKS, A TIRELESS FIGHTER IN AUSTRALIA'S HIV/AIDS RESPONSE

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is today paying tribute to Levinia Crooks, AM, a leading figure in Australia's HIV/AIDS response, who passed away over the weekend.

"Levinia was a giant of Australia's HIV/AIDS response and her loss is being deeply felt right across the sector," said Darryl O'Donnell, chief executive officer of AFAO.

"As CEO of ASHM, a position she held for 18 years, Levinia's efforts were crucial in supporting the health professionals who work in HIV.

"Under her leadership, ASHM has provided outstanding clinical leadership and support for Australia's workforce of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health clinicians.

"Her remarkable depth of knowledge made her a hugely effective figure throughout her long career. She had a unique capacity to bring people together to effect change.

"Levinia's leadership dates to the earliest years of Australia's HIV epidemic. She has been a carer, educator and leader in all aspects of the response.

"She is a former President and staff member of ACON and the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, and in 2015 received ACON's highest honour, the President's Award, for her tireless contribution.

"Levinia was truly one of Australia's leading HIV advocates and our community will always owe her a debt of thanks for her work.

"Our thoughts today are with Levinia's family and with the many people who knew and loved her."

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