



# Volunteer Role Description

## Big Up Volunteer

### **GMFA's vision and mission statement:**

**Vision** – GMFA wants a gay community where individuals are able to make informed choices about their health, and a society that embraces equality and respects the right of people to make informed choices.

**Mission** – Improving gay men's health by increasing the control they have over their own lives.

### **Role**

To work with the Big Up Project Manager and other Big Up volunteers to develop campaigns targeting Black gay men.

### **Specific responsibilities**

As part of the discussion group: to discuss issues facing Black gay men, and the ways in which interventions could meet the specific needs of Black gay men.

As part of the intervention development group: to have a clear understanding of an intervention's aims and where appropriate to develop media and events that meet the aims of the intervention.

### **Experience and Requirements**

Volunteers must be able to work productively within groups.

Knowledge and experience in project planning health promotion, creative thinking, copy writing, editing skills, event planning, and logistics management are all useful for developing Big Up campaigns, though not essential requirements.

### **Commitment required**

The process for creating Big Up campaign at GMFA usually takes between 3 and 5 months. Although attendance is not compulsory at all meetings, volunteers will be expected to honour any commitments that they make to the group and should aim to attend as many meetings as possible. The frequency of meetings is variable depending on need, but generally meetings are held once a fortnight. Volunteers may be expected to do some work between meetings.

### **Authority**

Where possible, Big Up project development groups work by consensus so authority will normally be with the group developing the intervention.

### **Benefits**

Working on Big Up campaigns will develop a range of health promotion, project planning and media skills, and increase knowledge.

### **Potential Frustrations**

An individual's ideas may not be used.

Campaigns may require a number of amendments as they go through pre-testing, peer-review and approval processes.

### **Potential Satisfactions**

GMFA's Big Up campaign development volunteers usually feel a strong sense of pride in and ownership of, campaigns. They also usually perceive the impact of Big Up campaigns on the Black gay community, which gives them a sense of achievement.