

Dear colleagues and supporters:

The time has come for me to say farewell to you as the CEO of Living Positive Victoria.

It has been an amazing five and a half years and I thank you all for being a part of it. The organisation is in the very capable hands of a truly remarkable leader and President Richard Keane who will shepherd the organisation into a new phase of its development with a new strategic plan soon to be announced at the forthcoming AGM in October. Richard's tenure on the Board of Living Positive Victoria has been nearly the same amount of time I have been in the role as CEO and I believe that he has set the bar for professionalism, integrity and commitment to the community response to HIV in Australia unlike anyone I have ever seen.

I am extremely proud that many of the staff who greeted me upon my arrival over 5 years ago are still in place alongside a number of bright energetic and highly capable staff who have joined the ranks. The organisation has doubled in size since 2012 and it is the hard work and dedication of the staff that Living Positive Victoria continues to produce outstanding initiatives much of it recognised nationally and internationally for its innovation and forward thinking.

As many will know the past year has been challenging both physically and emotionally for me and the recent tragic death of my brother has hit home in ways that are difficult to explain and having the opportunity to spend more time with my family back in Canada has become a priority.

I will retain a few personal appointments such as with the International AIDS Society, the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Victorian State governments on HIV, blood borne viruses and LGBTI health matters respectively as well as remaining as the co-chair of the Melbourne/Victoria Fast-Track cities initiative alongside Professor Sharon Lewin from the Doherty Institute.

However, I am certainly looking forward to a less frenetic pace and trying to find a balance between contract work and the life that Paul and I have built over the past nearly 20 years with the most amazing circle of friends and colleagues across a wide range of disciplines in many outstanding organisations.

Rest assured, that I have the absolute faith that the new leadership at Living Positive Victoria will extend the organisation even further and will continue to champion the role that PLHIV remain both central and vital to the HIV response in Victoria, Australia and abroad.

All the best,

Brent Allan|
CEO, Living Positive Victoria

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