



ANNUAL

2015 - 2016

REPORT

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LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA

Living Positive Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



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VISION

Living Positive Victoria shares the vision of the National Association of People with HIV Australia of a world where people living with HIV live their lives to their full potential, in good health and free from discrimination.

Straight Arrows envisions heterosexual men and women living with HIV to be personally responsible for their own wellbeing, able to manage their lives positively and safely, and to be involved in and supported by their community.

MISSION

Living Positive Victoria is a community-based organisation that works to advance the human rights and wellbeing of people living with HIV.

Our mission is to enable and empower all people affected by and living with HIV in Victoria to be part of the response that seeks an end to the HIV epidemic.

To deliver peer based support and information, and provide advocacy through health promotion for HIV positive heterosexual men, women, their partners and families. Straight Arrows is governed by and for heterosexual people living with HIV and will continue being the lead agency for heterosexuality and HIV in Victoria.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a privilege it has been to serve in the role of President of Living Positive Victoria in a historic year which has seen the merger of two dynamic sector partners with a shared vision of a stronger and more inclusive HIV organisation.

I would like to thank the staff of both Living Positive Victoria and Straight Arrows, and current and former members of the Strengthening Positive Voices working group including Brent Allan, Sara Graham, Jeffrey Robertson, Wayne Hornsby, Ian Muchamore and Kim Davis in bringing together both organisations. The Strengthening Positive Voices working group has worked tirelessly since 2014 resulting in the unanimous support received from the membership of both Living Positive Victoria and Straight Arrows to come together as one organisation.

In the last year, Living Positive Victoria has been more focused on our core strengths such as resilience building, social connectedness, peer support, health promotion, treatment uptake and adherence, and challenging the stigma and discrimination that continues to be attached to the lived experience of HIV. In conjunction with our Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Accord partners, we delivered the well conceived Double Happiness campaign. It was an opportunity to put Treatment as Prevention alongside PrEP as a modern and evolving response to prevention and the reduction of onward transmission. Together through our Accord partnership and national bodies, we will work with both Government and the pharmaceutical industry to get PrEP listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and ensure it is accessible and affordable to all who need it.

The Disclosure Project received a great response both locally and at AIDS 2016 which

gave PLHIV an opportunity to talk candidly about their stories of disclosure. A key theme of this project, 'disclose without shame', launched the Disclosure sofa at World AIDS Day 2015 to much acclaim. It was a pleasure to partner with the AIDS Council of New South Wales (ACON) on a project that puts PLHIV's lived experience at its heart and opens up conversations around disclosure, stigma and confidentiality.

Living Positive Victoria has continued to empower individuals and communities through programs like the Phoenix workshops, Gen Next, the Senior Voices Project and the Positive Speakers Bureau, and has continued to play a leading role in the Positive Leadership Development Institute Australia (PLDI). These individuals are not just our leaders of tomorrow, they are leading today. PLDI alumni in Victoria now occupy a diverse range of roles at every level of the decision-making process of our sector organisations, through direct employment, serving on boards of directors, peer support roles, facilitating and moderating alcohol and drug and mental health support groups for PLHIV, and setting up social support groups like HIVsters. Their dedication to the community enshrines the principles of the greater and meaningful involvement of PLHIV, and the expertise, insight and wealth of experience that exists amongst the positive community is now more broadly recognised as a significant asset than at any other time.

But for me, the most important partnership event of the year was among the Coventry House Partners with the delivery of the first women's Phoenix workshop. This was delivered jointly by Straight Arrows and Positive Women Victoria who worked closely with the Phoenix project staff and facilitation team. The workshop was well received and we are currently working on a memorandum

of understanding with Positive Women Victoria to solidify the Coventry House partnership and to streamline our engagement with women living with HIV. We know that our programs must continue to reflect our diverse population living with HIV including transgender and intersex people, heterosexual and bisexual men, women and families, indigenous communities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and those from high prevalence countries. Our goal is to keep Living Positive Victoria relevant and accessible to all PLHIV and we recognise that we must continue to provide a platform for our diverse voices to be heard.

The future is bright! I would like to thank the members of Living Positive Victoria for your support for a united vision for the wellbeing of PLHIV and to see an end to HIV. As we begin our strategic planning, we look forward to having extensive community engagement opportunities for members to participate in setting the future direction and priorities for the organisation. Living Positive Victoria will continue to ensure that PLHIV are at the centre of ending HIV as we have always been.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

What an exciting year this has been. Over the past year Straight Arrows has consolidated and expanded our services to women, heterosexual men and families living with and directly affected by HIV, and the board and staff have worked assiduously towards our merger with Living Positive Victoria to ensure there is a strong, sustainable voice for all PLHIV in Victoria.

Throughout the negotiations for the merger, it has been heartening to see the synergies between Straight Arrows and Living Positive Victoria. Both organisations are committed at all levels to ensuring that quality services are available to all PLHIV, regardless of their gender identity, sexuality or cultural background. The merger allows us to utilise the strengths of both organisations and build upon their corporate knowledge to be a truly inclusive voice for every person living with HIV in Victoria. A measure of the strength of the merger has been the grace and respect with which differences have been negotiated and consensus has been achieved to ensure that all voices are heard. Merging two independent organisations is never easy but I am confident that we have found the right balance and that we can look forward to a vibrant future, stronger together.

The board and staff of Straight Arrows are looking forward to consolidating our new programs and introducing new services for women, heterosexual men and families living with and directly affected by HIV over the coming year. While the HIV sector is working towards ambitious 90-90-90 targets to end HIV, while healthcare has drastically improved and TasP and PrEP have radically changed the prevention conversations, we still live in a world in which HIV stigma negatively impacts the lives of people living with HIV. The work of Straight Arrows and the

other positive voice organisations remains as crucial as ever in empowering people to live full, healthy and meaningful lives.

This year we have introduced new programs and consolidated existing programs including the introduction of a Phoenix workshop for recently diagnosed heterosexual men. A highlight of the year was our Adult Retreat at the Summit in Gippsland. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and mutual support and many of the participants thought it was life changing. The weekend provided exciting, fun and physical challenges that promoted strength, team work and resilience. The workshops were highly valued but the overwhelming comment from participants was that they appreciated learning from each other, and the sense of connectedness they felt. This has been very rewarding for all involved.

A focus this year has been placed on building upon our one-on-one peer support program. Peer support is the cornerstone of what we do. For many people it is the first step in recovery in the face of a HIV diagnosis. The service provided by our peer support staff is responsive to the individual needs of clients. It provides a scaffold from which they can access other support and build resilience. This year we have actively engaged with the HIV health workforce in the sector and have seen an increase in referrals as a result. We anticipate that with the changing face of the epidemic in Victoria, the number of people accessing our peer support services will continue to grow.

We have three dedicated staff members who are doing wonderful work organising peer support and delivering health promotion for all members who need it and who are there for everybody. A special thank you to Sara Graham, Sarah Hocking and Matt Powell. Keep up the great work.

We have also had a very committed board and I would like to thank them for their ongoing support. They worked hard to get the merger across the line. I particularly want to thank the Strengthening Positive Voices working group, especially Wayne Hornsby, Ken Goodier and Sara Graham, who worked tirelessly over the last two years to ensure the merger was right for Straight Arrows members.

I would also like to thank Richard Keane for his unflagging work during his time as President for Living Positive Victoria, making sure the needs of heterosexual communities were at the forefront of discussions during the two years of merger talks. Thank you too to the board and staff of Living Positive Victoria for their unstinting work towards the merger.

Finally, a hearty thank you to the members of Straight Arrows for their support and trust during this process. We know that this merger will be a great success and there are exciting times ahead working with Living Positive Victoria to provide improved services for all people living with HIV.

Here's to an even better year in 2017 as we go on this great new journey together.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The best way to see how far you've come is to reflect on where you've been. Before I dive into the accomplishments over this past year, I want to take you back to 2012.

It was a year of notable achievements from women in Australia including Julia Gillard's riveting speech on misogyny in Parliament, and Sally Pearson's gold medal in athletics breaking a 12 year drought for Australia at the summer Olympics.

In the HIV community, PrEP was still in clinical trials, there was no rapid HIV testing in Australia and the big debate for the PLHIV community was how early someone should commence anti-retroviral treatment (ART) and the ethics around treatment as prevention (TasP).

Coventry House was a new single site of PLHIV service delivery and recently brought in Positive Women Victoria, foreshadowing what we see now as a stronger voice for the diversity of PLHIV living in Victoria. The process of rebranding and becoming Living Positive Victoria was well underway and core programs including the Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB), Phoenix and Poslink were operating under the guidance of seven dedicated staff and an organisational budget of just over \$800,000.

Fast forward to 2016 and Living Positive Victoria now has an operating budget of \$1.4 million, we've doubled the number of staff, our membership base continues to grow with more than 1500 members and our partners, including our volunteers, businesses and community agencies, have donated an estimated \$2 million through in-kind support and grants.

Our core programs have grown and diversified including a new portfolio within the PSB dedicated for older PLHIV called Senior Voices, Phoenix workshops for newly diagnosed women and heterosexual men, and the activities of ENUF, the Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI), Gen Next and the Disclosure Project are creating opportunities for more sector collaboration while tackling

some of the more difficult issues facing PLHIV including resilience, stigma, disclosure and social isolation.

The creation of Coventry House changed the landscape of HIV sector relationships and was evident with the incredible work of those involved in the Strengthening Positive Voices initiative. Their work over the past two years ensured the successful merge of Straight Arrows and Living Positive Victoria in August 2016. This is another testament to the commitment and expertise of Living Positive Victoria staff, board of directors and volunteers as they are well-regarded as innovative thought leaders in HIV and continue to participate in high-level political, clinical, social and policy research programs.

As we enter the final year of the current Strategic Plan, our accomplishments range from the successful repeal of the only HIV criminalisation statute in Australia, Section 19a, joint health promotion campaigns on syphilis awareness, HIV stigma, PrEP and TasP, and published academic articles and reports contributing to policy and research on early treatment uptake, mental health, community engagement and best practices for outreach to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, women and young people living with HIV.

But we're not finished yet.

The greater involvement and meaningful engagement of PLHIV in the HIV response is a principle upheld around the world. Yet when decisions are made that affect the quality of life of PLHIV, the voices of PLHIV are often unheard, or worse, they are never provided an opportunity to speak.

We must continue to respond to the diversity of people living with HIV. It is more important than ever that the voices of those often underrepresented in the HIV sector such as women, heterosexuals and those from the different generations of an HIV diagnosis are heard. We need especially to focus on culturally

and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members who we know have far less access to testing, treatment and care and the areas of mental health, social services and poverty must continue to be a priorities as they impact the entire HIV community.

Finally, we must reject the growing complacency from governments, media and the public that HIV and AIDS are over. The virus is ever present in the bodies of more than 27,000 PLHIV in Australia but kept in the shadows because of the pills most PLHIV take every day. Although the Australian response to HIV has often been singled out as an outstanding example of a highly effective response to HIV, it hasn't come without the perseverance from all partners across the sector creating services and campaigns, and advocating for the rights and policies affecting PLHIV. We must remain vigilant in maintaining this high degree of efficacy or suffer the consequences of the virus coming out of the shadows and undermining the work we have fought so hard to achieve.

I'm confident that Living Positive Victoria will continue to inspire a shared vision and model the way for how we can work better together to support PLHIV. I am proud of our staff, volunteers and agency partners who have learnt that by challenging the process and enabling others to act, we can do so much more than we ever thought possible.



Brent Allan
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OCTOBER 2016

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Straight Arrows has had an exciting year with new programs and a new path for the future. The biggest achievement this year has been the unanimous vote by our membership to merge with Living Positive Victoria. This is the culmination of many years of hard work behind the scenes, consulting with members and working with our partners and stakeholders to consolidate the future of Straight Arrows through the merger. The vision and foresight of those who instigated the initial talks of merging the two agencies is to be commended. The merger increases our capacity to deliver services, ensures our sustainability, and gives us a greater voice in advocating for the needs of all people living with HIV, particularly previously marginalised voices. As part of a larger organisation with increased capacity, we are planning new and improved services for heterosexual men, women and families living with and affected by HIV. This is an important juncture for Straight Arrows as we move into the future.

This year has seen the renewal of some old programs and the addition of a number of important new ones. In addition to running our regular programs, this year we have been involved in the following:

- a reignited Phoenix workshop for heterosexual men, offered in partnership with Living Positive Victoria. In addition, the first Phoenix for women was a wonderful example of the power of constructive partnerships, drawing on the expertise of the three PLHIV agencies
- an adult retreat at the Summit in Gippsland was a wonderful opportunity to combine peer led support with health promotion activities, along with fun physical challenges that develop self-belief, resilience and a sense of achievement

- through our PLDI scholarship fund we have funded two Straight Arrows members to attend PLDI training. The presence of women and heterosexual men within the program open up all participants to new ways of understanding HIV and the different experiences of living with HIV
- the formation of a peer support group for haemophiliac men living with HIV, in partnership with Haemophilia Foundation Australia and Alfred Health
- contributions to consultations on the Victorian HIV Strategy, support services for bisexual men and gender equality, and participation in various consumer surveys
- strengthening our engagement with rural and regional communities, with a targeted focus on the workforce in the Hume region.

The work that we do is a team effort. We couldn't do it alone. I would like to thank several people:

To the staff at Straight Arrows – you have shown great dedication over the past year. You have stepped into challenging roles and executed them with a high level of enthusiasm, professionalism and passion. The success of Straight Arrows and the programs it offers rests on your efforts and is a credit to you.

To our members, supporters, clients and stakeholders – you're part of our family. We don't exist without you and your involvement, your challenges and your triumphs inspire us to keep working with you to ensure access to services for women, heterosexual men and families living with and affected by HIV.

To all who have assisted in the Strengthening Positive Voices project – I would like to extend a huge thank you to the following: the Strengthening Positive Voices working group members; the legal firms HIVE Legal and Arnold Bloch Leibler who have provided invaluable pro-bono legal advice; the Department of Health and Human Services who have provided support and funding for the initial consultations; and to the members of both agencies who have provided valuable feedback in consultations. Your hard work, perseverance and commitment have seen great results. The willingness of all involved to listen, engage and consider alternative viewpoints has strengthened the outcomes of this challenging project.

To our board – thank you for your tireless work over the past year. The Strengthening Positive Voices process has added to your workload and your contributions to the process have been highly valuable. We couldn't have done it without you.



WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

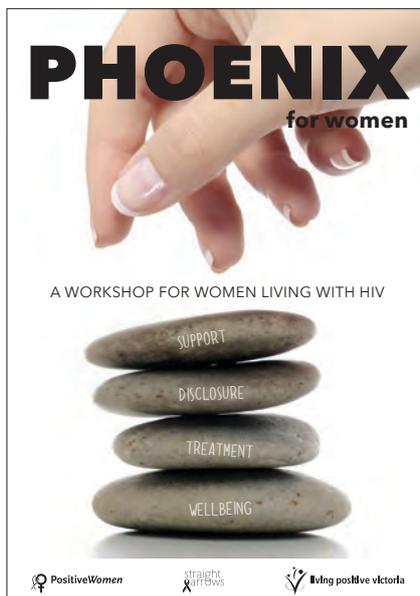
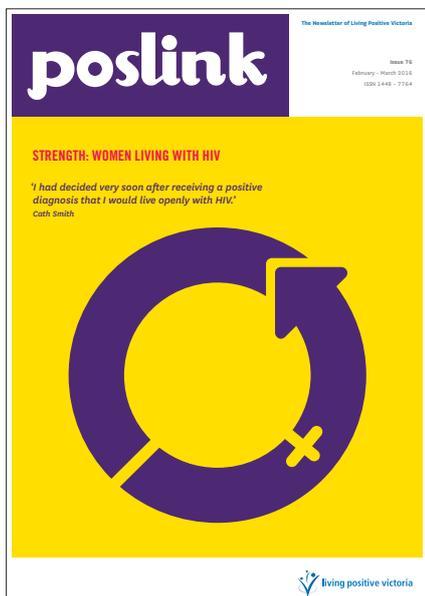
In Australia there are approximately 3000 of women living with HIV. They are our mothers, sisters and daughters and friends.

We know that women living with HIV are not an identical group. Women are unique and their diversity spans across age, geography, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, class, occupation, mobility – and thus our responses to a variety of needs must be tailored and diverse.

Over the past year we've taken steps to be more intentional in the inclusion and promotion of women in some of our key programs and services.

Creative responses to HIV

A FORUM DISCUSSION FOR WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV



ENUF

International Women's Day

Today is International Women's Day, which represents an opportunity for us to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality and recognition.

The ENUF Pledge

- I pledge to challenge HIV stigma wherever and whenever I see it.
- I will not sit by and allow anyone living with HIV to fear disclosure.
- I will take action when I see others gossiping about, rejecting and/or promoting negative stereotypes about people living with HIV.
- I commit to being part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Take the ENUF Pledge today in support of HIV positive women everywhere, go to enuf.org.au

PHOENIX FOR WOMEN

Adapted from the original Phoenix model, the two day workshop focused on the issues facing newly diagnosed women and offered a safe woman-only environment. Participants were able to talk amongst their peers, female facilitators and medical experts and leave equipped with knowledge and resources to support them on their HIV journey.

“I got there and didn’t want to walk in the door but I’m so glad I did. Phoenix has been life changing. It has given me a new perspective. I’ve been living with HIV for 5 years and not told anyone except my doctors. This changes everything. I can’t thank you enough.”

PHOENIX PARTICIPANT

ENUF

Two new female ambassadors were recruited to advocate against HIV-related stigma and support the mental health of those living with HIV: Rowena Allen, Victorian Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality; and Laurina Fleure, who was the second runner up on the hit Channel 10 show “I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here”, and brought incredible exposure to the organisation and also educated the nation about HIV-related stigma and undetectable viral load.

In the lead up to International Women’s Day, Living Positive Victoria commenced a project that aimed to engage women living with HIV and address the effects of stigma, discrimination and invisibility to promote resilience and connectedness through community cultural engagement. Dr Alyson Campbell (Victorian College of the Arts) and curator Angela Bailey facilitated a forum “Creative Responses to HIV” at Hares and Hyenas to engage WLHIV to consider and approach creative platforms to share and narrate their experiences.

“Community cultural engagement around HIV/AIDS creates the possibility of connection between artists, activists and community members to, in essence, provoke a wider understanding of the ongoing stigma and discrimination of HIV/AIDS and generate empowered responses via creative participation”

ANGELA BAILEY, CURATOR AND PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST

PEER SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP WITH POSITIVE WOMEN VICTORIA

The longstanding relationship between Living Positive Victoria and Positive Women Victoria has been formalised this year with the drafting of a formal memorandum of understanding between the two organisations. Under this agreement, Living Positive Victoria provides partial funding for Positive Women Victoria’s women’s peer support program. This funding has enabled Positive Women Victoria to expand the program which in the past year saw the peer support worker make contact with over 120 WLHIV for support and referral, as well as encouraging their participation in activities such as Phoenix for women, Planet Positive and the Straight Arrows Adult Retreat.

This year, the Straight Arrows Adult Retreat and Camp Seaside incorporated women only workshops and activities that included discussion groups on disclosure and children. Living Positive Victoria also provided assistance to women needing child-care to allow those with caring responsibilities to attend. Young WLHIV are now being encouraged to join Gen Next as the group has rebranded and the target audience is no longer gay-male exclusive but now open to all PLHIV under 30.

Some of our major events including the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and World AIDS Day saw WLHIV playing a key part through sharing their stories and experiences as a way to showcase the multiple faces of those living with HIV. Our Disclosure Project, which allows people to share their story of disclosure in an anonymous setting, saw more than half the submissions come from women. There are plans to showcase these stories in the next business year.

In all areas, we continue to ensure women are a vital part in our HIV response. As we look towards the next 12 months, together with Straight Arrows and other community partners including Positive Women Victoria, we expect to see more women-focused programs and workshops, and training more WLHIV to be active public speakers and facilitators.



PARTICIPATION

Participation involves connecting with other people with experiences both similar to and different from our own, and sharing our experiences in the process of creating positive change in the determinants of our health. For positive people it means being active in any space – physical or virtual – where people are making decisions that affect us or might be ready to hear about HIV.



Our health promotion team took a huge leap forward in initiating a wide range of opportunities for people living with HIV. This included participation in the programs and activities of Living Positive Victoria and Straight Arrows, and empowering our members to build capacity to participate actively in managing their own physical health and wellbeing.

PEER EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

HIV peer education and support has come a long way over the years. Building the capacity of PLHIV to facilitate workshops has been one of our objectives in line with peer-led models. In previous years our volunteers had participated in facilitator training provided by VAC. This year, for the very first time, Living Positive Victoria conducted a two-day training program specifically for our HIV-positive peers. This involved training potential Phoenix workshop facilitators as well as staff and volunteers of Straight Arrows and Positive Women Victoria to provide tailor-made Phoenix workshops to women and heterosexual men. It is important to build the capacity of these organisations to provide all PLHIV with the tools to begin their journey living with HIV, to develop resilience and to set goals for achieving their hopes and dreams for the future.

For Straight Arrows, peer support is the cornerstone of what we do. For many people it is the first step in recovery in the face of an HIV diagnosis. The service provided by our peer support staff is responsive to the individual needs of clients. It provides a scaffold from which they can access other support and build resilience. This year we have actively engaged with the HIV health workforce in the sector and have seen an increase in referrals as a result. We anticipate that with the changing face of the epidemic in Victoria, the number of people accessing our peer support services will continue to grow.

In a first for PLHIV agencies in Victoria, Straight Arrows' peer support officer has been actively engaging with haemophilic men living with HIV. This group of men contracted HIV through blood transfusions in the early days of the epidemic before HIV had been discovered and the blood supply secured. They are living with the twin health challenges presented by haemophilia and a diagnosis of HIV prior to the advent of anti-retroviral therapies (ART). Many of the men have not engaged with the positive voice organisations and have remained isolated from each other. This new program has created a safe peer support space for the men to connect both through social media and in person, and is supported through a partnership with Alfred Health and Haemophilia Foundation Australia. The men have been actively involved in the planning of a retreat scheduled to take place in late 2016, and will be an important opportunity for these men to connect with other men who have experienced their unique circumstances.



PHOENIX

DISCLOSURE PROJECT

A collaborative multimedia project promoting HIV resilience through the public sharing of disclosure experiences and strategies was launched in September 2015. Living Positive Victoria, ACON, The Institute of Many (TIM) and VAC joined forces for the Disclosure Project and launched a novel concept of the 'Disclosure Sofa', which saw people sharing their own experiences of disclosure whilst seated on a sofa at the the Social Research Conference on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Related Diseases (HHARD) and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) Gay Men's Health Promotion Conference before leaving our shores bound for AIDS 2016 in July.

the living book
disclosure

The HIV Disclosure Sofa
Do you have an experience around HIV disclosure that you would like to share?

Visit The Disclosure Sofa, a community cultural engagement activity (CCE) co-developed and presented by ACON and Living Positive Victoria and have your voice heard.

Do you want to participate?

- Anyone can be a participant regardless of HIV status.
- All participants will be invited to share a component of any creative process.
- All participants must sign a media consent form before they are able to participate in the project.
- Anyone participating in the project will be credited at the conclusion of this creative process by key staff and volunteers.

living positive victoria
disclosureproject.org.au

the living book
disclosure

My Fears
Disclosure of your HIV status is deeply tied to personal identity and is a major act happening across the lifespan for people living with HIV (PLHIV). Before, during and after disclosure of an individual's HIV status, many PLHIV can feel apprehension, shame and/or other difficult emotions. In short, for PLHIV disclosure is often a significant personal challenge.

My Voice
Disclosure performs a vital function for many PLHIV. It reclaims their diagnosis as their own narrative and establishes a 'frame' upon which they can build strength and resilience.

My Choice
Imagine writing a script where the editing process never ends. The HIV disclosure scripts formulated in the minds of the PLHIV (where all possible and improbable endings) have been formulated, but when the words are said out loud, its 'performance' changes yet again. The performance of disclosure commonly reverts to one of improvisation - an interplay between disclosure and how this is received. A PLHIV's disclosure narrative is never fully written, fully said or indeed fully realised for every possible scenario: it alters with time, environment and context. Disclosure is about experiential learning.

living positive victoria
disclosureproject.org.au

SUMMER FESTIVALS

The summer festival season saw the marriage of ENUF and the Disclosure Project with the joint themes reflected through campaign materials and messages. Over 100 people joined us for Pride March, carrying bright and vibrant banners to encourage and engage punters in the conversation about challenging HIV stigma and discrimination. Living Positive Victoria marched for the second time in the themed 'Diamonds and Denim' procession in the Daylesford Chillout Parade, where a contingent of members and allies strutted their stuff in time to music whilst raising awareness about HIV related stigma and discrimination.

Living Positive Victoria maintained a strong student and youth presence in 2016. In addition to teaming up with VAC at International Students Day at Deakin University, we joined RMIT to welcome their students during Orientation Week. More than 500 students pledged to speak up against HIV related stigma by signing the ENUF pledge. The engagement of people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities continued through our ongoing involvement with the annual Lunar Festival, where our family friendly message of HIV testing and awareness was shared with people attending Richmond's celebration of the Vietnamese New Year.

Staff and volunteers joined the Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) at the Where The Heart Is festival in Edinburgh Gardens, for day of community outreach to people sleeping and/or living rough (homeless) or those at risk of becoming. This year marked our fourth and final outing at this festival which has been cancelled to enable RDNS to focus on and prioritise homeless people living with Hep C to access the new Hep C treatments.



MAY YOUR FAMILY PROSPER IN 2016

Whenever you return from overseas travel, ask your doctor for a sexual health check-up including an HIV test.

living positive victoria
livingpositivevictoria.org.au



POSITIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (PLDI)

This highly successful national leadership program prides itself on its diversity and strength of pragmatic and sustainable outcomes to build resilience and leadership qualities for PLHIV. Five workshops were held across Australasia including Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand. There were a total of 60 participants from a range of diverse genders, sexualities, ages and locations. Participants left equipped with skills to enhance their ability to become better leaders of social change and advocates in the fight against stigma and discrimination against people with HIV.

The Victorian contingent held its inaugural PLDI alumni reunion where graduates heard research fellow, Anthony Lyons from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) present findings on his research on resilience.

“Thought of applying for PLDI but not had the courage? Now, as a PLDI graduate, I encourage you to apply! You won’t regret it. It will inspire, empower and motivate you to be the best you that you can be. And you’ll meet a host of different and inspirational people who will join you on your journey.”

PLDI PARTICIPANT



REGIONAL OUTREACH

Living Positive Victoria recognises that 'participation' is more than just simply providing the right programs and activities, but also about ensuring that the diversity of PLHIV is catered for. PLHIV participating in our programs and activities included Victoria's rural and regional areas and as our Tasmanian constituency, as well as people from diverse genders, sexualities and ages, and many cultural backgrounds such as Papua New Guinea, Colombia, Spain, Vietnam, South Korea, Peru, Philippines and China.

We delivered presentations at agencies and forums such as the 14th Social Research Conference on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Related Diseases, Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) meetings in both Swan Hill and Bendigo, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre and the Mental Health Nurses Practice meeting at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Our health promotion team partnered with the newly established VACountry to commence outreach at their community hub in Bendigo and provided HIV peer education and support for people living with HIV. In 2015-2016 we held two meetings with local people living with HIV to address issues around treatment, social engagement and new diagnosis.

We contributed to the professional development of around 20 sexual health workers in other agencies by participating in the national POZ Action team's training day for South Australia Mobilisation and Empowerment for Sexual Health (SAMESH), as well as other local sexual health professionals in South Australia. Coventry House was also paid a visit by the new team of 12 staff and volunteers of the Tasmanian Council on AIDS Hepatitis and Related Diseases (tasCAHRD) from Hobart, Tasmania.

Our health promotion team participated in the National Association of People Living With HIV's (NAPWHA) popular 'Chinwag' community forum hosted by Vanessa Wagner and academic Nurse Nancy. This provides an opportunity for PLHIV to get the latest information on the prevention tools for people living with HIV.

CHIN WAG

WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S CHANGED IN HIV

FOR INFO TO BOOK
THE LATEST ON TREATMENT,
NEW RESOURCES, PLHIV AND PEER
COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS
AND LIVING WELL WITH HIV

PANELISTS INCLUDE PROFESSOR JENNY HOE,
VP PEER LEADING POSITIVE NETWORKS,
DR ANGELA CORNELIUSSE (CENTRE CLINICAL)
& GAVIN SMITH (HIV STRAIN WISEBOUR)

MONDAY OCTOBER 12 FROM 6.30-9.30PM
MELBOURNE MULTICULTURAL HUB
506 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE

RSVP CHINWAGMELBOURNE.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU
OR DIMITRI 03 9863 8733
BY 506 WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7

REFRESHMENTS + FOOD PROVIDED

napwha national association of people with hiv/aids
straight
arrows
living positive victoria

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Living Positive Victoria recognises that people with HIV connect in various ways and this includes sexually adventurous men online. Our profile on the online social site BBRT has reached many gay men living with HIV who may not otherwise access information about Living Positive Victoria's programs and activities by conventional means. Importantly this profile reached HIV negative men at risk of acquiring HIV as well as those who are undiagnosed with HIV. This provides access to education and support for those population groups and at the same time addresses stigma by helping to dismantle the ever present 'sero-divide' or wall that exists among the HIV-positive and negative communities.

Participation is also critical in addressing social isolation which can be a very serious issue for people living with HIV. Planet Positive remains a popular quarterly social event for PLHIV facing social isolation and financial hardship and the seasonal events have seen increased participation from a diverse community of men and women.

TREAT NOW CAMPAIGN

The Treat HIV Now campaign grew out of findings from the Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Treatment (START) study, which made a strong case for the significant health gains of starting HIV antiretroviral therapy early after a positive diagnosis as well as enabling a reduced risk of HIV transmission. With a clear benefit established, VAC and Living Positive Victoria developed a two-fold campaign to encourage those who are HIV negative or unaware of their status to get tested and to reinforce the benefits of being on treatment. The campaign, featuring three images of PLHIV and three faceless images, was promoted through social and sexual networking sites/apps and deployed through over 300 Adshell (bus and tram) locations over a three month period.

This campaign was significant because it used images of people living with HIV and brought a real face to the forefront of this issue. The campaign aimed not only to convey a positive impression of how HIV can be managed but to also combat the stigma and shame often associated with the virus.

This morning I was diagnosed with HIV.
This afternoon I decided to start treatment.

I'M TAKING CONTROL.
TREAT HIV NOW.
Find out more at
treathivnow.org.au

VIRUS AND COGNITIVE
HEALTH TESTS

I'm HIV positive.
It's time to start treatment.

I'M TAKING CONTROL.
TREAT HIV NOW.
Find out more at
treathivnow.org.au

VIRUS AND COGNITIVE
HEALTH TESTS

POSITIVE SPEAKERS BUREAU (PSB)

The PSB and Senior Voices Project (SVP) are peer led community based programs that focus on participation and resilience.

The speakers are the human face of HIV in the broader community and their personal narratives allow audiences to reflect on their attitudes and stereotyping of PLHIV.

Engaging speakers to participate in the PSB builds their ability to be active in Living Positive Victoria's HIV prevention approach to reduce HIV and STI transmissions, to challenge stigma and seek an end to HIV. They also talk about treatments and the benefits to their own health and wellbeing.

Audiences often comment on the honesty, the bravery and the resilience of the speakers – many of whom have been a part of the PSB for over a decade.

SENIOR VOICES PROJECT (SPV)

The Senior Voices Project has further built momentum with ongoing training and support of speakers and greater collaboration with aged care providers. Participation in the SPV has built greater resilience amongst the speakers in discussing HIV, sexuality and ageing. Sharing their stories with their peers has developed stronger support for each other and they show improved health literacy and an ability to be powerful advocates for their health and wellbeing with health and aged care providers.

The development of the 'Positive Caring' handbook in partnership with RDNS has been an invaluable resource for many aged care providers and PLHIV. Over 100 copies have been distributed across Australia and it provides clear and practical information for older PLHIV including best practices in care. In conjunction with the handbook, more than 200 fact sheets were created focusing on specific issues facing older PLHIV such as cognitive disorders and medication adherence.



“Engaging, personable and confronting appropriately. The feedback from the nurses was ALL positive. It was cited as a highlight of the education program. Confronted all the issues around judgement and stigma”

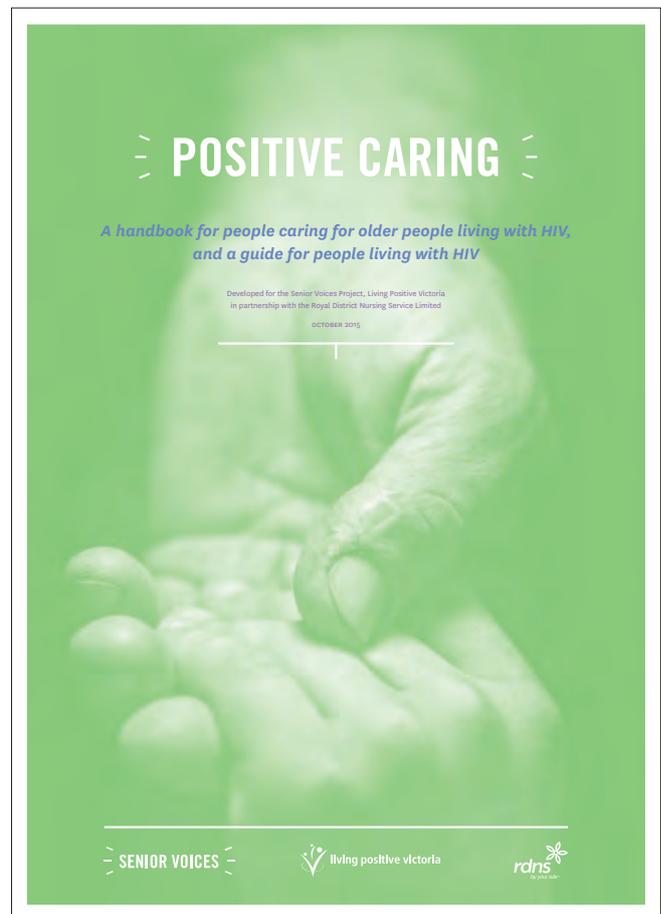
ROYAL DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE

“Both speakers were terrific. Engaging and clear in their messages. As always, a fantastic way to educate students about sexual health as a follow on from our work in Year 9. It is also an excellent springboard into the small group sessions to follow. Thanks again, PSB”.

BRAUER COLLEGE, WARRNAMBOOL

“Just want to thank you guys immensely for providing such a powerful service free to our school community. We consistently work towards good outcomes, safety and wellbeing of our students and your program supports this mission”.

BROADFORD SECONDARY COLLEGE



ENUF

In maintaining a year-round presence over 2015/16, the ENUF Campaign attracted increased attention towards its objective to bring the damaging effects of stigma to the front of people's minds. Community engagement came in the form of public events, discussion panels and creative workshops. ENUF was nominated for a second year running as a finalist in the Healthy Communities category of the annual GLOBE Awards, held in October 2104.

Seven new ambassadors were recruited, including:

Cameron Clarkson, *HIV youth advocate*

Daniel McPhail, *PrEP warrior*

Chris Williams, *PrEP warrior*

Soenke Tremper, *Executive Director, Shepparton Medical Centre*

Damien Stevens, *Diversity Project Greater Shepparton*

Rowena Allen, *Victorian Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality*

Sam Hibbins, *Member of Parliament for Prahran*

“I’m an ENUF ambassador because it really is still way too hard for those living in rural/regional areas to seek and access support and services. My friend recently said, ‘I postponed a cancer check up today because I couldn’t be bothered going down to Melbourne. Many people know I’m HIV positive ... I love what you do and thank you for it, but for me I have enough issues to deal with. Please when it comes to these things I’d much rather be left alone.’

It’s a stark reality that although Greater Shepparton and it’s services have improved, it is still ever-important that we increase awareness and education around HIV. My friend is doing well - he’s connected to our local LGBTIQ social-support group, GV Pride ... but we need to do better. I’m an ENUF ambassador committed to decreasing stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV in the country.”

DAMIEN STEVENS, DIVERSITY PROJECT GREATER SHEPPARTON



COMMUNITY CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Living Positive Victoria recognises the benefits of creative community engagement practices. Arts practices fuel a collective imagination that create visceral experiences. The combination of health promotion, participatory arts and social marketing can produce powerful and compelling arts interventions that enrich lives and connect communities. Using social and cultural capital as tools, the role of art helps develop social relationships to be more clearly articulated.

2015-16 saw the continued commitment to form collaborations between arts practice and health promotion. We partnered with a number of artists, creative practitioners and creative organisations. These co-presented artistic works highlight the various forms that HIV stigma can be present in the lives of people living with HIV and explored the different ways that such stigma can be confronted, tackled and overcome. Projects that engaged the creative disciplines of visual art, performance, film and dance were presented to local audiences whose experiences with HIV and stigma were enlightened and strengthened as a result.

Visual artist David Lee Pereira collaborated with performance artist WRUFF 'n' TUMBLE to deliver an exhibition entitled Red Meat to articulate many of the different faces of HIV. The collaboration challenged misconceptions and stigma surrounding connection and transmission of HIV.

Performance artist Darren Vizer produced a theatrical autobiography that was presented at LaMama Theatre. The work explored childhood bullying, family relationships, HIV status and sexual and gender identity. Darren went onto develop a series of participatory workshops where movement and dance was employed as a means to challenge HIV related discrimination and stigma around HIV positive sex between men.

We facilitated a number of public panel discussions around the topic of HIV and the arts, engaging with the producers and casts of locally produced performances of 'The Normal Heart' and 'RENT', two important and historic performance pieces. Living Positive Victoria also facilitated a public panel discussion around the topic of HIV and crystal meth attached to a screening of the documentary 'Chemsex' at the Nova Cinema in April.



GEN NEXT

In the past year Gen Next has embraced participation as a force for creating positive change, connecting the experiences of young people with those of the broader community. Gen Next provides a safe and inclusive space for all young people living with HIV in Victoria irrespective of our backgrounds, genders and sexualities.

Our new participation guidelines were also developed in consultation with the group. It was decided that being young and positive was not defined by condescending notions of 'dependence' or a transition to 'adulthood,' but rather how our experiences of growing up and being diagnosed during the later stages of the HIV epidemic is different from the generations that came before us, and have made our perspectives and insights about living with HIV unique to us.

Meanwhile, our discussion events have focused on common experiences and how collective action can generate solutions to shared problems. These have included:

- the commonalities between the challenges faced by the communities that use Treatment as Prevention and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) as forms of biomedical prevention
- the value and importance of having the voices and faces of people living with HIV at the centre of public HIV awareness and education campaigns
- how living with HIV today relates and connects to the history and heritage of the early HIV epidemic and movement in Australia
- how gay male spaces need to change in order to include and support trans men living with HIV.



INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL

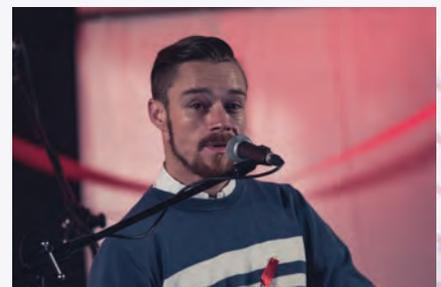
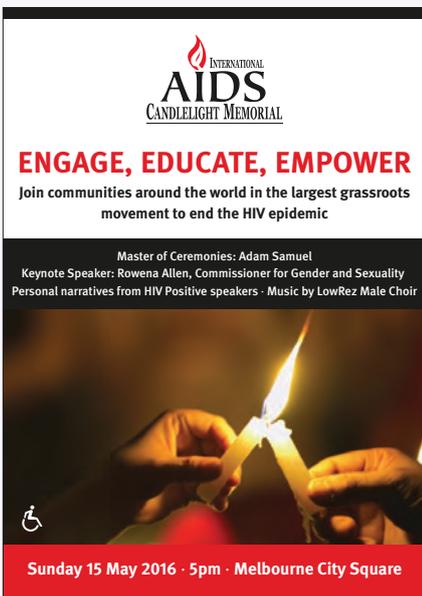
Living Positive Victoria and VAC co-hosted the 2016 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial at City Square. Adam Samuel was the Master of Ceremonies and Victoria's Gender and Sexuality Commissioner, Rowena Allen, gave a compelling and personal reflection about HIV and AIDS.

The two PLHIV speakers' stories of being diagnosed as younger people took the audience on a journey of self-discovery and their global experiences. They asked the audience to reflect and remember the powerful advocates at the start of the epidemic and how they have now taken on the baton as the new generation of advocates. The Low Rez Melbourne Male Choir performances dedicated their songs to all people living with HIV and those who have died from AIDS.

WORLD AIDS DAY LAUNCH AT THE DOHERTY INSTITUTE

World AIDS Day took on a whole of sector approach for 2015 and was launched at the Doherty Institute. As Master of Ceremonies, Richard Keane made an impassioned speech to work together towards ending HIV.

Keynote speaker Dr Clovis Palmer, Head of Burnet Institute's HIV Immuno-metabolism Laboratory in the Centre for Biomedical Research, spoke about his life as a researcher and his passionate connection to HIV. Will Vialls and Christabel Millar, spoke about their HIV journey and of the challenges and the resilience required to challenge HIV stigma and live their lives as normally as possible.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our volunteers at Coventry House come to us with a range of personal experiences, backgrounds and skills, and so have different reasons for volunteering with Living Positive Victoria. Along with giving something back to the community and increasing self-confidence, these have included the opportunity to develop skills, increase job prospects and be part of an ever-growing family of friends. Participants consist of positive speakers, peer facilitators, administration/reception volunteers, events volunteers, and those wishing to be involved behind-the-scenes such as media writers/editors and Christmas Hamper Appeal volunteers.

Earlier this year, Living Positive Victoria and VAC presented a combined special half day training session for all VAC and Coventry House administration/front-of-house volunteers. The purpose of the training session was to maintain consistency of the expected standards for all front-of-house volunteers as well as upskilling them with customer service skills and knowledge about the changing referral pathways across the two organisations.

IN THE LOOP

This therapeutic workshop provides a safe and confidential space for partners, family and friends of PLHIV to meet and learn about coming to terms with their loved one's HIV diagnosis. In 2016. The workshop covered ground in answering participants' questions (and possible fears), as well as dispelling myths about HIV transmission. Participants were able to explore ways of looking after themselves, particularly in situations where communication was sometimes lacking.

“It is rare for me to have a chance to meet other carers. This is a way to not only meet, but to hear each other's stories”.

“One of the most helpful things was realising I am not alone and we all have a different story to tell”

“I have learned that I need to stop stressing about things I have no control over”

“Some of the most useful things about this workshop was becoming clearer about what my son's business is, and what's mine”

VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS - IN THE LOOP



RESILIENCE

Resilience describes the ability to transform and change in positive ways to respond to major life changes – such as a positive diagnosis or the experience of isolation or stigma related to HIV. This includes personal dimensions of dealing effectively with challenges as well as social aspects such as contributing to positive leadership and connecting with positive community.



Living Positive Victoria continues to recognise the significance of how resilience plays a critical role in the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of people living with HIV.

PHOENIX

The long standing and highly successful Phoenix program is for people who have been recently diagnosed with HIV. Participants get peer support and comprehensive information on the management of HIV including the latest in treatments in a safe and confidential space. Last year saw the program adapted to deliver two specific workshops in partnership with Straight Arrows and Positive Women Victoria; one on the needs of heterosexual men, and the other focusing on women. A total of five workshops were facilitated including three for gay/bisexual men including trans men.

The reputation of the Phoenix model continues to be recognised nationally and has been conducted wholly or in part in the past in the ACT and Northern NSW. This year we initiated a new partnership with the HIV health promotion team of the South Australia for Mobilisation in Sexual Health (SAMESH). This was the first ever workshop for people living with HIV in Adelaide.

RESILIENCE WORKSHOP

Building on the success of Phoenix and PLDI, we ran two pilots of a brand new workshop to help people develop strong and ongoing resilience in dealing with the many issues faced by PLHIV, especially around disclosure. 13 participants consisting of Phoenix and PLDI graduates, assessed it to be of great value and were able to refine it for future delivery of the program.

KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION PLANS

Living Positive Victoria and Straight Arrows commenced the commissioning of Knowledge to Action (KTA) reports. A KTA plan looks at a particular issue, summarises best practice internationally and provides a series of recommendations to inform Living Positive Victoria and Straight Arrows programs. KTA plans completed this year include:

- A review of Youth Best Practice, authored by Tim Krulic
- Mental Health Knowledge to Action Plan, authored by Kirsten Machon.

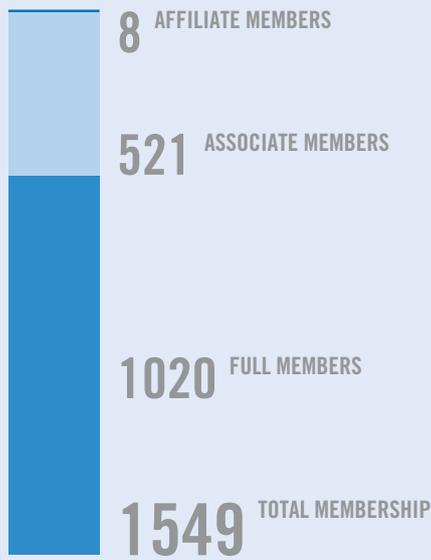
Copies of both reports are available for download from the Living Positive Victoria website.

POSITION STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY AND THE PLEBISCITE

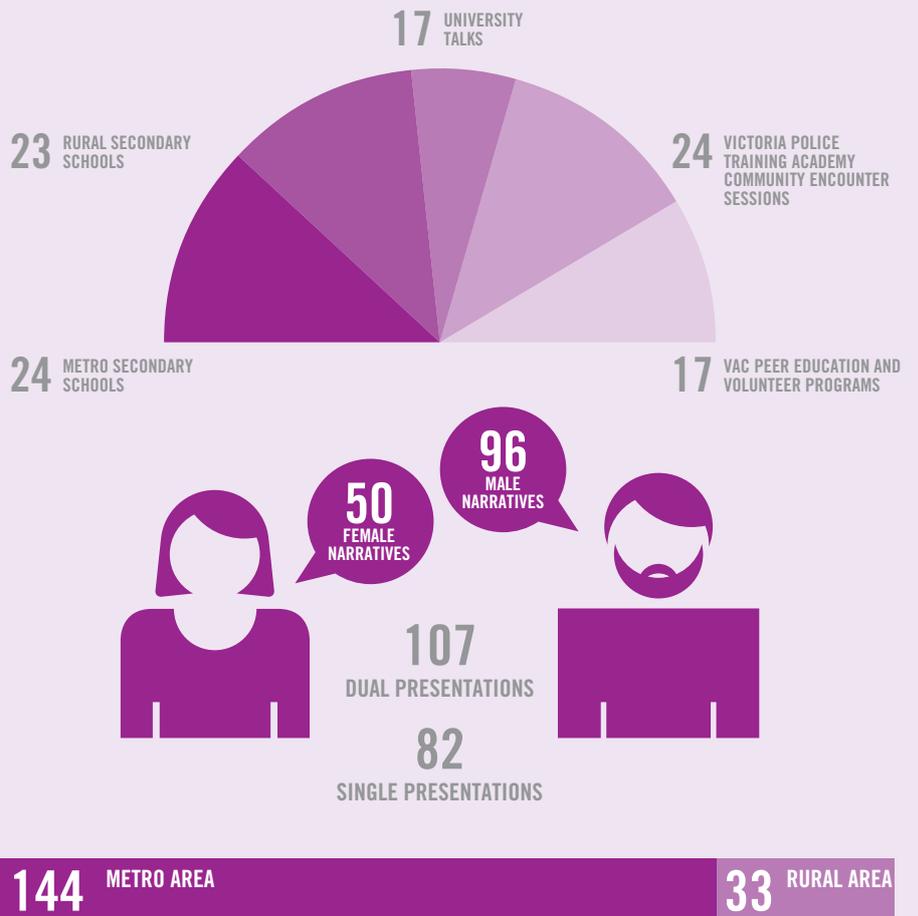
After former Prime Minister Tony Abbott proposed a national plebiscite to address the question of marriage equality in Australia, Living Positive Victoria conducted research on the effects a plebiscite would have on the wellbeing of LGBTIQ people, including PLHIV. The position statement resulting from this research supported marriage equality as a means for overcoming the stigma that results from discrimination. It further called on Parliament to abandon plans for a plebiscite as such an act would potentially be detrimental to LGBTIQ people living with HIV.



LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP



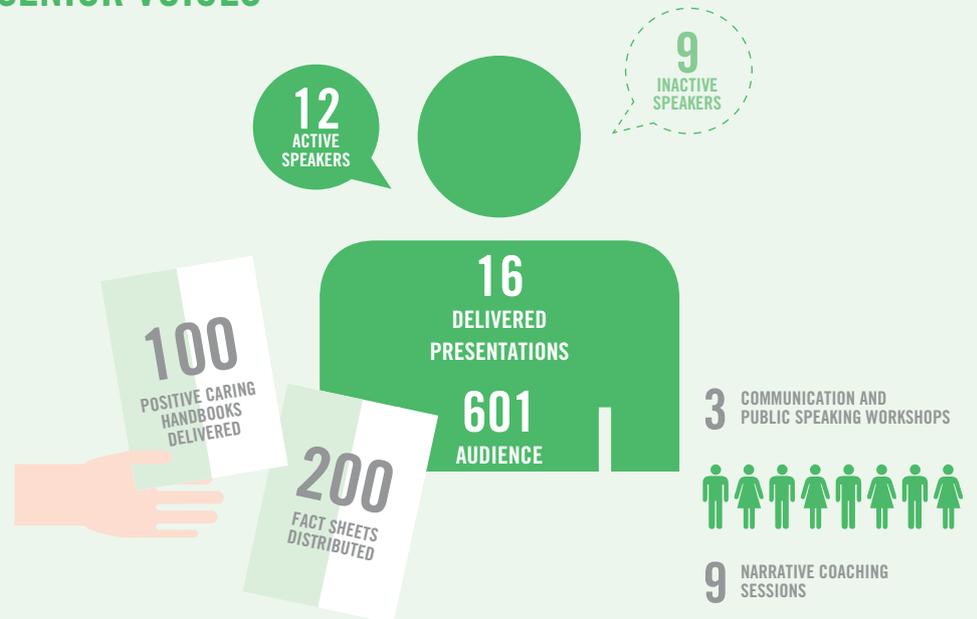
POSITIVE SPEAKERS BUREAU



FLIP



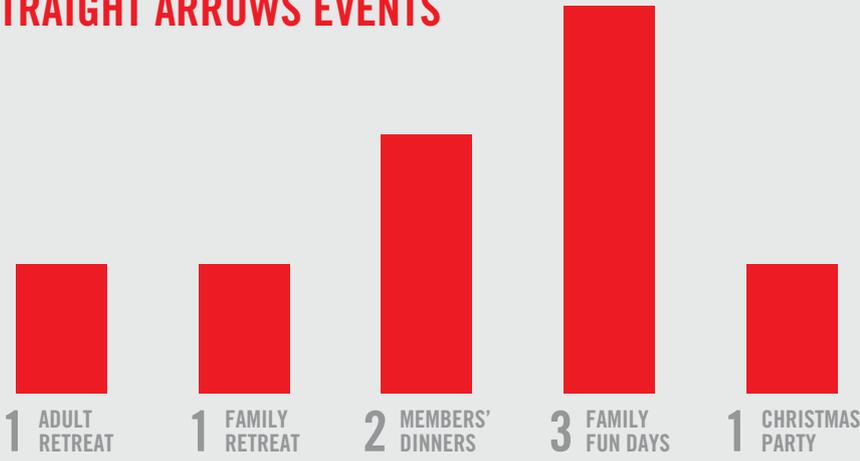
SENIOR VOICES



FESTIVAL OUTREACH



STRAIGHT ARROWS EVENTS



274 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

PHOENIX



PLDI



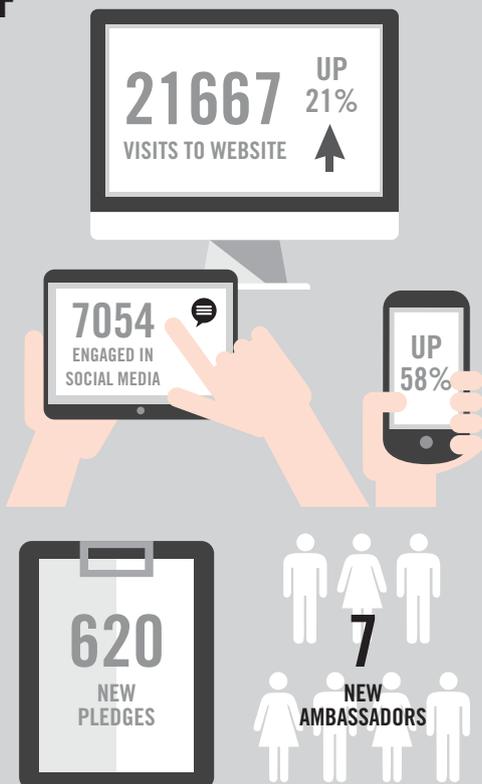
QUIT



PLANET POSITIVE



ENUF



VOLUNTEERS



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

STATISTICS

PREVENTION

This is not just preventing harmful things from happening but includes preventing their progression into more serious harms. It can mean being an active participant in the community effort to prevent HIV as well as working to improve your own health and promote the health of people living with HIV.



RESEARCH SUMMARY OF THE COUNT STUDY

In order to keep its members connected with the research into HIV, Living Positive Victoria prepared a summary of the results of the COUNT study. The COUNT study sought to determine the number of undiagnosed cases of HIV in Australia, risk reduction strategies of PLHIV, and how they interacted with each other in driving new cases of HIV. The summary helped Living Positive Victoria members and other PLHIV understand new information about HIV in Australia, and their role in helping prevent new cases.

SEX WORK POSITION STATEMENT

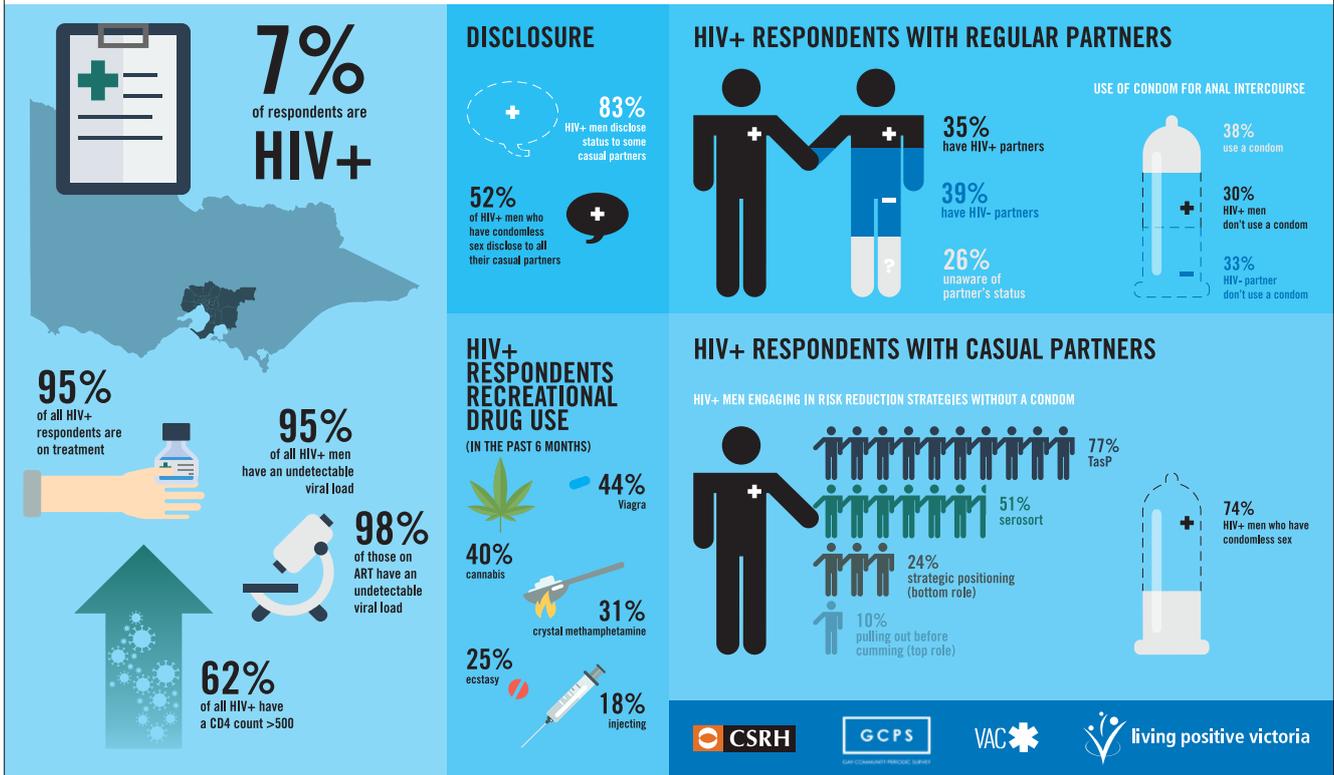
Living Positive Victoria partnered with the HIV Legal Working Group, Vixen Collective Victoria (the only peer-led sex worker organisation in Victoria), VAC, Scarlet Alliance and the Australian Sex Workers' Association to produce a one-page summary in favour of reform of sex work laws in Victoria. Although recent reforms of S.19A of the Crimes Act 1901 (VIC) removed HIV-specific offences, the Sex Work Act 1994 (VIC) and Sex Work Regulations 2016 (VIC) still contain provisions that prohibit a person living with HIV from undertaking sex work in Victoria. The statement helps underpin lobbying and advocacy for law reform in this area throughout 2016/17.

SYPHILIS POSITION PAPER

In recent years, syphilis notifications have increased significantly in Victoria with higher prevalence in gay and bisexual men living with HIV. While increases to testing and treatment for syphilis underpin Living Positive Victoria's Stamp Out Syphilis campaign, the use of condoms does not completely protect an individual from acquiring syphilis. A novel idea of using doxycycline, an antibiotic, as a prophylaxis for syphilis, was first proposed in 2009 but was not supported. The Living Positive Victoria position paper made a case for a clinical trial in Australia to determine the suitability of doxycycline as a prophylaxis.



GAY COMMUNITY PERIODIC SURVEY MELBOURNE 2016



GAY COMMUNITY PERIODIC SURVEY – SUMMARY FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

The Gay Community Periodic Survey is an annual study that looks at the sexual health of gay and bisexual men. For the first time, Living Positive Victoria partnered with the Centre for Social Research in Health (UNSW) and VAC to produce a summary of findings for gay and bisexual men living with HIV. Presented as an infographic, the aim was to translate the findings into an easy to understand format. By using graphics to summarise data, members of our community can get an instant understanding of the research and how it relates to them.

SUBMISSIONS

Living Positive Victoria provides input to various government-lead consultations in partnership with other organisations in the HIV sector, as well as independently or in partnership with Straight Arrows and/or Positive Women Victoria. Submissions this year to the Victorian Government this year included:

- Victorian Government
 - Gender Equality Strategy
 - State Disability Plan 2017-27 (VCOSS)
 - State Budget 2017-18 (VCOSS)



PARTNERSHIPS

- Victorian Council of Social Services: provide ongoing input into various consultation processes to ensure that the voices of people living with HIV are included in VCOSS submissions to government.
- Vixen Collective Victoria: following the principle of 'nothing for us, without us', Living Positive Victoria have engaged directly with Vixen to inform our reform work around sex work laws in Victoria.
- Harm Reduction Victoria: continuing our relationship with HRVic to inform work around drug use amongst PLHIV. HRVic are cognisant of the higher rates of drug use among PLHIV who identify as gay or bisexual, and in particular injecting drug practices. Living Positive Victoria therefore helps inform their work and vice versa.
- Hepatitis Victoria: continued partnership for people living with dual diagnosis of HIV and Hep C, health promotion to increase education and empower individuals understanding of risk, transmission and treatment.
- HIV Legal Working Group: Living Positive Victoria continue to auspice the work of the HIVLG focusing on projects that aim to improve the legal environment and processes dealing with matters relating to HIV and the law in Victoria.

DOUBLE HAPPINESS CAMPAIGN AND PREP

Living Positive Victoria joined with PrepAccessNow (PAN); Time 4 PrEP, PrEP'd For Change, Vic PrEP, and VAC in forming the Victorian PrEP Accord in response to a growing groundswell of important and vital community dialogue about PrEP. The PrEP Accord Partners came together to develop the Double Happiness Campaign to promote the shared benefits of using anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and PrEP in preventing the transmission of HIV. It was officially launched by the Hon. Jill Hennessey, Minister for Health on June 16. A community launch was held on the same day to ensure the campaign was rolled out to the broader community.

RECOVERY

Recovery is “a deeply personal, unique process of changing one’s attitudes, values, feelings, goals, skills and/or roles... It is a way of living a satisfying, hopeful, and contributing life even with limitations caused by illness.” (Bill Anthony, Boston University 2007). For PLHIV this can be encouraged by seeing other PLHIV who have been through a similar journey promoted as champions, role-models and leaders.



‘I must tell you one thing, that you guys and your organisation are changing many lives here.’

‘Thanks for organising the retreat. It was an awesome time to connect with everyone. It was truly life changing.’

‘This has been so important for us. It is especially important that my husband came and gain insight into living with HIV. He hasn’t met anyone else with HIV before.’

‘I’ve been living with HIV for a long time but this has been an eye opener. It’s really changed my thinking about things and I’m looking forward to the future.’

ADULT RETREAT 2015

ADULT RETREAT

A highlight of the year for Straight Arrows was the Adult Retreat at the Summit in Gippsland. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and mutual support and many of the participants thought it was life changing. The weekend provided exciting, fun and physical challenges that promoted strength, team work and resilience. The workshops were highly valued but the overwhelming comment from participants was that they appreciated learning from each other, and the sense of connectedness they felt. This has been very rewarding for all involved.





“I just wanted to thank you and your team at Living Positive Victoria for your financial assistance earlier this year.

After a three year break from paid work for medical reasons, I can confirm as of last week I am currently happy in paid work in the field that I was eager to work in.

With your assistance I was able to study full time and complete a certificate IV in disability work and other relevant complementary qualifications.

I could not have restarted my working career without your assistance.

Please pass on my gratitude to the whole team at Living Positive Victoria”

FLIP RECIPIENT

“I’ve come back home with such an open mind and feel that I need or want to support others in the same situation. I will be taking steps to insure this does happen. I thank you for assisting with transport and accommodation for the weekend. I cannot thank you enough”

FLIP RECIPIENT

FLIP

The Finance, Learning Independence Program (FLIP) provides financial assistance to any member of Living Positive Victoria. The fund supports PLHIV seeking assistance with returning to work or study in order to attain financial independence and who may be experiencing financial duress. The Members Support Fund (MSF) works within FLIP. It recognises that some people living with or affected by HIV may not have the option to fully participate in or utilise all of the events and services offered by Living Positive Victoria. This fund has been set up to assist members in need to facilitate a fair, transparent and accessible access to our services, e.g. by utilising the fund for childcare and transport.

Over the last financial year we have assisted 11 people with funds from the FLIP fund incorporating the new Members Support Fund. The two funds disbursed a total of \$4495 in the financial year 2015/16.

Laurina Fleure’s appearance on “I’m a Celebrity” provided an enormous and generous boost to the FLIP fund and Living Positive Victoria were the fortunate recipients of \$10,000 from Channel 10.



CAMP SEASIDE

Straight Arrows' Camp Seaside is an annual weekend retreat for families living with and affected by HIV. It supports the social participation, resilience and recovery of people living with HIV and their families by providing peer support and access to activities that promote health and wellbeing. The retreat in Gippsland this year created a perfect environment for eight families to come together in a range of fun, physical and challenging activities to help build self-confidence and resilience. The continuation of a women's workshop over the weekend retreat was highly valued by the participants as it provided an opportunity to deepen their connections with other women living with HIV and to be able to discuss their concerns openly in a safe and nurturing environment.

'Thank you for the camp. The activities were fantastic. I feel bolder. Like I can take on more challenges. More confident.'

'This is wonderful. It's the first time I have been able to relax in years.'

'The kids had so much fun. Can't wait for next year.'

VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS

- CAMP SEASIDE

MEMBERS' DINNERS

The Straight Arrows member dinners provide an opportunity for women and heterosexual men living with HIV to forge stronger connections with people facing similar challenges. Two dinners were held this year, one at the Standard in Fitzroy and a feast at the iconic Jims' Greek Tavern in Collingwood. The dinners are important in helping create social connections and facilitating social inclusion. 35 people attended the dinners.

MEMBERS' FUN DAYS

Straight Arrows' members' fun days are an informal get together and a way to foster connections between all people living with HIV including families and children. All these events are family friendly occasions geared towards children but with activities that are suitable for all ages. Three members' fun days were held this year, with 51 participants taking part in activities including indoor rock-climbing at Clip 'n' Climb, a visit to the Sculptures by the Sea, and indoor trampolining, rock climbing and more at Latitude.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Straight Arrows Christmas Party had consistently large numbers and over 30 children and 20 adults enjoyed an evening of live comedy performances, a festive disco and a visit from Santa with a sack full of gifts generously donated by the Country Awareness Network and the venue provided by VAC.



BOARD AND STAFF

BOARD MEMBERS	ROLE	CURRENT/		ATTENDANCE
		TERM START	FINISH DATE	
Ian Muchamore	President (until Nov 2015)	July 2015	Nov 2015	4/4
Richard Keane	Vice President (until Oct 2015) President (from Nov 2015)	July 2015	June 2016	11/11
Kim Davis	Vice President (from Nov 2015)	July 2015	June 2016	11/11
Neale Gerlach	Treasurer	July 2015	June 2016	11/11
David Westlake	Staff Rep	July 2015	June 2016	11/11
Darren Vizer	Secretary (from Nov 2015)	Oct 2015	June 2016	7/7
Mitchell Payne		July 2015	Nov 2015	1/4
Christabel Millar		July 2015	June 2016	8/11
Dean Camilleri		July 2015	Sept 2015	2/2
Jacob Boehme		July 2015	May 2016	5/7
Shane Buckley		April 2015	June 2016	3/3
Bruce Fitzgerald		July 2015	August 2015	2/2

STAFF MEMBERS	ROLE
Brent Allan	Chief Executive Officer
Suzy Malhotra	Manager Health Promotion
David Westlake	Business Support Manager
Cristian Cortez	Systems Support Officer
Randelle Anderson	Senior Communications Officer (from May 2016)
Max Niggel	Positive Speakers Bureau Coordinator
Theo Tsipiraras	Senior Voices Project Officer
Joel Murray	Senior Officer – Policy and Research
Vic Perri	Health Promotion Officer
Guy Hussey	Health Promotion Officer
Dimitri Daskalakis	Health Promotion Officer
Tim Krulic	Health Promotion Officer
Brenton Geyer	ENUF Campaign Coordinator
Akke Halma	Finance Officer
James Hamlet	Grants Writer (Volunteer)
Ruan Uys	Project Officer (from April 2016)
Daniel Brace	Communications Coordinator (until Nov 2015)

BOARD AND STAFF

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey Robertson	Chair
Christopher Kaleera	Vice Chair
Peter Collins	Treasurer
George Maleckas	Secretary
Peter Davis	
Wayne Hornsby	
John Tracey	

ROLE

STAFF MEMBERS

Sara Graham	Executive Officer
Matthew Powell	Peer Support Officer
Sarah Hocking	Health Promotion Officer

ROLE



POSITIVE COMMUNITY 2016 AWARDS

The Positive Community Awards are an opportunity for Living Positive Victoria and our community to recognise and celebrate the outstanding service, practice and support of individuals, groups and organisations.

Together our efforts advance the human rights and wellbeing of people living with HIV and empower all people affected by HIV to be part of the response that seeks to end the epidemic.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**SCOTT DUNSDON
AND
REUBEN CHEOK**

Awarded to a volunteer who has provided outstanding service contributing towards our vision of a world where people living with HIV in Victoria live their lives to their full potential, in good health and free from discrimination.

POSITIVE SPEAKER AWARD

**SUSAN PAXTON
PHD**

Awarded to a member of the Positive Speakers Bureau who has provided outstanding service contributing towards our vision of a world where people living with HIV in Victoria live their lives to their full potential, in good health and free from discrimination.

**POSITIVE HEALTH
AND WELLBEING AWARD**

DR BK TEE

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation that has made an exceptional contribution to supporting, building and delivering excellence in health care, research and health promotion initiatives which improve the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV in Victoria.

POSITIVE ADVOCATE AWARD

DR CLOVIS PALMER

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation who has made an exceptional contribution to the advocacy for the health, wellbeing and human rights of people living with HIV in Victoria.

POSITIVE SUPPORTER AWARD

LAURINA FLEURE

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation who has sponsored or financially supported and empowered our positive community to sustain and build activities and meet emerging needs.

POSITIVE CHAMPION AWARD

DEANNA BLEGG

Awarded to an individual, group or organization who has inspired, led and championed for the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV and their contribution towards ending HIV.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AWARD

AKKE HALMA

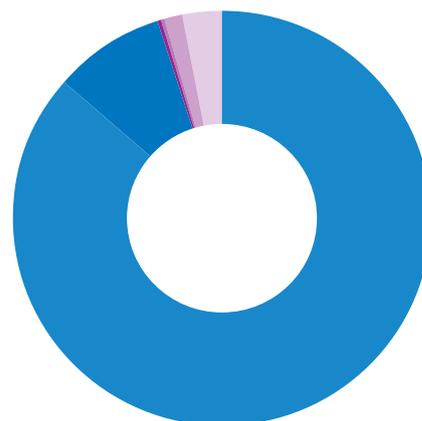
DS

MAKING OUR MONEY COUNT

INCOME

DESCRIPTION	\$	%
Government Grants	1,572,821	89%
Corporate Grants	157,026	9%
Donations	6,552	0.4%
Interest Received	5,669	0.3%
Speakers Bureau Income	24,080	1.3%
Other Income	50,912	3%
Total Income	1,817,060	100%

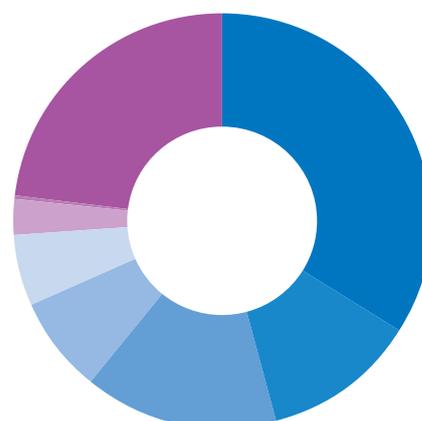
TOTAL INCOME \$ 1,817,060



EXPENDITURE

DESCRIPTION	\$	%
Health Promotion & Positive Education expenses	616,772	34%
Speakers Bureau & Senior Voices expenses	220,173	12%
Other Personnel costs	266,830	15%
Campaign expenses	135,641	7.5%
Administration expenses	98,224	5.5%
Governance expenses	45,870	2.6%
Grant expenses	5,057	0.3%
Coventry House costs	413,292	23%
Total Expenditure	1,801,859	100%
Total Surplus for the year	15,201	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$ 1,801,859



STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue	1,817,060	1,811,793
AIDS 2014 expenses	-	(243,332)
Administration expenses	(98,224)	(85,059)
Campaign costs	(135,641)	(143,109)
Governance expenses	(45,870)	(31,439)
Grant costs	(5,057)	(6,660)
Health Promotion & Education expenses	(616,772)	(473,151)
Information line	-	(27,501)
Speakers Bureau & Senior Voices expenses	(220,173)	(196,900)
Other Personnel costs	(266,830)	(192,337)
Coventry House expenses	(413,292)	(411,630)
Current Year Surplus Before Income Tax	15,201	675
Income Tax Expense	-	-
Total Income Surplus for the Year	15,201	675

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	398,939	648,152	673,781
Trade and other receivables	20,464	2,350	76,940
Other Current Assets	50,461	48,770	53,053
Total Current Assets	469,864	699,272	803,774
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	-	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets	-	-	-
Total Assets	469,864	699,272	803,774
LIABILITIES			
Payables	79,848	72,943	46,364
Funds received in advance	178,397	453,904	571,835
Provisions	135,526	111,532	125,359
Total Liabilities	393,771	638,380	743,557
Net Assets	76,093	60,892	60,216
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Accumulated Funds	76,093	60,892	60,216
Total Equity	76,093	60,892	60,216

Fully audited financial statements can be viewed at
www.livingpositivevictoria.org.au/about/annualreport

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

INCOME	2016 \$
Govt Grants – recurrent	201,182.91
Other Income	125.02
Interest	5.66
Total Income	201,313.59

EXPENSES	2016 \$
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	
ASHM Conference	1,191.57
Bank, Credit Card charges	199.94
Board Expenses	4,435.30
Bookkeeping	1,845.00
Computer, Photocopier	1,544.54
Depreciation	22,783.28
Meeting	155.78
Newletters	427.50
Parking	177.44
Office expenses	14.38
Postage	114.32
Printing	761.93
Professional Development	1,417.18
Staff Amenities	86.78
Subscriptions, Memberships	145.45
Taxi	313.35
Telephone	1,539.82
Travel	78.80
Website	3,806.36
Total Office Administration	41,038.72
MEMBER SUPPORT	
Camp Seaside	7,921.87
Christmas Party	1,355.41
Support, Activities	8,163.82
Total Member Support	17,441.10

EXPENSES	2016 \$
HEALTH PROMOTION	
Health Promotion	24,583.66
Retreat	4,436.50
HP – Salaries	18,655.90
HP – Superannuation	1,694.77
Total Health Promotion	49,370.83
CONFERENCES	
Conferences	2,228.54
Total Conferences	2,228.54
EMPLOYMENT	
Wages & Salaries	75,551.01
Superannuation	7,115.37
Workcover	2,062.01
Staff Recruitment	153.55
Staff Training	604.55
Total Employment	85,486.49
Total Expenses	195,565.68
Operating Profit	5,747.91
OTHER EXPENSES	
Net Profit(Loss)	5 747.91

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2016 \$	LIABILITIES	2016 \$
CASH		Trade Creditors	18,780.07
Westpac chq alc	74,821.84	Accrual	15,000.00
Michael Heatherill Project ale	266.85	GST Liabilities	
Tax Management ale	243.85	GST Collected	1,361.95
Total Cash	75,332.54	GST Paid	(1,721.59)
RECEIVABLES	600.15	Total GST Liabilities	(359.64)
EQUIPMENT AT COST		Payroll PAYG Liabilities	0.86
Computer & Office equipment	51,034.97	Salary Sacrifice Liabilities	596.75
Depr - Computers	(51,034.97)	Annual Leave Liabilities	1,650.00
Furniture & Fittings	55,753.89	Retreat deposits to be refunded	250.00
Depr - Furn & Fittings	(55,753.89)	Total Liabilities	35,918.04
Outdoor Program Gear	1,765.80	Net Assets	40,014.65
Depr - Outdoor Gear	(1,765.80)	EQUITY	
Total Equipment at cost	0.00	Opening Balance Equity	1,240.42
MOTOR VEHICLE AT COST		Retained Earnings	93,512.65
Motor Vehicle	20,102.27	Current Earnings	5,747.91
Depreciation on Motor Vehicle	(20,102.27)	Historical Balancing Account	(\$60,486.33)
Total Motor Vehicle at cost	0.00	Total Equity	40,014.65
Total Assets	75,932.69		

THANK YOU

3CR
ACON
Adam Samuel
Allen Deppeler
Alyson Campbell
Alzheimer's Australia Vic
Andrea Fischer
Andrew Eaton
Andrew Henshaw
Andrew Thorp
Andrew Way
Angela Bailey
Anna Georgiou
Anna Kennedy
Anne-Francis Watson
Anthony Lyons
Antony Burkitt
ANZ Australian Pride Network Working Group
Arnold Bloch Leibler
Ass Prof. Edwina Wright
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
Australian Research Centre in Sex,
Health and Society
Avi Miller
Bev Greet
Bill Bowtell AO
Bill Marron
Bill O' Loughlin
Bill Whittaker
Boehringer Ingelheim
Brenton Taylor
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Burnet Institute
Cam Clarkson
Campbell Moody
Cath Smith
Centre Clinic
Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health
Chalsie Mew
Channel 10
Chloe Crack
Chris Driscoll
Chris Williams
City of Melbourne
City of Yarra
Colin Krycer
Commonwealth Department of Ageing

ConnectingUp
Country Awareness Network
Craig Burnett
Damien Stevens
Daniel Brooks
Daniel MacPhail
Daniel Reeders
Darren Vizer
David Menadue OAM
David Robert Jones
David Vergona
David Lee Pereira
Dean Acuri
Dean Beck
Dean Camilleri
Dennis Altman OAM
Denton Callander
Designer Brands
Dial An Angel
Diana Herd
Diego Valverde
Doherty Institute
Donald Brand
Dr BK Tee
Dr John Rule
Dr. Beng Eu
Dr. Chris Lemoh
Dr. Clovis Palmer
Dr. Graham Brown
Dr. Vincent Cornelisse
DTs Hotel
Econnect
Education and Resource Centre at the Alfred
Edwin J Bernard
Emily Dalton
ENUF Ambassadors and Supporters
Eric Glare PhD
EVO Media
Federation Square
Fhai White
Fiona Patten MLC
Footscray Community Arts Centre
Franz Kunz
Garett Prestage
Garry Sattell
Geoffrey Ahern
Gilead

Giovanna Tivisini
Glenn Chapman
Google Australia
Goulburn Valley Pride
Gregory Ladner
Grill'd Southgate
Grindr
Haemophilia Victoria
Hares and Hyenas
Harm Reduction Victoria
Heath Paynter
Heather Ellis
Hepatitis Victoria
Hilary Knack
HIV Legal Working Group
HIVE Legal
Hivsters
Hon Jill Hennessy
Hon. David Davis
Hot House Designs
Hyperchromatics
Jacob Boehme
James Chamberlain
James Houghton
James McKenzie
Jane Tomnay
Jennifer Power
Jez Pez
Jill Stephens
Jim Hyde
Joe Borg
John De Wit
John Donnon
John Grivas
John Manwaring
Jon Staley
Jonathon Goodfellow
Josie Leung
JOY 94.9
Judith Gorst
Kai Ru Bradley
Kate Maddaford
Kelly West
Kerrie O'Sullivan
Kim Cross
Konica Minolta
Lachlan Philpot

Laird Hotel	Pensione Hotel Group	Circuit
Laurie Lagere	People2People Computer Services Pty Ltd	Soenke Tremper
Laurina Fleure	Peter Alexander	Star Observer
Liz Crock	Peter Brokenshire	Stefanie Christian
Low Rez Men's Choir	Peter Davis	Steven Fahd
Lucas' Papaw Remedies	Phil Shirrefs	Steven Moran
Luke Saunders	Phill Joffe	Steven Spencer
Madura Tea Estates	Phillip Island Adventure Resort	Straight Arrows
Majans	Phillippe Cahill	Strandbags
Marg Hayes	Pina Licciardion	Susan Paxton PhD
Mark Findlay	PLDI Partners and Facilitators	Tasmanian Council on AIDS Hepatitis and Related Disease
Mark Johnston	Positive Action Group Members	The Alfred Education and Resource Centre
Mark Orr	Positive Attitude Inc	The Alfred HIV Services
Mark S. King	Positive Life NSW	The Essential Ingredient
Martin Foley MP	Positive Living Centre	The Institute of Many
Matt Bottos	Positive Speakers Bureau Members	The Summit
Maureen Plain	Positive Women Victoria	Tim Christodoulou
Melbourne Community Voice	Prahran Market Clinic	Tim Grant Taylor
Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre	PrEPAccord Partners	Tim McPoland
Merck Sharp & Dohme	Pride March	Tim Phillips
Michael Woodhouse	Print Graphics	Timms Holden
Michelle Wesley	Prof. Jennifer Hoy	Tobin Saunders
Microsoft Australia	Prof. Sharon Lewin	Tom Halls
Midsumma Festival	Prue Marks	Tony Avard
Minuteman	Queensland Positive People	Tony Judson
Multicultural Health and Support Service (CEH)	QUIT Victoria	Victorian AIDS Council
Multicultural HUB	Rachel Cook	Victorian College of the Arts
Myer Foundation	Rebecca Guy	Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
Nabreesa Shafeeu	Reuben Choek	ViiV Healthcare
National Association of People Living with HIV Australia	Richard Taki	Vince Christan (RIP)
Nerada Tea	Rodney Ellis	Vixen Collective
Nic Dorward	Rowena Allen	Warren Donald
Northside Clinic	Royal District Nursing Service	Warwick Emanuel
Nurse Mancy	Ryan Forbes	Wendy McCarthy AO
Ography Design	Ryan Sherbrooke	Werribee Ranges Zoo
Outwest Rebellion	Sam Hibbins MP	Where the Heart Is Community Festival
Pamela Blackman	Same Same	Will Vialls
Paramount Residential	Sarah Feagan	Wruff 'n' Tumble
Pat Garner	Sarah Garner	Youthwerx
Patrick Considine	Sarah Hocking	Zen Andra
Paul Baines	Scott Dunston	
Paul Friend	Scott Read	
Paul Kidd	Scruff Benevolads	
Paul Rathbone	Sebastian Zagarella	
Paul Woodward	SensWide Employment	
	Simon Agius	
	Simone French	

