

Positive**Life**NSW

the voice of people with HIV since 1988

## Annual Report

2010 – 2011



The peak body in NSW for people living with and communities affected by HIV/AIDS for the past 23 years.

# PositiveLifeNSW

the voice of people with HIV since 1988

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On the cover: A mandala represents the connections, paths and spheres of influence that Positive Life NSW offers its members.

Positive Life NSW has been the peak body in NSW for people living with and communities affected by HIV/AIDS for the past 23 years.

## Vision

**People with HIV have the capacity and opportunity to enhance their own quality of life and the quality of life of their partners and communities.**

## Mission

**Positive Life NSW is a trusted, grassroots community organisation, an effective advocacy organisation and a professional health promotion agency that makes a significant positive impact on the entire range of issues for people with HIV, their partners and communities.**

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# President's report

## Malcolm Leech

**The past year has been incredibly busy and productive for Positive Life NSW. Our Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 was launched at the 2010 Annual General Meeting. I am extremely proud of the plan and the direction we are taking – building on our strengths and taking on challenges to meet the changing needs of people living with HIV.**

The Positive Life Governance Working Group completed its work this year, with highlights being the Board Governance Charter and the Constitution, approved by members at the Special General Meeting in June 2011. The Charter clearly informs the Board of its roles and responsibilities and includes a Conflict of Interest policy. One of the highlights of the Constitution is that it provides for greater involvement of our regional and rural membership, including through postal voting in elections. Outreach work in rural and regional NSW is also part of our strategic plan, to ensure we are more inclusive of people with HIV throughout the state. In October 2010, I attended Fair Day at the inaugural CoastOut Festival in Coffs Harbour - a regional gay, lesbian and friends festival. Many who took our resources were not aware of Positive Life NSW or its work and the day demonstrated just how important outreach and profiling of the agency is. In June 2011, Lance Feeney and I attended the Western and Far Western NSW HIV/AIDS Related Programs Unit midterm review in Dubbo. This was an amazing experience – with limited resources, the unit's output is incredible and the workers' passion and commitment is commendable.

Early in 2011, Positive Life NSW, ACON and the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby created the NSW State Election Issues Paper, which was

sent to every politician and those intending to run for Parliament in the March election. Mid-2011, the Board and staff signed off on the 2011-2015 Enterprise Agreement, a major undertaking for all involved.

Matrix On Board, who we contract to do our accounts, hosted the inaugural Front and Back Office (Fabo) Awards in October 2010 to recognise all those who do great work for NGOs, particularly in an honorary or voluntary capacity. Roderick Harm Nam, from our honorary auditors ESV Chartered Accountants, was a finalist in the Auditor of the Year Award.

Some staff highlights: Kathy Triffitt gave two major presentations overseas in July 2010. At the 20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion in Geneva, Kathy gave an oral presentation on *Different*

**Outreach work in rural and regional NSW is part of our strategic plan**

*Strokes for Different Blokes: Comparison of two HIV Social Marketing Campaigns.* At the International AIDS Society 2010 in Vienna, Kathy presented *Different Strokes for Different Blokes: HIV Prevention in 2010* as a poster presentation. Through Kathy's work our health promotion campaigns are setting an example of innovative ways to get messages out to the positive community.

In September 2010, Kathy conducted interviews with people living with HIV about their mental health and found high levels of depression and anxiety and gaps in service delivery. Positive Life will continue working to get the appropriate supports and early interventions in the mental health sector and to help people with HIV develop advocacy skills to access the services they need.

Lance Feeney has continued his systemic advocacy work, including investigating ways to extend the antiretroviral dispensing hours in hospital pharmacies to make access easier for those in employment. Lance also made submissions to a range of state and Commonwealth enquiries, including on the proposed electronic health record, aged care standards, the National HIV Testing Policy and the NSW Public Health Bill. In May 2011, Positive Life NSW conducted a roundtable to coordinate advocacy on a range of HIV, human rights and legal issues.

In 2011, Positive Life and ACON conducted a major review of the model under which peer support has been delivered for people with HIV, through the Positive Peer Support Review Working Group, chaired by our Vice President Craig Cooper. We are now progressing to the next stage.

In April 2011, Rob Lake resigned as Positive Life's CEO to become Executive Director of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO). Rob served Positive Life for three years as President, then four years as the Chief Executive Officer. During his time with us he was a tireless advocate for people living with HIV and their partners, supporters and friends. The board and staff of Positive Life wish Rob well in his role at AFAO.

## **In May 2011, Positive Life conducted a roundtable to coordinate advocacy on a range of HIV, human rights and legal issues**

With the resignation of Rob Lake, the board began a search for his replacement, running the recruitment process in-house – valuing the 'body positive' expertise. This was a good experience for the agency and needs to be repeated whenever possible.

Following this process, Sonny Williams was appointed as the new CEO, commencing in July 2011. On behalf of the Board and community, I would like to acknowledge the work done by Kathy Triffitt as interim Acting CEO.

Finally, Positive Life NSW would not be the respected and effective voice of people living with HIV if it were not for the passion and commitment of all those positive people, their partners, families and supporters who contribute to our work. I cannot thank you enough. You are and always will be the most significant part of our existence and a major reason for our success.



Malcolm Leech

## CEO's report Rob Lake

**This is my final report as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and provides an opportunity to report on the financial year end 2011 and to look back at what has been a successful year for Positive Life NSW. Part of that success has been the appointment of Sonny Williams as new CEO.**

My four years in the role were a fantastic experience – the organisation has passion, skills and, most importantly, a strong group of staff, Board and members who help us achieve what we do. I'd like to thank Kevin Pyle for his great work in the Communications role in 2010. Susan Ardill stepped into this position in April 2011 and is already beginning to put her stamp on it. I'd also like to acknowledge the work of Kathy, Lance, Hédimo, Harry and Phillip and the volunteer policy work carried out by Ross Duffin. This team continues to produce programs that are recognised locally and in the international arena, whether it's the next phase of the Sero Disco campaign, the review of peer support programs, policy and advocacy work, particularly in the area of health reform and health consumer rights, and the administrative work that ensures all this can happen. Phillip gives our web presence and graphic design style, makes it user-friendly and keeps it relevant.

Positive Life is the peak body speaking for positive people in New South Wales. Much of what we achieve in the area of policy and advocacy is accomplished with our partners. Without the support of ACON, Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF), Local Health Districts (LHD) and NSW Health, our objectives would be much harder to

***The organisation has passion, skills and, most importantly, a strong group of staff, Board and members who help us achieve what we do***

reach. South East Sydney and Sydney LHDs in particular have worked with us in many ways this year. The health advocacy project has been funded by Sydney; World AIDS Day, in particular media and communications, is funded through the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Programs Unit of South East Sydney.

This year, we continued to work to improve our reach outside of Sydney; we travelled to Coffs Harbour for the CoastOut event, providing a much needed profile and presence, followed by a valuable planning session in Dubbo with staff of the Western Area.

We have continued to broaden our networks, seeking new partners with similar aims,

and appreciate the ability to work with other effective lobbying and advocacy organisations, including People with Disability Australia, Consumer Health Forum and NSW Cancer Council.

The next few years bring some challenging questions for organisations like ours and for people with HIV, our families, friends, partner agencies and allies. Emerging research about treatment as prevention is already generating discussions about the right balance between the health needs of people with HIV and the prevention benefits offered by undetectable viral load. In Australia, thanks to good access to effective treatments, we have arguably been seeing these benefits for a number of years and an organisation like Positive Life has a critical role in ensuring that balance and highlighting the human factors which such major breakthroughs can sometimes overlook. These sorts of questions are what make the work of Positive Life critical, exciting and an essential factor of the

ongoing success of the HIV response in NSW – a challenge the Board and staff will continue to face head on.

Positive Life is uniquely positioned in regard to people with HIV in this state. This annual report highlights the depth of work carried out by the agency and reinforces the proposition that HIV-positive people remain central to the partnership of HIV/AIDS program delivery in coalition with other organisations.

As this is my final report as CEO, I would like to wish the community, board and staff the very best for the future.



Rob Lake

A day out at Mardi Gras Fair Day, February 2011.



# Treasurer's report

## Paul Ellis

Again, Positive Life had the budget come in at close to break even and finished the 2010-2011 year with a surplus of \$1920 (0.23% of gross income). To come in so close to break-even shows due diligence by the agency.

This table compares the Comprehensive Income figures between 2010 and 2011.

Item	2011	% of total	2010	% of total	Variation	% Variation
	\$		\$		\$	
Revenue from grants	766,633	90.56%	779,299	94.12%	-12,666	-1.63%
Other revenue	59,188	6.99%	33,737	4.07%	25,451	75.44%
Interest income	20,682	2.44%	14,973	1.81%	5709	38.13%
<b>GROSS TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>846,503</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>828,009</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>18,494</b>	<b>2.23%</b>
Employee benefits expenses	453,203	53.66%	479,144	57.47%	-25,941	-5.41%
Depreciation expense	5373	0.64%	8656	1.04%	-3283	-37.93%
Occupancy expenses	19,143	2.27%	18,212	2.18%	931	5.11%
Finance costs	6107	0.72%	5613	0.67%	494	8.80%
Core activity expenses	360,757	42.71%	322,054	38.63%	38,703	12.02%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>844,583</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>833,679</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>10,904</b>	<b>1.31%</b>
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>1920</b>		<b>-5670</b>		<b>7590</b>	

The main reason for the Revenue from Grants for 2011 decrease of 1.63% on last year is the amount of \$60k (to be compared with 2010: \$35k) not being expensed at the end of the financial year and showing as a liability in the balance sheet. Note that Other Revenue and Interest Income had sound percentage increases over the previous year.

The Total Expenses maintained a fairly static level, with an increase of only 1.31% on the previous year. The decrease in Employee Benefits Expenses of 5.41% was due to two reasons:

- one staff position not being replaced for several months
- a reduction in the provision for annual leave due to staff being able to take their own annual leave. (This is also reflected in the balance sheet showing a decrease in Current Liabilities).

The Statement of Cash Flows shows that cash at the end of the year is \$342,028 (compared with 2010: \$345,279). The Statement of Changes in Equity (the organisation's net worth) has remained fairly static for the last three financial periods (2011 \$249k; 2010 \$247k; 2009 \$253k). This is due to good management of the reserves during some fiscally tight economic periods.

The Balance Sheet does not reveal any dramatic moves or changes from last year. As at 30 June, 2011, our key indicators are all good.

Reserves to expenditure %	31%
<b>&gt; 18% is considered good</b>	
Working capital ratio	3.7%
<b>&gt; 2 is good</b>	
Cash reserves (weeks)	17.4
<b>&gt; 10 is considered healthy</b>	

I would like to thank Rob Lake, Harry Richardson, Malcolm Leech and the Board for their support during the financial year. I would like to thank Matrix for their timely production of the monthly and final accounts. I also welcome Sonny Williams to the organisation.

And finally, a big thanks to ESV Chartered Accountants who have again provided a detailed and professional audit on a pro bono basis. The Board and management wish to express their heartfelt appreciation.

Paul Ellis

# Advocacy: where to now?

## Robert Mitchell

**2011 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the first reports of HIV, an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of HIV-positive advocacy. Nationally, the formation of a positive organisation was conceived at the first Australian AIDS conference in Hobart in 1989. At this forum a number of people stood up publicly and called for action as men and women living with HIV. Activism at that time was very protest-based, calling for better services and care for people dying from AIDS and for urgent action to address the growing epidemic.**

At that time there were local groups of mainly gay men coming together to support their communities, often their partners and friends who were dying. There was an intimacy and immediacy to the advocacy they undertook. They were literally in a fight against time to provide supports for people as the epidemic ravaged their communities.

Throughout the early 1990s, as the first treatments became available, the aim of advocacy changed to a focus on delivering rapid access to the latest treatments. HIV activists were central drivers to the changes to the drug-approval processes in this country. There was also a need to provide information about those treatments within the positive community and how to manage the quite serious side effects from them. Access to treatments and more clinical research was an urgent priority, while continuing to ensure that the support services for those who were sick and dying were maintained.

By the late nineties and into the next decade, the number and effectiveness of HIV treatments had dramatically changed

the outlook for most HIV-positive people. The number of people dying from HIV dropped dramatically as it became a more manageable condition and there were better understandings of how to maintain health.

This required a significant shift for positive people, as their perspective moved to managing HIV, living with treatments for the rest of their lives – lives now extended for many more years. For HIV organisations, this meant a change in focus for many of their service arrangements and services were developed to support positive people re-

***There was an intimacy and immediacy to the advocacy they undertook***

engaging in the workforce and utilising more mainstream health and welfare services.

Over the last several years this shift has continued, but with further complexities as the longer-term impacts of HIV disease and other co-morbidities become more apparent. A divergence has appeared within the positive population across the country. Not only are there increases in the number of HIV infections in populations other than the primary gay male population, but the experience of people recently diagnosed is dramatically different from that of those who have lived for many years with HIV and the earlier and more toxic treatment strategies.

As a consequence of the effective developments in new treatments for HIV and better clinical outcomes, HIV-positive people are no longer necessarily identifying themselves solely in terms of being HIV-positive. Subsequently, the need or desire to engage with a HIV-positive peer-based organisation has diminished for many. These changes alone call for an HIV-positive sector response and also demand consideration of how to engage with the diversity of experience of living with HIV, including representation on behalf of HIV-positive people who are not directly accessing HIV organisations or networks. Positive organisations must engage with the challenge of being relevant to those for whom they advocate, without necessarily having direct individual contact across the membership base.

These challenges have developed as the external environments are placing HIV within broader health and welfare systems and as the gay community itself has diversified and become more integrated into the broader society.

So today the task of HIV advocates is much more complex than when our organisations were first established. There is an expectation that our organisations become more professional in both the services that they offer and the manner in which they conduct advocacy. These expectations have grown as competing health advocacy organisations vie for limited health resources.

## **Positive people are no longer necessarily identifying themselves solely in terms of being HIV positive**

Subsequently, showing value for money in the model of peer-based representation and advocacy is more critical than ever.

The Australian HIV-positive population continues to grow and is becoming more decentralised over time. So the breadth of focus expected from our advocacy and policy work increases and the positive community's varied expectations of our organisations will continue to be widely debated.

The question of where to now is probably not so much the point, as the HIV-positive response will be driven by the priorities of people living with HIV and focus on the evidence base of greatest needs and impacts. The more interesting reflection now for NAPWA and its membership, including Positive Life NSW, is how best to continue to adapt to the changing identity of people living with HIV, to ensure that our response is relevant and valued, even if it is from a distance and not central to an individual's daily life.

If the modern HIV-positive advocacy response develops in a sophisticated commitment to the principles of peer-based community accountability, then the legacy of those who came before us as advocates will be best served and can be maintained and built upon appropriately.

*Robert Mitchell*  
NAPWA President 2011  
(National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS)

# Systemic advocacy

## Lance Feeney

### Policy

*HIV Futures* research by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University (ARCSHS) has informed Positive Life NSW's policy and advocacy work by identifying HIV, general health and social issues that impact on HIV-positive people's knowledge of and access to HIV-oriented and mainstream services. Increasingly, however, there has been discussion about the accuracy of the data held by *HIV Futures*, with the respondent sample no longer representative of the HIV population in NSW. People more recently diagnosed with HIV, who are employed and generally in better health, appear under-represented, while older people, those living long-term with HIV and those receiving Centrelink benefits, appear over-represented. A state-based analysis would assist Positive Life to better understand the issues and priorities, as would specific thematic analysis. Positive Life has communicated these points to ARCSHS.

Consultations in Sydney, Dubbo, Newcastle and Lismore informed development of the new PL Strategic Plan 2011-2015. They also provided an opportunity to talk and listen to people with HIV and identify their views and advocacy priorities. Quarterly Board Advisory Groups provided additional input from people with HIV to evolving issues and priorities.

Participation in the GWAHS (Greater Western Area Health Service) Mid-Term Review of Strategic Framework, May 2011, provided face-to-face contact with service providers from Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo, Broken Hill and other far western centres and a better understanding of the needs of people with HIV in these areas.

### HIV dispensing services

Positive Life raised HIV medication dispensing access issues with HARP managers (SESAHS and SSWAHS), ACON, BGF, NAPWA and AFAO in a range of forums. We prepared an analysis of access issues and supporting research. A community pharmacy dispensing model has been developed. A joint letter from Positive Life and ACON to St Vincent's Hospital and SESAHS requested evening pharmacy service on different nights and a Saturday dispensing service. This initiative was supported by GP/S100 prescribers at East Sydney Doctors, Holdsworth House, Taylor Square Private Clinic and Dr Cassy Workman.

### Representation

In order to advocate for the development and implementation of effective policies, programs and services that support the health of people with HIV, Positive Life was represented on 32 external committees during the year. A tool to consider, evaluate and prioritise such representation by Positive Life was developed and trialled in 2010-2011. The survey has been used 23 times. The meeting evaluation tool has been further developed with the input of Aldo Spira, to be trialled in 2011-2012.

**A community  
pharmacy  
dispensing  
model has been  
developed**

## The workshop aimed to improve the ability of people with HIV to plan, communicate and navigate health services

### Health advocacy project

In 2010, Positive Life developed and piloted a new health advocacy workshop. The workshop aimed to improve the ability of people with HIV to plan, communicate, utilise consumer rights and navigate a spectrum of health services, including GP, allied, specialist, community and hospital. The project was supported by staff from ACON, SSWAHS, SESIAHS, St. Vincent's Hospital, Legal AIDS NSW and HALC.

An external evaluation was completed by Aldo Spina, which showed that participants received much greater benefit than they were expecting. Across all seven indicators used in pre-and-post survey evaluation, there were improvements in the average rating of self-efficacy.

**MAKING IT WORK**  
**You, HIV and the health system**

**A WORKSHOP TO HELP YOU:**

- > Plan appointments
- > Keep health records
- > Learn about Medicare
- > Navigate the system
- > Know your rights
- > Learn about hospitals
- > Arrange nursing and care at home
- > Learn from your peers...

Positive Life NSW  
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**Enrol now** >>>

**Part 1. You and the doctor:**

- > A doctor you can work with
- > Communication
- > Planning appointments
- > Keeping records, finding accurate information
- > Using Medicare

**Part 2. If something goes wrong – what you can do:**

- > Your rights
- > Disclosure and confidentiality
- > Changing doctors
- > Discrimination
- > Resolving conflict and where to get help

**Part 3. Services:**

- > GP-based care
- > Specialist health care: depression and anxiety, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, neurology, surgery etc
- > Community services: nurses at home, support for your partner or carer, financial assistance
- > Hospital: preparation, inpatient and outpatient care, discharge

**To register or for further information:**  
[www.positivelife.org.au](http://www.positivelife.org.au)  
 Call Lance Feeney 02 9361 6011  
 Email [lancef@positivelife.org.au](mailto:lancef@positivelife.org.au)

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### Policy responses initiated by Positive Life 2010-2011

- Submission: *Draft Revised Standards for Residential Aged Care.*
- Submission: *Introduction of the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) system.*
- HIV, Human Rights and the Law Roundtable May 2011.
- Public housing: consultations with tenants, ACON, BGF and ADAPTS.
- Insurance: Meetings with NCOSS, HALC, AFAO, NAPWA and Maurice Blackburn and Associates to develop strategies to improve access to insurance for people with HIV. Positive Life also commissioned a report from Chant West on access to superannuation death and disablement insurance by people with HIV.

### Policy contributions by Positive Life NSW

- Productivity Commission Draft Report on Disability Care and Support (National Disability Insurance Scheme), joint submission with ACON.
- 2011 National HIV Testing Policy.
- NSW Oral Health and Strategic Directions 2011-2020.
- Sanctuary relocation proposal.
- The Bridge relocation proposal.
- Deakin University and the Alfred Hospital: key research issues relating to HIV and ageing.

# Social marketing and education

## Kathy Triffitt

Social marketing and health education are not simply about giving out health information and messages, but about listening, responding to and helping people give direction to their own change (behavioural and social) and supporting enabling environments for this change to take place. Campaign and resource development not only includes building individual capacity but also looks for ways to incorporate the experiences of people with HIV. Personal stories and perspectives define what living with HIV and health mean to them.

## Campaigns

### Wrapped or Raw: [www.wrappedorraw.org.au](http://www.wrappedorraw.org.au)

As HIV treatments have become more successful and with the advent of technologies that can measure viral load (on which to base an assessment of sexual risk), gay men have adapted their sexual behaviours. The challenge now is to develop prevention campaigns that adapt to the sexual practices of HIV-positive gay men and include the way new understandings of risk and safety (eg. non-condom-based risk reduction strategies such as viral load and serosorting, ie. seeking other men of the same HIV serostatus for sex) are incorporated into their sexual lives.

By adapting to the changing dynamics around the meaning of HIV in people's lives, sexual boundaries, risk and pleasure, we not only present new opportunities for learning but also prevention messages which are credible and motivating.

Drawing on the evaluation of *Sex Pigs: Dark And Dirty Sex And Managing Your Health* (2008-2009), Positive Life NSW produced



*Wrapped Or Raw (Pos-Pos Sex) Want The Facts* (2010 -2011) to look at choices made by HIV-positive gay men about using condoms in pos-pos sex and to offer options to minimise risk, manage disclosure and have great sex. Campaign content also builds on the *FACTS* series of previous work with sexually adventurous men (eg. *Sex and hep C*).

Messages in *Wrapped or Raw*:

- provide communication and negotiation strategies which support the prevention of HIV and a better understanding of sexual health needs
- inform HIV-positive men about the importance of regular STI testing and strategies to prevent STIs (particularly syphilis)
- increase awareness that hep C is a sexual health issue for some gay men
- consider ways to respond to questions or concerns about HIV re-infection
- support HIV-positive men to make informed decisions about the type of sex they have and identify situations in which they take greater risks (eg. challenge assumptions about the HIV status of unknown casual partners).

While condom use with casual partners of unknown or different HIV status is a key message, this campaign also recognises there are different limits and boundaries (eg. different levels of knowledge or communication and negotiation skills) for gay men in different sexual contexts (eg. different sexual scenes and networks).

A campaign-specific website hosts video stories and booklets (including the facts on pos-pos sex, syphilis, sex and hep C). Gay dating websites carry messages and links that direct access to our site.

Visitors to the website reported the confidence-building benefits of seeing 'real guys' talking about topics such as disclosure and handling 'no', negotiating different sexual scenes with new partners, hooking up on the Net, making decisions on whether to use condoms in pos-pos sex and what they are or aren't prepared to do during sex and how they communicate this.

There are different limits and boundaries in different sexual contexts

## Educator's forum

In April 2011, Positive Life ran a forum for people working in prevention, positive health promotion, sexual health and community development to:

- increase understanding of risk reduction approaches used by gay men
- build skills and confidence to use risk reduction in the context of HIV prevention for gay men
- consider implications for practice in broader sexual health promotion.

Thirty-six people attended, with representation from St Vincent's, ACON, Redfern Health Centre, HARPs, NCHECR, AFAO and NSW Health.

## SERO DISCO – Why let HIV get in the way of a good relationship?

*SERO DISCO* (phase 2) aims to improve understanding of the experiences and HIV-prevention needs of people in serodiscordant relationships.

An external evaluation of *SERO DISCO* (1) conducted by Aldo Spina in 2010 framed the development of the second phase resources (a lifestyle magazine) and ongoing peer support opportunities for gay men in starting or thinking about serodiscordant relationships.

This evaluation reported that focus group participants responded well to the lifestyle magazine format because of its capacity to:

- address issues in more depth (eg. viral load)
- include a blend of lived experiences and ways to enhance quality of life outside of just talking about negotiating sex (ie. capacity to address HIV issues in a broader context)
- reproduce stories and photographs of real people.

Significantly, 50 percent of survey respondents (namely, HIV-negative gay men)

agreed that the first phase of the campaign raised their awareness of the issues facing gay men in serodiscordant relationships and agreed that they have become more aware of the issues facing people with HIV. Crucially, personal stories and perspectives provided reference points from which to develop and shape attitudes (for many, an important step in challenging HIV stigma).

## Making sense of mental health

In response to concerns around the high prevalence of depression and anxiety experienced by people with HIV<sup>1</sup>, Positive Life NSW facilitated a community consultation in September 2010 with the aims of uncovering the mental health needs of people with HIV, their resilience or otherwise in meeting challenges and the barriers to achieving good mental health.<sup>2</sup> We also investigated the assessment and management of mental health to identify gaps in services.

This consultation focused on depression and anxiety rather than more severe mental health illness, which is consistent with a preventative approach. Recommendations from the draft report of February 2011 will feed into the

## SERO DISCO aims to improve understanding of the experiences and HIV-prevention needs of people in serodiscordant relationships

1 See *HIV Futures Reports 3-6*, The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, Latrobe University, Melbourne.

2 Few studies in Australia have focused on positive mental health and its effects, including coping, competence, support-seeking and adjustment.

## There has been considerable interest in campaigns and resources locally and internationally

advocacy and health promotion work of Positive Life NSW and offer strategies to meet the support and service needs of HIV-positive people. Recommendations were made in: (a) intervention, care and support (both in community and clinical settings) (b) advocacy (c) professional development (d) social marketing/ health promotion and (e) research.

### Collaborating with partners

The work of Social Marketing and Education is supported by a number of important partnerships, including HIV/AIDS Related Programs Unit (HARP - SESIAHS) and Gay Men's Interagency (MGM).

### Collaborating in research

- SPANK Anal Cancer Study – in November 2010, Positive Life NSW reported on participant experiences of this study and the need to fine tune the recruitment process.
- *Opposites Attract: Serodiscordant Relationships Study* (viral load, HIV treatment and HIV transmission in serodiscordant male homosexual couples), Kirby Institute NSW. Kathy Triffitt was co-investigator, advising on survey development, community-based recruitment and retention strategies and the ethical framework of the study.
- *Managing HIV, sex and risk among serodiscordant couples in a changing epidemic*, National Centre in HIV Social Research, Kathy Triffitt, co-investigator.

### Collaborating in resource development

- *STI of the week* articles for SX newspaper (project of the STIGMA Health Promotion Working Group)
- Use of Positive Life content (eg. syphilis, sex and hep C, viral load) as a basis for the AFAO factsheet series for people with HIV and service providers. These were widely distributed in NSW.

There has also been considerable interest in campaigns and resources both locally and internationally: *Sex Pigs; Dark and Dirty Sex and Managing Your Health* has been translated into French and launched in April (2011) by ACCM (AIDS Community Care) Montreal, while *Simple Pleasures* was translated into Thai (2010).

International interest also included conference presentations by Kathy Triffitt:

- *Locating the Social: 1st International HIV Social Science and Humanities Conference*, June 2011 (Durban, South Africa): *Re-locating the social in the everyday lives of people with HIV – a community-based social research perspective* (oral presentation)
- 20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion, 11-15 July, 2010 (Geneva): *Different Strokes for Different Blokes: Comparison of two HIV Social marketing Campaigns* (oral presentation)
- AIDS 2010, July 2010 (Vienna): *Different Strokes for Different Blokes: HIV Prevention in 2010* (online poster).

# Communications Susan Ardill

## Talkabout magazine: 'where we speak for ourselves'

*Talkabout* is Positive Life NSW's flagship publication, with most content written by people living with HIV, as well as updates on the campaign, peer support and advocacy work of Positive Life. This year, we published five issues of the magazine according to a schedule available online. Approximately 4000 copies of each issue were distributed, 1400 by mail to subscribers. Locations of distribution outlets were also published on our website.

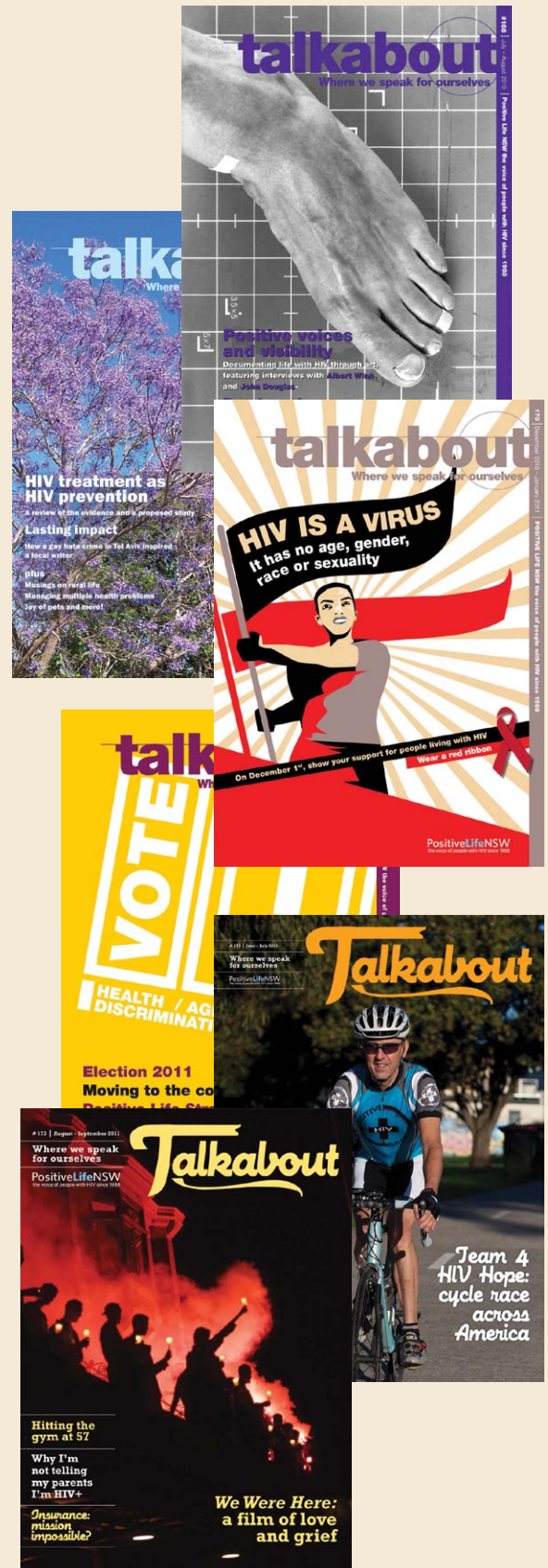
Editorial innovations in *Talkabout* in 2011 included:

- A new regular section called *Everyday Life*, which solicits input from all readers on personal themes, eg. friendship, sibling relationships, community
- *Bush Positive*, which carries articles from people with HIV who live in rural and regional areas of NSW
- *Still Going Strong*, which addresses the issue of ageing with HIV.

Each issue of the magazine attempts to broadly reflect the diversity of people living with HIV in NSW. This year *Talkabout* articles included:

- treatment from a woman's perspective, exercise and HIV, joint health
- negotiating the PBS, treatment as prevention, viral load
- HIV policy and the NSW state election, pharmacies that dispense HIV drugs, an Ankali relationship
- the ever-popular pets column, an HIV+ cycling team, HIV/AIDS reflected in mainstream culture.

With the June 2011 issue of *Talkabout*, #172, we commenced online publication in 'flip-book' format, exactly as it appears in print, including all ads. Those reading the magazine on the Web can enlarge the print and 'turn' the pages. By the end of June the magazine had been viewed in



this format over 300 times. We also upload the magazine onto the Positive Life website in downloadable PDF format for access by people with visual impairment. To cater for everyone and keep our website dynamic, we still upload a few articles from each issue.

As of issue 172, *Talkabout* underwent a complete redesign by long-term designer Slade Smith under the new editor Susan Ardill. Features of the new style include:

- an emphasis on photography, including photos on the front cover
- redesign of the contents page to include thumbnail images from each article and snappier introductions
- a predictable layout and regular features have their own visual logo (or branding) – so the pet column became *Life Companions* with a banner image of a dog's feet and Rural Dispatch became *Bush Positive* with a beautiful image of gum trees
- a new style guide for the design of each article: every article has a headline and introduction, opening paragraphs are in bold, there are regular cross-heads throughout, pullquotes on nearly every page, an author byline in the introduction and at the end of the article. To differentiate features from advertising, each article is framed by black lines and carries a category-definition at the top, eg. 'Features' or 'People'
- each article has a different signature colour.

A readers meeting was held in June 2011 to get feedback on the magazine's new look. Attendance was low but discussion was lively. Several positive emails were received and messages left on the Positive Life Facebook page in response to a request for feedback. Stocks of the magazine in outlets around Oxford Street were quickly depleted, indicating the appeal of the new design. In response to critical feedback, the Positive Life NSW logo in the new-design front cover was enlarged for issue 173.

## Social media

Positive Life NSW opened a Facebook account as a non-profit organisation in November

2010. By June 2011 we had 34 people 'liking' our page. This number had doubled in the two months since the new communications officer began active use of Facebook in April 2011. We usually receive 50-150 page impressions for links that are posted.

Positive Life commenced a Twitter account in late 2010. By June 2011 we had nearly 60 followers.

We increasingly use both these social media to make announcements of Positive Life and other local HIV-related events, but also to provide links to good articles and sources of information on the Web.

## Life.mail

Life.mail is our e-newsletter, containing news, events and opportunities to get involved in community events, forums or research. It is published between issues of *Talkabout* and five editions went out in 2010–2011.

In May 2010 we distributed 436 copies of the e-newsletter; in June 2011, it was 462 copies, an increase of approximately six percent.

## Positive Life website: [www.positivelife.org.au](http://www.positivelife.org.au)

The Positive Life website includes information on our structure, membership, strategic plan, health promotion campaigns and factsheets, peer support programs and calendar, the Positive Speakers Bureau, systemic advocacy projects and feature articles from *Talkabout*.

The home page is updated at least every two months following publication of *Talkabout* or with other breaking news. The Life.mail page is also updated regularly, while other pages such as peer support are updated as program details change.

With the online publication of *Talkabout*, we added a page to our site where that can be accessed, as well as a link to a downloadable PDF version. This new page is called *Talkabout Gets Animated*: <http://www.positivelife.org.au/talkabout-gets-animated>

# Health promotion and peer support

## Hédimo Santana

### The Positive Speakers Bureau

Positive Life NSW's Positive Speakers Bureau is made up of highly trained speakers who are prepared to represent the organisation as the human face of HIV. From July 2010 to June 2011, PSB speakers made 141 presentations, an increase of 11.9% from the previous year. Presentations included talking in high schools, TAFE and universities and helping with group facilitation and training in health and community organisations as well as businesses and corporations.

### PSB presentations July 2010 – June 2011

Total presentations	141
Secondary schools	49%
Medical/HIV	21%
Community	21%
Corporate	6%
Tertiary	3%
Total	100%

After each speaking engagement, we asked our clients to complete an online evaluation. These evaluations were generally positive:

*"We were extremely happy with the presentation and appreciated the honesty of the speaker. He delivered his speech with confidence and humour. His presentation covered his story of HIV, highlighting the very complex and varied issues he has faced. We felt privileged that the speaker was able to come to our agency and very much appreciated having him as our guest."*

*"The majority of the young people participating were male. Normally this group of young people is hard to engage and keep focused for a longer period of time. During the talk they were focused and listening*

*and participated in the conversation and question time... I think the talk made a great impact on these young people's opinion about HIV and people living with the virus. Thank you!"*

### Training

In June 2011, there were 38 speakers associated with the PSB, 35 of whom were active speakers. Thirteen speakers had trained in the previous 12 months and the majority of these were now fully engaged with the Bureau.

With the support of Work Development Program (WDP), the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) and the Hepatitis C Council of Australia, we engaged trainer Annie Bleeker to conduct the Basic Public Speaking workshop for new speakers in October 2010. Eleven new speakers attended that course, including two from the C-eeen & Heard Program.

Overall, participants were very satisfied with the training, rated the trainer as excellent and felt confident about their ability to present as part of the Bureau:

*"Enjoyable day; great to meet other people with similar issues and motivation."*

From September 2010 to April 2011, we requested that both clients and speakers complete an online evaluation form of speaking events. Of the 56 talks conducted in that period, we received 38 responses from clients (67%), the majority from service providers. Speakers provided us with 94% responses.

In May 2011, we provided a feedback session for speakers on the evaluations received and combined that with a speakers' social gathering, which was very well attended:

*"Thank you for organising the PSB Evaluation feedback session and social gathering. It was good to connect with peers. Thanks also to Positive Life for providing the meal."*

*"Thanks for organising this event. It was really special for me to connect with old friends – it is easy to fall out of the loop and lose contact. And also to meet new folk, especially the women. A worthwhile evening. Keep up the good work"*

## Peer support

Positive Life NSW, in partnership with ACON, offers a range of complimentary peer support programs for people with HIV, including structured workshops, facilitated support groups, discussion groups and informal social gatherings. Our peer support programs include:

- 729, designed for those living long-term with HIV, aims to reduce feelings of isolation by building a sense of community, to increase self-esteem by enhancing social and support networks, to promote greater awareness of sexual health, to empower by developing communication strategies, including disclosure with other gay men and health professionals. From July 2010 to June 2011, each monthly group was usually attended by 12-15 participants, of whom 84% were regular participants who attended two or more meetings. Discussions at meetings focused on anti-retroviral medication and contra-indications, HIV and ageing, planning for the future and retirement, access to better healthcare and discussions around relationships, ranging from the pursuit of love and happiness to the value of community and friendship networks.

*"I used to feel very lonely and isolated out there in [suburb]. It took me a while to find the courage to come to the group, but I am glad I did it. Today I am volunteering at [organisation] and looking forward to engage a bit more with the community."*

- Genesis, a weekend workshop for newly-diagnosed gay men, is a partnership project between ACON and Positive Life.

Themes include telling your story, the basics of HIV, treatments, the doctor/patient relationship, sexual risk-taking and STIs, disclosure.

- Planet Positive, a regular social event for positive people and their friends, is a partnership project between ACON and Positive Life, which attracted an increasing number of new participants over the year.
- Regional retreats: Positive Life was involved in the retreat for positive Aboriginal people in November 2010, as well as the Northern Rivers Gay Men with HIV retreat in May 2011.

## Positive Peer Support Working Group

In May 2011, an interagency Positive Peer Support Working Group was established, which is guided by the recommendations from the preceding Peer Support Review and aims to explore the implications for current and future positive peer support groups. The Working Group, chaired by Positive Life Vice-President Craig Cooper, consists of both staff and Board members of Positive Life NSW, positive heterosexual representatives, staff of ACON and participants from the combined peer support groups.

The Working Group has developed a comprehensive work plan that includes:

- assessing the impact of the Review recommendations
- documenting and detailing current peer support models
- identifying gaps in peer support for people with HIV
- reviewing and researching evaluation tools and methods
- reviewing and researching facilitation methods and skills
- looking at the financial resources required to ensure that positive peer support projects are optimally delivered.

The group is expecting to meet until March 2012.

# The Board

## Statements of interests

**Paul Ellis** first became involved with Positive Life in 2007 when he was employed as Manager Organisation and Team Development. After resigning in 2008, Paul volunteered with Positive Life, helping with the accounts. Paul was appointed to the Board as Treasurer in 2009.

**Lance Feeney** is a Senior Project Officer, Systemic Advocacy with Positive Life NSW. He was the staff representative on the Board from July to December 2010.

**Hédimo Santana** is a Senior Project Officer, Peer Support, with Positive Life NSW. He acted as staff representative on the Board from January to July 2011. Hédimo has been a member of the organisation since 2006.

**Craig Cooper** began working in partnership with Positive Life NSW in 2005, when employed by NSW Health. He became a member and Director in 2008 and Vice President in 2010. Throughout this time he has participated in, facilitated and chaired Board advisory groups, working groups, health promotion activities and peer support programs.

**Malcolm Leech** first became involved with Positive Life NSW in 2005 as a member of the Positive Speakers Bureau and has been a Director of the Association since 2006. He is also the Positive Life NSW representative on the BGF Board.

**Scott McKeown** became a Director of Positive Life NSW in 2010. He is currently employed as the National Sales manager at SSO Media, which includes the publications Sydney Star Observer and [www.starobserver.com.au](http://www.starobserver.com.au) in NSW as well as Southern Star Observer in Victoria. He committed to have all responsibilities for SSO Media's relationship with PL NSW taken over by his Senior Sales Accounts Manager to ensure there is no conflict of interest.

**James Wilson** was first elected as an Ordinary Director of the Positive Life Board in 2008 and was elected the organisation's Secretary in 2010. James has been a speaker with the Positive Speakers Bureau since mid-2008.

**Jane Costello** has been involved with Positive Life NSW since 2008, firstly as a speaker and presenter for the Positive Life HIV Media Project, then in 2009 as a member and Director of the Board. She is also a member of the Positive Speakers Bureau and has participated in both Board advisory groups and working groups.

**Simon Chaplin** first became involved in Positive Life NSW in 2005 through the peer support group After Hours. Later he trained as a peer support facilitator and acted in this role in the Genesis program. He has been a Director of Positive Life throughout 2011.

# Positive Life NSW

## External representation 2010-11

NSW HIV Health Promotion Interagency  
National Prescribing Service Pharmaceutical-Decision Support Working Group – E Health  
NSW HIV/HCV Social Research Consortium Board  
Futures Study Reference Group  
MACAS Health Promotion Sub Committee  
NAPWA State Delegate  
NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS  
NSW HIV/AIDS Centralised Intake Advisory Panel  
NSW World AIDS Day Steering Committee  
SESAHS Clinical Redesign Project Control Group  
SESAHS Priority populations Working Group  
STIGMA – STI in Gay Men Advisory Group  
NSW HIV + Health promotion Interagency  
Western Suburbs Haven Advisory Group  
Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey  
Metro Men’s HIV/STI Interagency  
BGF Board  
Gay Men’s Interagency Peer Education Working Group  
SESAHS/SSWAHS Partnership Forum  
AFAO HIV Discrimination Reference Group  
NCOSS Health Policy Advisory Group  
Health Care Complaints Consumer Consultation Committee  
Oral Health and Special Needs and Specialists Advisory Group  
Positive Heterosexual HIV/AIDS Advisory Group  
NSW Oral Health Alliance  
SESAHS HIV Community Team Advisory Group  
BGF Client Services Advisory Group  
Food Distribution Network Advisory Group  
SVH HIV Consultative Committee  
SSWAHS Bridge Transition Advisory Group  
SSWAHS Sanctuary Redesign Working Group  
GWAHS Mid-Term Strategic Planning Review

# Positive Life NSW

ABN 42 907 908 942

## Audited financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2011

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	Notes	2011	2010
		\$	\$
Revenue from grants	10	766,633	779,299
Other revenue		59,188	33,737
Interest income		20,682	14,973
Employee benefits expenses	15	(453,203)	(479,144)
Depreciation expense		(5,373)	(8,656)
Occupancy expenses		(19,143)	(18,212)
Finance costs		(6,107)	(5,613)
Core activity expenses	13	(360,757)	(322,054)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) before income tax</b>		<b>1,920</b>	<b>(5,670)</b>
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) after income tax</b>		<b>1,920</b>	<b>(5,670)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>			
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>1,920</b>	<b>(5,670)</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2011

	Notes	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	342,028	345,279
Trade and other receivables	3	13,219	7,089
Other assets	4	13,069	13,872
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>368,316</b>	<b>366,240</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property plant & equipment	5	9,657	10,057
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>9,657</b>	<b>10,057</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>377,973</b>	<b>376,298</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	12,964	14,866
Provision - Annual Leave	7	35,678	60,977
Provision - Long Service Leave	7	16,041	-
Other liabilities	9	60,022	35,300
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>124,705</b>	<b>111,143</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	7	3,796	17,603
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,796</b>	<b>17,603</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>128,501</b>	<b>128,746</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>249,472</b>	<b>247,552</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>			
Accumulated surplus at beginning of the year		247,552	253,222
Current Year surplus/(deficit)		1,920	(5,670)
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		<b>249,472</b>	<b>247,552</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	Accumulated Funds	Total
	\$	\$
<b>At 1 July 2009</b>	<b>253,222</b>	<b>253,222</b>
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	(5,670)	(5,670)
<b>At 30 June 2010</b>	<b>247,552</b>	<b>247,552</b>
<b>At 1 July 2010</b>	<b>247,552</b>	<b>247,552</b>
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,920	1,920
<b>At 30 June 2011</b>	<b>249,472</b>	<b>249,472</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	Notes	2011	2010
		\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Receipts from donors & granting bodies		928,089	893,189
Payments to suppliers & employees		(946,381)	(886,836)
Interest received		20,682	14,973
Interest and other costs of finance paid		(668)	(829)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<b>1,722</b>	<b>20,497</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Payments for furniture & fittings and plant & equipment acquired		(4,973)	(5,900)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(4,973)</b>	<b>(5,900)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		<b>(3,251)</b>	<b>14,597</b>
<b>Cash at the beginning of the year</b>		<b>345,279</b>	<b>330,682</b>
<b>Cash at the end of the year</b>	<b>2(a)</b>	<b>342,028</b>	<b>345,279</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

### NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act NSW and the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991.

Positive Life NSW Inc early adopted the Accounting Standard AASB 1053 - Reduced Disclosure Requirements in 2010. It also adopts the relevant standards that specify Tier 2 reporting requirements as outlined in AASB 2010-2

The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on the 20th day of September 2011.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report:

#### (a) Income Tax

Positive Life NSW Inc. is a recognised public benevolent institution and is therefore exempt from paying income tax. No provision for income tax is made in this financial report.

#### (b) Property, Plant & Equipment

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Class of Fixed Assets	Depreciation Rate
Furniture & Fittings	13 - 20%
Office Equipment	20 - 40%
Software	25%
Leasehold Improvements	Lease Life

The carrying amount of fixed assets is reviewed annually by the Board of Directors to ensure it is not impaired. There is no such indication that impairment existed at balance date.

#### (c) Leases

Lease payments under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

#### (d) Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled including wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave have been measured at their nominal amounts based on current remuneration rates.

Contributions are made by the Association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

#### (e) Grant Income

The Board of Directors recognises grant income on an accrual basis, therefore all grants committed for a financial year have been recorded as income for that year.

Any funds which have not been committed or expensed at the end of the financial year are recorded as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

#### (f) Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand, at banks and on deposit.

#### (g) Revenue

Revenue from advertising is recognised upon the invoicing to customers. Any advertising revenue which relates to future publications is taken up as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position and recognised as revenue at a future date.

Interest revenue is recognised when credited, taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets

**(h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**(i) Comparatives**

Where required by Accounting Standards or to correct disclosure, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation of the current financial year.

**(j) Statement of Compliance**

Positive Life NSW Inc has elected to early adopt the Accounting Standard AASB 1053. It also adopts the relevant standards that specify Tier 2 reporting requirements.

**(k) Impairment of Assets**

The carrying value of plant and equipment is reviewed for impairment annually where change in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. The Board of Directors are of the opinion that no such impairment indicators exist.

**(l) Presentation and Functional Currency**

These financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars, which is the Association's functional currency.

**(m) Economic Dependence**

Positive Life is dependent on the NSW Department of Health for the majority of its revenue used to operate the Association. At the date of this report the Board of Directors has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support Positive Life.

**(n) Financial Liabilities**

At balance sheet date the Association has access to a business credit card facility totaling \$5,000 of which \$1,805 has been utilised. Funding to the Association is provided by Community Sector Banking, Bendigo Bank.

**NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Cash at Bank:		
Bendigo Bank	341,246	191,850
Bendigo Debit Card	3	7
Westpac Bus Max-i	-	323
Westpac Term Deposits	484	152,607
	<u>341,733</u>	<u>344,787</u>
Cash on Hand:		
Petty Cash	295	492
	<u>342,028</u>	<u>345,279</u>
(a) Reconciliation of cash		
For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at banks and investments in money market instruments. Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Petty Cash	295	492
Cash at bank	341,733	344,787
	<u>342,028</u>	<u>345,279</u>

2011      2010  
\$            \$

**NOTE 3 - OTHER RECEIVABLES**

Other receivables	13,219	7,089
	<u>13,219</u>	<u>7,089</u>

**NOTE 4 - OTHER ASSETS**

CURRENT

Insurance prepaid		-
Other prepayments	2,000	10,093
GST receivable	11,069	3,779
	<u>13,069</u>	<u>13,872</u>

**NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT**

Furniture & Fittings - At Cost	4,307	4,307
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(2,233)	(1,790)
	<u>2,074</u>	<u>2,517</u>

Office Equipment - At Cost	78,990	74,017
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(72,291)	(67,720)
	<u>6,699</u>	<u>6,297</u>

Software - At Cost	3,293	3,293
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(2,409)	(2,050)
	<u>884</u>	<u>1,243</u>

Leasehold Improvements - At Cost	13,636	13,636
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(13,636)	(13,636)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

9,657      10,057

(a) Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year

2010	1-1520 Furniture & Fittings \$	1-1620 Office Equipment \$	1-1720 Software \$	1-1820 Leasehold Improvement \$	Total \$
Balance at the beginning of year	964	8,190	249	3,410	12,813
Additions	1,814	2,966	1,120	-	5,900
Depreciation expense	(261)	(4,859)	(126)	(3,410)	(8,656)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>2,517</u>	<u>6,297</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>(0)</u>	<u>10,057</u>

2011	Furniture & Fittings	Office Equipment	Software	Leasehold Improvement	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of year	2,517	6,297	1,243	(0)	10,057
Additions		4,973			4,973
Depreciation expense	(443)	(4,571)	(359)	-	(5,373)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>2,074</u>	<u>6,699</u>	<u>884</u>	<u>(0)</u>	<u>9,657</u>

#### NOTE 6 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2011	2010
CURRENT	\$	\$
Trade Creditors	8,197	8,594
PAYG Withholding	4,767	6,271
	<u>12,964</u>	<u>14,865</u>

2011	2010
\$	\$

#### NOTE 7 - PROVISIONS

Annual Leave (including loading) - Current	35,678	60,977
Long Service Leave - Current	16,041	-
Long Service Leave - Non-current	3,796	17,603
	<u>55,515</u>	<u>78,580</u>

In the Statement of Financial Position a statutory provision of accrued annual leave is made of \$35,678 (2010: \$60,977) and long service leave \$19,837 (2010: \$17,603). These provisions are calculated on the basis of employees receiving 13 weeks long service leave after 10 years continual service in line with the policy of Positive Life. Accrual for the Long Service Leave provisions occurs after an employee has reached 5 years of continual service. It is acknowledged that no formal provision for accrued sick leave is made, however under the by-laws of Positive Life it should be anticipated that payments of accrued sick leave could arise. The total value of sick leave not recognised in the financial report was \$38,872 (2010:\$41,719).

#### NOTE 8 - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Number of employees at year end	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
---------------------------------	----------	----------

#### NOTE 9 - OTHER LIABILITIES

	2011	2010
CURRENT	\$	\$
Grants in advance	60,022	35,300
	<u>60,022</u>	<u>35,300</u>

#### NOTE 10.a - OPERATING GRANTS

Grant income recognised		
NSW Department of Health	715,378	720,909
Other Grants	51,255	58,390
	<u>766,633</u>	<u>779,299</u>

**NOTE 10.b- Rent Subsidies (Accommodation Grants)**

City of Sydney has provided a 33% subsidy on the full market rent of the office premises 5/94 Oxford Street Darlinghurst for a term of 3 years from 2 April 2010 until 1st April 2013 for \$16,889 in total. The net amount of rental expense is reflected in the financial statement.

**NOTE 11 - FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

Income from Fundraising Activities

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Miscellaneous Donations	3,687	1,828
	<u>3,687</u>	<u>1,828</u>
Less: Expenses of Fundraising Activities		
Fundraising expense - Everyday Hero		300
	-	<u>300</u>
Surplus/(Loss) on Fundraising Activities		
Miscellaneous Donations	3,687	1,528
NET SURPLUS ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES	<u>3,687</u>	<u>1,528</u>

The balance of fundraising income will be spent on activities which are ineligible for or unlikely to receive government funding or are most likely to enhance Positive Life NSW Inc. service provisions for its clients. With no fundraising expenses incurred, the net surplus margin on fundraising activities is 100%.

**NOTE 12 - MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**

Board Meeting, Annual Reports & Annual General Meeting Costs

5,209	6,961
<u>5,209</u>	<u>6,961</u>

**NOTE 13 - CORE ACTIVITY EXPENSES**

Communications	42,137	47,121
Positive Speakers' Bureau	19,631	19,014
Prevention	-	1,532
Community Development	16,702	32,532
Health Promotion/Social Marketing	21,607	33,061
HP - Sero Sort	54,377	10,938
Advocacy	12,013	10,989
Administration Services	194,290	166,867
	<u>360,757</u>	<u>322,054</u>

**NOTE 14 - AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION**

Audit services were provided on a pro bono basis.

-	-
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**NOTE 15 - EMPLOYEE RELATED COSTS**

Salaries & wages	425,712	405,116
Employee leave entitlements	(23,065)	27,141
Superannuation	38,043	41,372
Workers' compensation insurance	3,131	3,911
Staff recruitment costs	9,382	1,604
	<u>453,203</u>	<u>479,144</u>

## NOTE 16 - INSURANCE

The Association has the following insurance policies which were in place and current as at 30 June 2011.

Workers' Compensation insurance is disclosed separately in Note 15.

Specific & General Property, Crime, Primary Liability, Protector Liability, Non-Owned Motor Vehicles and Personal Accidents	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Premium paid:	4,940	4,943

## NOTE 17 - MEMBERS' LIABILITY

In accordance with The Constitution of The Association the members shall have no liability to contribute towards the payments of debts and liabilities of the Association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Association except to the amount of any unpaid membership fees.

## NOTE 18 - ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The Association was incorporated in Australia.

The principal place of business of the Association is:

Level 1, Suite 5, 94 Oxford Street  
Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010

The principal activity of the Association is to represent people living with HIV in New South Wales and to promote a positive image of people affected by HIV with the aim of eliminating prejudice, isolation, stigmatisation and discrimination.

## NOTE 19 - Related Parties

Key management personnel:

The following remuneration rates were paid to key management personnel

1. Robert Lake Appointed 3/12/2007

Short term employee benefits:

Salaries & wages \$101,182

Superannuation \$8,980

## NOTE 20 - Subsequent Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of Positive Life NSW Inc., the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

## NOTE 21 - CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

	2011	2010
(a) Operating lease commitments	\$	\$
Being for rent of premises & office equipment		
Payable:		
- not later than 1 year	17,430	17,163
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	11,189	32,426
- later than 5 years	-	-
	<u>28,619</u>	<u>49,589</u>

The Association entered into a three-year lease over the existing rental property commencing on 2nd April 2010 and concluding on 1st April 2013. Total rent payable under the agreement is \$33,775

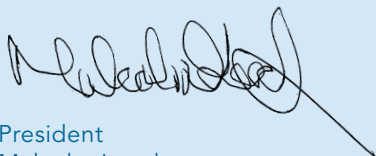
(b) There were no material commitments requiring disclosure other than those already included under the notes to and forming part of the financial statements at balance date (2010: Nil).

## STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the opinion of the Board of Directors the financial statements as set out on pages 1 to 10:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Positive Life NSW Inc. as at 30 June 2011 and its results, changes in equity and cash flows of the Association for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Positive Life NSW Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and is signed for and on behalf of the Board of Directors by:



President  
Malcolm Leech



Treasurer  
Paul Ellis

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2011

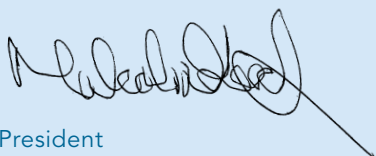
## INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS TO BE FURNISHED UNDER THE CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT 1991 (the "Act")

**30 JUNE 2011**

### **Declaration to be made by the President in respect of fundraising appeals**

I, Malcolm Leech, President of Positive Life NSW Inc. (the "Association") declare that in my opinion:

- (a) the financial statements present a true and fair view of all income and expenditure of the Association with respect to fundraising appeals; and
- (b) the Statement of Financial Position presents a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association with respect to fundraising appeals; and
- (c) the provisions of the Act, the regulations under the Act, and the conditions attached to the fundraising authority have been complied with by the Association; and
- (d) the internal controls exercised by the Association are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the Association from any of its fundraising appeals.



President  
Malcolm Leech

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2011



chartered  
accountants

Level 18, City Centre,  
55 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
T +61 2 9283 1666 F +61 2 9283 1668  
E admin@esvgroup.com.au  
www.esvgroup.com.au

## Independent Audit Report to the Members of Positive Life NSW Inc

### *Report on the Financial Report*

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial report of Positive Life NSW Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2011, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and a statement by the board of directors.

### *Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Associations Incorporations Act 2009 (NSW)*, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

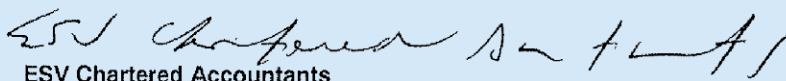
### *Independence*


In conducting our audit, we followed the applicable independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

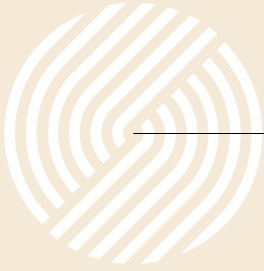
### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Positive Life NSW Incorporated as at 30 June 2011, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional and statutory reporting requirements in Australia including section 24 of the *Charitable Fundraising Act (NSW) 1991*.

Dated at Sydney on the 23 day of September 2011.

  
ESV Chartered Accountants

  
Christopher Kirkwood  
Partner



## Thank you

ACON Northern Rivers/Illawarra/Hunter

Adrian Ogier

AFAO

Aldo Spina

All our members, subscribers and supporters

All those who have been willing to take part in the development of our campaigns and health promotion resources

Andrew Georgiou

ARCSHS

ASHM

Barry Edwards

Ben Tart

Board members 2010 - 11: Malcolm Leech, Paul Ellis, Bernard Kealey, Russell Westacott, James Wilson, Timothy Parsons, Craig Cooper, Jane Costello, Peter Thoms, Simon Chaplin, Scott McKeown, Brett Paradise, staff representatives Lance Feeney and Hédimo Santana

Bobby Goldsmith Foundation

Brady from HALC

City of Sydney

CMoore Hardy

Constitution committee: Craig Cooper, Bernard Kealey, Rob Lake and Harry Richardson; special mention to Douglas Barry

Crackerjack Communications

David Novak (MANHUNT)

David Urquhart

Dermot Ryan

Douglas Jenkin

ESV Chartered Accountants

Flynn (mailouts)

Garret Prestage

Garry Wotherspoon

Greg Page

GWAHS (Greater Western Area Health Service)

Jae Condon

Jamie Dunbar

Karress Rhodes of KL Graphics

Karumah

Kirby Institute

Kurt Andersson-Noorgard

Lisa McCann

Martin Holt

Matrix on Board

Michael Hurley

Morgan Carpenter

Multicultural HIV/AIDS Hepatitis C Service

NAPWA

NCHECR

NCHSR

Nic Parkhill of ACON and his staff

Peer support volunteers: Grahame, Seumas, Gary, Cameron, Garth, Fred, Tim, Adrian, Josh, José, Peter, Amelia, Craig C, Craig K, Leslie, Simon, Bernard, Andrew

Phil Mace

Positive Speakers Bureau speakers

Pozhets

Priyadi Prihaswan

Queer Screen

Recruitment: Craig for his skills and expertise

Rene

Rodney J Williams (Junganunga)

Ron Trip

Ross Duffin

Ruth Hennessy

SESIHHS (South East Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service)

Shaun Hickey (Talkabout distribution)

Slade Smith

SSWAHS (Sydney South West Area Health Service)

Staff 2010-11: Rob Lake, Harry Richardson, Kathy Triffitt, Lance Feeney, Hédimo Santano, Kevin Pyle, Phillip McGrath and Susan Ardill

Stephen Scott

Strategic Planning Working Group: Paul Ellis, James Wilson, Tim Parsons and Rob Lake and all those who participated in the consultation process

Stuart Fenton

SX

Sydney Star Observer

*Talkabout's* pseudonymous writers: you know who you are!

Tim Alderman

