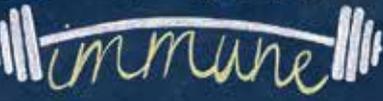


CHOOSE  CHOOSE A LONGER  
 life.  CHOOSE a FUTURE   
 Choose  treat YOURSELF  
 better. CHOOSE  feel BETTER.  
 Choose coping bet + ter (WTF) WHATEVER LIFE THROWS AT YOU   
 CHOOSE  a healthy HEART. Choose a  healthy brain.  
**Choose A POSITIVE life.**  
 CHOOSE to forget what **HIV**       MEDICATIONS.  
 CHOOSE to accept     that the drugs & your options have IMPROVED.  
 Choose the possibility of taking FEWER PILLS.  
 CHOOSE FEWER SIDE EFFECTS.  
 CHOOSE more ENERGY. CHOOSE  
 a stronger  immune system.

choose treatment

Annual Report 2013 – 2014

 PositiveLifeNSW  
 the voice of people with HIV since 1988



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## Vision

All people living with HIV are able to live valued and meaningful lives, free from the impacts of stigma and discrimination, and contributing to the end of HIV transmission.

## Mission

Positive Life NSW is the state-wide peer based organisation that speaks for and on behalf of people living with and affected by HIV. We provide advocacy and leadership in advancing the human rights and quality of life of people living with and affected by HIV in NSW.

## Our Principles

Positive Life NSW respects and is guided by:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- The Denver Principles (1983)
- The Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (1986)
- The Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (MIPA) Declaration (2010)
- The Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (GIPA) Declaration (1994)
- The United Nations General Assembly Declaration of Commitment on HIV (2001)
- The NAPWHA Declaration of Rights (1995)
- Melbourne Declaration 2012

# Annual Report 2013 – 2014

## Goals

- Lead the community response in HIV health policy, treatments uptake and contribution to research to ensure that the interests of people living with and affected by HIV are central in advocacy, representation and decision making
- Delivering best practice, peer-based HIV health promotion and improving health literacy of people living with and affected by HIV
- Continue to develop the capacity of Positive Life NSW to effectively represent the interests of people living with and affected by HIV in NSW
- Reduce the impacts of stigma and discrimination
- Delivering peer-based health promotion services that build the individual capacity of people living with and affected by HIV to maximise their health

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# President's Report

*"People living with HIV are entitled to the same rights as everyone else, and the protection and realisation of these human rights has been recognised to be essential to an effective public health response to HIV."*

The year 2014 has been one of both change and consolidation for Positive Life NSW.

In March we farewelled our previous CEO Sonny Williams who returned to New Zealand for family reasons, and welcomed Craig Cooper back to Sydney and Positive Life NSW as our new CEO. I would like to pay tribute to Sonny who contributed greatly to improving the standing of Positive Life NSW both within the broader HIV sector and our community. The professional way in which Sonny led and conducted the business of Positive Life NSW was a testament to his dedication and commitment to the agency, its people, partnerships and our membership. Craig has a long history with Positive Life NSW as a former Vice President and Board member, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role having worked extensively in the HIV sector in managerial roles for both government and non-government organisations. He has brought an energy and reinvigoration into the agency, and his direction and vision are grounded in a human-rights framework and the centrality of the positive voice in all that we do.

In another milestone for Positive Life NSW we celebrated our twenty fifth anniversary of incorporation this year and marked the considerable achievements of the organisation, our community and supporters over this time. It was a chance to pause and reflect on just how far we have come. The fact that Positive Life NSW is still here speaks to the significance and need for people living with HIV being able to self-govern, self-determine and to have a voice. It speaks to the reality that people living with HIV are resilient and powerful and having our peers advocate on our behalf is a critical element in maintaining our health. There have been many remarkable people with and without HIV who have helped along the twenty five year journey. It is their extraordinary contribution and commitment that has enabled Positive Life NSW to connect to community and to remain focused and responsive to the emerging needs of people living with and affected by HIV in NSW.

People living with HIV are entitled to the same rights as everyone else, and the protection and realisation of these human rights has been recognised to be essential to an effective public health response to HIV. A successful rights-based response requires the involvement of people living with HIV in programme development, implementation and policy making and improves the relevance, acceptability and effectiveness of programmes.

Our Choose Campaign which was launched at our World AIDS Day event on 01 December 2013 by the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Honourable Jillian Skinner highlighted the advantages of being on HIV treatment and was acclaimed widely. The campaign centres around the choices people living with HIV now have around treatment and their health and wellbeing, with themes such as 'Choose a positive life'; 'Choose to treat yourself better'; and 'Choose a stronger immune system.' The second phase of the campaign capitalised on the message of choosing a positive life and encouraged people to explore their treatment options under the banner 'Choose treatments.' However while recognising that the treatment landscape has evolved and changed, we also appreciate the diversity of the lived HIV experience and acknowledge that people living with HIV have a right to self-determination and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives, and it is important that their perspectives are valued and given due consideration in the HIV response. This work has now fed into the third phase of the Choose Campaign which will focus on positive peoples' active participation in decision making about their HIV treatments. This phase of the campaign will be launched on World AIDS Day NSW 1 December 2014 by the Hon. Jillian Skinner MP, Minister for Health, Minister for Medical Research.

This year after an absence of many years, Positive Life NSW had an entry in the Mardi Gras parade, with a group of staff, Board members and volunteers carrying Choose campaign blackboard placards and wearing the campaign t-shirts to encourage people living with HIV to choose treatment, to play an active and vital role in preventing HIV transmission, and reinforce the place of peer led organisations at the heart of the HIV response. Positive Life NSW also had its biggest stall and presence at Fair Day yet where we handed out over five hundred show-bags, t-shirts and resources to the many people who came by to meet with us. We were also proud to host the Sydney premiere of the play *Death of Kings* as part of the Mardi Gras Festival. The work which is a cabaret-style performance based on the experiences of a group of gay men in Sydney during the 1980s and the evolving HIV/AIDS crisis, played to sell-out audiences with its clarion call to remember and celebrate. Several of Positive Life NSW's members contributed their personal stories to the production, and it was a very moving and memorable event.



Positive Life NSW staff and Board members participated in the AIDS Candlelight Vigil which is held concurrently around the world on the third Sunday of May. Candlelight is a powerful tool for community mobilisation and solidarity, in that it raises social consciousness around HIV thus breaking down the barriers of stigma and discrimination, and gives hope to new generations. In this way, our shared history informs so much of our common future. For our staff and Board it is important to remember and acknowledge all of those who came before and are no longer with us, because so many of the achievements and milestones we have reached today as people living with HIV can be directly attributed to their sheer courage and determination in the face of adversity. Without them and their contributions and achievements, the role of HIV activism, education and engagement would not have been possible. We celebrate their achievements.

At this point I would like to celebrate the life and acknowledge the contribution of Vivienne Munro who sadly passed this year. Vivienne was a Distinguished Member of Positive Life NSW who was involved in the response to HIV since the 1980s. She was one of the first women in New South Wales to be open about her HIV status, and played a key role in what was then PWA NSW, which later became PLWHA NSW and then Positive Life NSW. Vivienne was instrumental in setting up HIV support

*“We are all united in the goal of ensuring that the centrality and vitality of the voices of positive people are heard and their needs reflected in the design and implementation of health and social policies and programmes”*

and networks for women in NSW. She was also involved in the international HIV movement, and for a period was involved with the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Vivienne was a tireless and energetic advocate of people living with HIV who made a major contribution to both the Australian response to HIV and the support of women living with HIV.

The Positive Life NSW Board has continued to build on its governance work from the previous year, and our updated Constitution has now been sent out for community consultation and we are currently incorporating all the feedback received. Additionally we have instigated an ongoing review process of all policies and procedures to ensure they comply with updated state and federal requirements, and are current and relevant to the needs of Positive Life NSW and its members. The Positive Life NSW Board members are represented on a number of committees and partnerships with key organisations and external stakeholders such as Health Consumers New South Wales. This representation ensures that people living with HIV are active participants in all aspects of service delivery, treatment and care decisions, and that we are able to participate meaningfully and robustly in the development of policy and delivery of advocacy activities.

Finally, I would like to thank and acknowledge all of our staff, Board, seconded Board members, volunteers, supporters and members who tirelessly commit their time, expertise, wisdom, life experiences and energies to the agency. It is because of your passion and dedication that Positive Life NSW is so highly regarded and respected, and I am truly honoured to work with such a remarkable and talented group of people. We are all united in the goal of ensuring that the centrality and vitality of the voices of positive people are heard and their needs reflected in the design and implementation of health and social policies and programmes.

As people living with HIV we have led the advances of the past thirty years of the HIV epidemic. Our challenge for 2014 and beyond is to continue to build on our achievements and successes, honour and respect the past, and to continue to advocate around issues that affect all people living with HIV.

**Jane Costello**  
President

# CEOs Report

The work carried out by Positive Life NSW over the last financial year continues to focus on the needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV), from the undiagnosed / newly diagnosed population to those living long term with HIV. Over the course of the past twelve months we have continued to provide education, referral, representation, peer support and HIV policy advice. Our work engages and supports the HIV community in NSW and is an integral part of the response to HIV in NSW and Australia. The voice of PLHIV continues to remain vital and central to the HIV response.

Some of you may be aware that health and social service funding and contract processes has either undergone or is undergoing a review. This has impacted on the provision of PLHIV services or service models. The funding and service shifts for Positive Life NSW and PLHIV in NSW have resulted in realignment in our peer support, health education and campaign projects and activities. Funding from the Ministry of Health will be maintained into the 2014-2015 financial year, as the competitive tendering and procurement process for the Ministry is progressed.

The board and I continue to explore emerging and ongoing HIV health; social determinants of health and social support needs of PLHIV. This includes engagement with health service providers, treatment uptake and adherence and quality of life for PLHIV. We contextualise evidence and findings against the NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015 and PLHIV consultation outcomes. We are aware of the need to match service delivery with PLHIV needs and funders priorities. There is an understanding that we need to diversify our funding base, we have made decisions over the past year to support the financial viability of the association.

I am pleased with the ongoing working partnership with MAC Cosmetic's. More specifically, supplemented activities, such as, the Positive Speakers Bureau and peer support social inclusion programs through the M·A·C AIDS Fund Affiliate Community Grants Program..

Some program highlights of the past year include the World AIDS Day 2013 launch of the CHOOSE Campaign. Last year World AIDS Day was held at Customs House with the Hon. Jillian Skinner MP, NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research launching the CHOOSE Treatments Campaign. Fresh Start – a quit smoking program for PLHIV which works across agencies continues to grow in uptake and is seen as a viable peer support quit smoking option for PLHIV. The Genesis workshop for newly diagnosed

PLHIV, remains an important ACON / Positive Life NSW partnership, with 5 programs run this year.

Community engagement, consultation and education remain a high priority. There continues to be diversity in our community outreach. HIV Rural Forums run in areas such as Lismore, Dubbo and a Heterosexual forum in Metropolitan Sydney. Positive Life NSW had a presence at Coast Out - Coffs Harbour, as a component of our rural/ regional outreach. Positive Life NSW had a presence at Fair Day and Mardi Gras. A big thank you to the Positive Life NSW volunteers, staff and Board that made these community events a success. Positive Life NSW staff and Board are asked to attend Numerous forums, presentations and PLHIV representations. We continue to communicate with the PLHIV via Talkabout and our website.

Our policy and advocacy work has produced some wins and outcomes throughout the year. Positive Life NSW has undertaken or partnered in research around the symptoms and signs of early and late stage HIV infection, ageing and HIV-related co-morbidities, HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and access to life insurance for people living with HIV. We have advocated for improved access to the dispensing of HIV medication, and welcome the Federal Government announcement that effective 01

***“Our work engages and supports the HIV community in NSW and is an integral part of the response to HIV in NSW and Australia. The voice of PLHIV continues to remain vital and central to the HIV response.”***

# UPDATE

July 2015; people living with HIV will be able to get HIV medications dispensed from either a hospital or a community pharmacy. We are currently partnering with our colleagues at the HIV AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) around a number of pieces of policy work at a national and state level on the decriminalisation of HIV transmission, and developing a resource on sex, HIV disclosure and the law. Positive Life NSW has also developed submissions in response to structural or policy change around the diagnosis of anal cancer; and created position papers on HIV supported accommodation and the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes for people living with HIV. The Enhanced Medication Assistance Scheme continues to rollout and be promoted. There has been an increase in the supply of HIV medications to two month. The clinical policy to non-reconstruction HIV infected bodies-post autopsy at the Department of Forensic Medicine has been reversed. The privacy of PLHIV will be maintained and their bodies will now be re-constituted. HIV and health policy is progressing regarding the co-payments scheme and medicare ineligible (universal access to HIV medications).

The Positive Speakers' Bureau (PSB) continues to evolve, with increased and expanded marketing and promotion of the bureau. This has included the production of a DVD, brochure distribution, mail outs, and follow-up phone calls to potential clients. We are constantly seeking new ways to engage audiences, to improve PSB service delivery and ensure HIV stigma and discrimination is combated through the voice of positive people. A good working relationship with PSB clients; and well trained and supported Speakers, provides a solid foundation for effective marketing and promotion. These approaches are designed to generate support for the program, create interest and open pathways for positive speakers.

Building a peer leadership response, community resilience and PLHIV capacity is an important element of our work. Positive Life NSW provides opportunities to build leadership through PSB representations, using a variety of methods. All staff are encouraged and supported in their professional development endeavours. This is followed up with occasions to present at forums and training sessions, by submitting papers for consideration at conferences. We participated in and are represented by National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA). Examples of our membership with NAPWHA provide fruitful outcomes through policy, programmatic activities and research participation avenues. For board

*"For all of us there are occasions to influence service delivery, policy, and to raise awareness of issues of importance to the membership - through involvement you become a leader in the community."*

members their skill development prospects come with the responsibility of good governance practice, from Board induction through to training days and attendance at conferences or forums. The board and staff planning day, strategy development, budget and business planning processes, and the reviewing relevant policies and emerging strategic priorities are all examples of governance training and support. Positive Life NSW members are involved in the board and through Working Groups. This provides options to members to participate in and remain engaged in the health and wellbeing of the agency. For all of us there are occasions to influence service delivery, policy and to raise awareness of issues of importance to the membership - through involvement you become a leader in the community.

The year ahead holds great opportunities and some challenges. Finally I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of both the Board and staff. It has been a year of change and progress, it is their commitment to quality service delivery and the championing of positive voices that sets the agency in good stead for the year ahead.

**Craig Cooper**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Positive Life NSW Board I am pleased to present the Annual Financial reports for 2013 – 2014.

Positive Life NSW overall result for the financial year was a surplus of \$3,629 after all depreciations, accruals and provisions. This surplus represents 0.39% of total revenue for the year and is on par with our budgetary goals.

We have continued to sustain a healthy fiscal position throughout the year ending with a working capital ratio of 3.9 gives an indication we are well placed to pay your debts as they fall due. In conjunction with a reserve to expenditure ratio of 20%, this ensures we are well placed to weather future unexpected financial circumstances.

Total revenue for the year was \$919,911 which exceeded our budget by \$11,048. This was due largely to an increase in Positive Speakers Bureau activity and one off donations. We received an increase to fundraising activities compared to last year due to financial support from M.A.C Cosmetics through the M·A·C AIDS Fund Affiliate Community Grants Program. The operating grant for the organisation is received from the NSW Ministry of Health who continue to support us as our main source of income.

Total expenses were \$906,936 which was on par with budget expectations. This year saw 40% increase in core activity expenses on last year and a 33% reduction in employee benefits expenses.

I consider the organisation has managed its finances well and has placed itself in a strong position going forward. I would like to thank outgoing CEO Sonny Williams, current CEO Craig Cooper, Harry Richardson, Matrix and the Positive Life NSW Board for their continued due diligence and support during the financial year. Finally, on behalf of the Board I would like to say thank you to ESV Chartered Accountants, who have provided a comprehensive and professional audit.

**Cameron Colwell**  
*Treasurer*

# POZ ACTION

The Poz Action Group (PAG) is a National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) initiative and consists of the operational leadership of the four NAPWHA member organisations (Positive Life New South Wales, Queensland Positive People, Living Positive Victoria, and Positive Life South Australia). PAG meets quarterly to identify emerging HIV prevention, legislative and policy priorities; and to share expertise and resources. Areas identified for action in the 2013-14 year included:

- An investigation into criminality of: 1) HIV transmission and undetectable viral load (UVL), 2) criminality where the negative partners is aware of the risk of transmission and consents
- The development of jurisdictional prosecution guidelines for HIV transmission
- The production of a video addressing the negative public health impacts of criminalising HIV transmission
- A range of activities for the International AIDS Conference 2014 including conference presentations and a pre-conference HIV criminalisation workshop
- PAG members work with State and Territory Health Departments to address the cost burden of ART co-payments for people experiencing financial stress

## Criminality in relation to UVL and consent as a defence

The HIV AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) was asked to brief legal counsel and obtained detailed advice in relation to the limits of criminalisation of HIV transmission in NSW. The advice focused on where infection is accidentally caused or in circumstances where the risk is minimal and where risk reduction measures have been taken.

HALC sought advice on: 1) the relevance of knowledge on the part of the sero-negative partner, where the HIV-status of the sero-positive partner was known prior to transmission; 2) the relevance or likelihood of transmission within the context of reckless and negligent transmission, and; 3) whether there was scope for HIV infection not being considered to be 'grievous bodily harm'. HALC also sought advice on the possibility of obtaining declaratory relief from the Supreme Court of NSW in relation to the issue of consent as a defence and the relevance of an undetectable viral load.

## Prosecution Guidelines

International material has been reviewed and collated and copies of all public health offences prosecuted by police in NSW in the last 10 years have been obtained. Data on offences in other states and territories is currently being sought. The material will be necessary firstly to insure any guidelines produced are relevant to the context in NSW and in other jurisdictions; and secondly to encourage the Director of Public Prosecutions to adopt the guidelines.

## HIV and the Law Video

This is a 2.5 minute animated video which discusses the criminalisation of HIV transmission and in some states, non-disclosure as well. The 2012 United Nations Commission on HIV and the Law found that the criminalisation of HIV transmission is counterproductive to preventing transmission initiatives. HIV is a health issue, not a legal issue. The reasons for this are that prosecutions create an environment of fear and confusion where people fear being known as HIV-positive, driving it underground and discouraging HIV testing and access to treatment and care. The reality is that HIV is not a death sentence and people with HIV now live long and productive lives. The law takes time to catch up and needs to be changed. The video can be viewed on the Positive Life NSW website.

## Addressing ART co-payment issues

Thus far, the success to reduce the cost burden of ARV medications in Australian States and Territories has been mixed. Currently, each State and Territory has its own system and there is no equity of access across the country. Some States and Territories provide free access; some don't. Percentages of PLHIV taking ART also varies across Australian States and Territories.

In NSW, there will be no blanket co-payment waiver for PLHIV. There are concerns about the precedent this establishes for other health conditions and the overall cost to the health system. However, Local Health Districts have discretionary power to waive co-payments for individuals on a case-by-case basis.

In Victoria, a detailed analysis of the cost of ART was conducted by the Burnet Institute. The findings highlight the need for a more equitable approach to ART distribution in Victoria and to reducing financial barriers to ART for people with HIV in that state, and not just those who can access ART from a single Melbourne site that provides free access.

Queensland Positive People have been closely collaborating with the HIV Foundation to encourage the removal of ART co-payments by the Queensland Health Department. While the proposal has been viewed favourably and with merit, it has yet to be approved for implementation.

In South Australia, Positive Life South Australia is developing a state based submission, informed by the Positive Life NSW costings and rationale. In Western Australia and the Northern Territory; co-payment charges are waived or supported through the respective state or territory health systems. In Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, PLHIV populations are small and data is not available.

**Lance Feeney**



# CHOOSE Treatments Campaign Report

On World AIDS Day 2013, the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research the Hon. Jillian Skinner MP, launched the Positive Life NSW CHOOSE Treatments campaign at Customs House Sydney.

If treatment uptake is to reach 90% by 2015, people not currently taking HIV treatment will need to be persuaded that it is now safer and more effective. The CHOOSE Treatments campaign aimed to address these issues by informing people with diagnosed HIV that:

- cART can assist them to live longer healthier lives
- cART lowers the chance of transmitting HIV to others
- cART is effective, easier to take, with less side-effects

Positive Life NSW collaborated with URSA CLEMENGER to develop the campaign creative and messaging. The campaign was designed to complement other HIV campaigns, for example the ACON Ending HIV campaign, MoH Ending HIV campaign, and the NAPWHA Start the Conversation and the Wait is Over campaigns.

Since the campaign launch on 1 December 2013, there have been approximately 45,000 hits on the campaign website and campaign images have appeared in electronic and print media (Grindr; Same-Same; Star Observer; Talkabout; SX Magazine; www.gaynewsnetwork.com.au and Positive Living magazines). Campaign collateral include: T shirts, fans, fridge magnets, posters, chalk boards and place cards.

The Positive Life NSW CHOOSE Treatment creative messaging and concept was successful and memorable for PLHIV in NSW. During the campaign evaluation, PLNSW received praise and feedback from PLHIV and clinicians for validating HIV treatment decisions. PLHIV's perceptions of HIV treatments vary. Any efforts to encourage more PLHIV to initiate treatment must respect an individual's choice to treat and avoid stigmatising those who decide HIV treatment is not for them.

## Campaign Background

Combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) remains the only option to suppress the virus and improve the health of people living with HIV (PLHIV). In the thirteen years since HIV treatments have been available, there have been significant improvements in the efficacy and tolerability of treatments. New combinations of medications have simplified and improved the drug taking experience. We know that when HIV is allowed to replicate uninhibited, that the resultant immune activation and inflammation result in immune destruction and opportunistic infections, and also with increased rates of cardiovascular, renal, hepatic, and neurologic diseases, as well as malignancies and other serious non-AIDS diseases.

In addition, people with an undetectable viral load are less likely to pass on HIV.

Despite improvements in HIV treatments, some people with diagnosed HIV are not treating. Futures Six reported that of those not currently treating (12.7%), 28.9% had used ART in the past and then stopped and 9% had never used ART and of these, 86.1% would consider using ART in the future. Findings from the Seroconversion Study 2013 states that - "Community apprehension around ART acts as a barrier to informed discussion about treatment options. Some men's doubts about the benefits of treatment appear to be based on an underlying scepticism of medicine generally, and a lack of knowledge of HIV medicine specifically. The unease many men in this study had about choosing to begin treatment suggest there is a lack of current, accurate information available to counter their fears."

## Lance Feeney and Harry Richardson

CHOOSE LIFE.

life.  CHOO

Choose  to tree

 better. **CHOOSE**

Choose coping bet + er  
**WITH WHATEVER**

**CHOOSE** ↓  a healthy **HE**

# Policy Report

## Increasing HIV Treatment uptake in NSW

Positive Life NSW committed to improving the health of people with HIV (PLHIV), reducing onward transmission, and supporting the NSW HIV Strategy targets (90% of people with HIV on treatment by 2015). The number of PLHIV dispensed combination HIV antiretroviral therapy (cART) in NSW is steadily increasing and is higher than other Australian States and Territories. Pharmacy dispensing data indicates that in the one year period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, 9,108 of the approximately 10,600 people diagnosed with HIV in NSW and in care were dispensed cART (86%).

There are however, a minority of people with diagnosed HIV who are either unable to access cART because they are Medicare ineligible (for example: migrants, students, refugees) or who are unable to afford cART due to financial stress and/or poverty issues. In addition, despite the 500 CD4 cell threshold being removed on 1 April 2013, there are PLHIV who are yet to start treatment. In the three months from April to June 2013, 35% of those diagnosed with HIV commenced treatment close to the time of diagnosis while 56% deferred treatment, and for 9% the treatment status near diagnosis was unknown. There were a range of reasons why treatment was deferred. They included: not clinically indicated (30%); decision not made/for review (17%); treatment required for another condition (15%); awaiting genotyping results (13%); will start cART soon (13%); returning overseas to access treatment (4%); and patient declined treatment (2%).

## Co-payment Waivers

Positive Life NSW advocated to the Ministry of Health for policy measures to help PLHIV who can't afford cART and Medicare ineligible. Local Health Districts (LHDs) agreed to waive co-payments on a case-by-case basis where cost is a barrier to treatment access and adherence. The co-payment waiver will assist a minority of PLHIV in NSW who are ineligible for financial assistance from BGF. It will also help those who are Medicare ineligible and not enrolled in the Australian Treatment HIV Observational Database Temporary Resident Access Study (ATRAS) which provides free access to cART for study participants.

## Medicare Ineligibles

Quantifying the number of Medicare ineligible in NSW who were in need of cART and outside the ATRAS scheme became a priority. Publically funded sexual health and HIV clinics were surveyed throughout NSW by Positive Life NSW and NAPWHA. In July 2013, there were a total of 16 PLHIV in NSW who were Medicare ineligible and not in ATRAS. (8 were on cART, 3 were importing ART, 1 was on a clinical trial, 1 received drug via compassionate access, and 2 were paying full price). In the ACT there were 8 PLHIV who were Medicare ineligible and on cART (2 importing, 2 on a clinical trial, 2 on compassionate access, 2 paying full price).

## Enhanced Medication Access Scheme (EMA)

Positive Life NSW continued to promote EMA scheme to PLHIV in metropolitan, rural and regional areas of NSW. Enrolments in EMA have steadily grown since December 2012. In June 2014, 353 people had enrolled in EMA and in the three months up till June 2014, between 13 and 21 people per month joined the scheme. The majority of those using the scheme live in metropolitan Sydney (75%) and the remaining 25% live in regional or rural NSW. The proportion of people choosing to have their medication delivered to home/or another address is about equal to those who choose to collect medications from a nominated community pharmacy. More people however pay the full co-payment rate (employed) than those who pay a concessional co-payment (~ 59%) and (~ 41%) respectively. There is about an even split between PLHIV accessing prescriptions from GP/s100 prescriber and from Sexual Health Service doctors who use EMA. As NSW moves to a system where cART can be accessed via community pharmacies after July 2015, it will be important that those who use EMA are not disadvantaged by shifting HIV medication access arrangements.

## Policy Responses and Submissions

In the 2013-2014, Positive Life NSW initiated 12 policy responses and we contributed to five joint policy responses. Priority policy submissions were: high resolution anal cancer diagnostic services; and independent living and housing support services for PLHIV in NSW.

## High Resolution Anal Cancer diagnostic services

All PLHIV, and particularly gay men living with HIV, are at significantly higher risk of developing anal cancer than the general population. Access to High Resolution Anoscopy Diagnostic Service for people at risk of anal cancer is essential to early diagnosis and treatment of anal cancer. In consultation with the Kirby Institute, Positive Life NSW developed a joint submission with ACON "Anal Cancer – Diagnosis, Monitoring and Management in Sydney and South East Sydney Local Health Districts" to highlight the need for high resolution anoscopy services at St Vincent's

Hospital and Royal Prince Alfred Hospitals. The aim of the submission was to address increasing waiting lists for diagnostic services and to limit morbidity and mortality from anal cancer.

## Independent Living and Housing Support Services for PLHIV in NSW

Consultation with PLHIV and HIV sector partners has identified the need for independent living and housing support services for a minority of PLHIV who have complex needs and psychosocial issues. Positive Life NSW has also established that there is an unquantified need in relation to PLHIV and inadequate or temporary accommodation and homelessness. Positive Life NSW responded to the proposed closure of BG House by stating that need for support for independent living services is not decreasing. Both ADAHPS and LHD HIV community teams agreed with the Positive Life NSW position. The closing of BG House comes at a time when it is acknowledged that the need for support for independent living for PLHIV with complex health care needs and neurocognitive impairment is increasing. HIV Community Outreach teams in the inner Sydney area support approximately 320 PLHIV with multiple chronic health conditions, mental health, alcohol and other drug use and poverty issues. The combination of these chronic health conditions and psychosocial factors negatively impact on HIV treatment adherence, physical and mental health outcomes and HIV prevention public health strategies. Positive Life NSW continues to advocate for the continuation of these critical independent living and housing support services to support PLHIV to better manage their own health and the health of their partners.

## Columns and articles in SX, The Star Observer, [www.gaynewsnetwork.com.au](http://www.gaynewsnetwork.com.au), Positive Living, Talkabout and HARP News

Positive Life NSW contributes to regular monthly columns in SX and feature articles in the Star Observer, Positive Living, Talkabout and the HARP News. Articles are also posted on the Positive Life NSW website and distributed by Facebook and Twitter. The number of "Hits" received by each article appears in brackets after the title. The following provides examples of some of the stories posted:

- HIV treatment no-longer a bitter pill to swallow (7,916): Describing the physical health, mental health and prevention benefits of ART for people diagnosed with HIV
- The HIV response in Australia – a poor report card in 2013 (23,880): a progress report on the Australian HIV response and the Melbourne Declaration 2012
- Major barriers to treating HIV removed (5,593): announcing that PBAC had removed the regulatory barrier preventing people with over 500 CD4 cells starting treatment
- HIV transmission, the law and public health (11,462):

why criminalisation of HIV does not work as a public health strategy and why criminal sanction effectively work to undermine disclosure, HIV prevention and the health of the community

- Serophobia, HIV stigma, discrimination and the serocloset (22,228): a call to all people with HIV to be open about their HIV serostatus and play a part in eliminating HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- 50% of HIV-negative Gay Men don't know about PEP –what's going on? (13,501): facts about knowledge of PEP amongst gay men and why PLHIV need to protect HIV-negative gay men and tell them about PEP and where to get it
- HIV + how would you know? (5,162): Talking about the fact that 10% or 30-35 people each year in NSW are diagnosed with a CD4 cell count less than 200 (AIDS) and that the highest number of late diagnosis is among gay men in their 40s and 50s

## Conclusion

Very few changes happen in the health arena without some form of advocacy. When efforts succeed, the results can be transformative. Consider the convenience achieved by the EMA scheme where HIV medications can now be couriered to the address of choice and people no longer need to go to a hospital pharmacy, or the fact that the number of PBS co-payments and cost of HIV medications have effectively halved, or that from 1 July 2015, people with HIV will be able to access their HIV meds from a local community pharmacy. Ideas like these did not catch on by themselves. They happened because of HIV advocacy, political activity and changes in public policy. These are just a few of the issues that have been influenced successfully by Positive Life NSW. Others include the recent agreement by LHDs to waive co-payments for those who are genuinely unable to afford HIV medication and access to treatment for Medicare ineligible through the ATRAS study.

The work to create those outcomes and the actual signs of progress can be elusive. Advocacy by its nature is complicated and its impact is often indirect and not easily apparent. HIV advocacy often evolves in a haphazard and non-linear way unlike other parts of the HIV response. That's because advocacy, even when based in research, is inherently political, and it's the nature of politics that events evolve sometimes rapidly and sometimes slowly and in a nonlinear fashion. An effort that doesn't seem to be working can suddenly bear results or one that seemed to be on track can suddenly lose momentum. 2013-14 has been a year where Positive Life NSW has provided leadership on a range of important issues for people with HIV and there has been some significant policy wins. These wins represent the culmination of sustained effort over a period longer than the time-frame reflected in this report and ultimately support people with HIV to maintain health and be active and productive members of Australian society.

**Lance Feeney**

# Communications

## Talkabout MAGAZINE - "WHERE WE SPEAK FOR OURSELVES"

A brief history, core aims and transition to an online format.

Talkabout magazine was produced as a printed magazine since 1988, even before our incorporation as an association in July 1989. The cover of the last paper issue #182 showcases some more recent covers of the magazine.

The name 'Talkabout' was conceived by the small volunteer collective who published the first issue in November 1988. Importantly they stated in the welcome of that issue that 'Talkabout is your voice: a means of getting in touch with others, sharing your experiences and knowledge; hearing news relevant to us – the people living with AIDS'. The title 'Talkabout: Where we speak for ourselves' was later adopted from that initial aim and has remained the core purpose of this publication.

These sentiments and intention will underpin the transition of Talkabout from a paper publication to a more adaptable and engaging online publication after this issue. We will have the same in-depth, relevant content and personal stories. This will be presented and distributed more frequently and widely through our website, e-newsletters, social media and partner media, promoting greater access to our content for the HIV positive community.

Talkabout News is now a feature page of Positive Living magazine which is printed and distributed throughout Australia. The changing and increasingly diverse face of people with HIV, and technology presents us with both opportunities and challenges to reach all people with HIV.



## Life Mail

Life Mail is Positive Life NSW's e-newsletter. Individuals and organisations can subscribe to Life Mail by supplying an email address and subscribers can unsubscribe at any time via email link. Life Mail publication will be resumed in the 2014-15 financial year. Members and stakeholders are informed about Positive Life NSW activities, surveys and events via regular email notices.



**Positive Life NSW Website:  
www.positivelife.org.au**

Positive Life NSW maintains a website presence to inform the public and HIV-positive people about our organisation, programs and latest news.. The website was rebuilt during 2013 and went online in December 2013. This has enabled the agency to coordinate communications with social media and engage far more closely with its constituents in particular via Facebook and Twitter.

The website serves as a regular source of information about HIV and sexual health as indicated consistently in Google Analytics of site page visits. The site also provides a searchable directory of HIV-related services, links to the Australasian Society of HIV Medicine’s S100 prescriber directory. The Choose Campaign launched on World AIDS Day 2013, generated the highest traffic ever experienced by the website, in some months over double any previous figures.

Through the events calendar Positive Life NSW promotes partner organisations’ events and HIV sector online surveys are promoted through banner advertising, provided free of charge.

**Social Media**

For the first time Positive Life NSW has successfully launched a community page on Facebook, which is directly linked to the website, Twitter feed and YouTube. The Facebook page attracted an initial 400 page likes and Twitter 210 followers to 30 June 2014. Both media have attracted comprehensive interaction with sector partners including primary health organisations like Local Health Districts and Sexual Health Clinics which allows much closer cross promotion and access to service information for people with HIV. Positive Life NSW project promotions and events posted in social media attract healthy numbers of views, likes, shares and retweets and surveys posted have shown good responses. General questions and comments in response to posts started to appear a few weeks after the Facebook page launch and have continued to grow in line with increased page likes.

**Harry Richardson and José Machado**



# Health Promotion and Community Development

Positive Life NSW offers a range of peer-based health education and support programs for people with HIV (PLHIV). The programs, some of which are run in partnership with other sector agencies like ACON, are designed to provide opportunities for PLHIV to:

- Meet other PLHIV;
- Build and maintain friendship and support networks;
- Share information and personal stories; and
- Learn skills and strategies to remain resilient and improve their health.

Our programs and support groups are informed by research findings and evidence; PLHIV expressed needs; feedback from HIV service partners and more broadly the needs of the community. Peer support programs provide us with the opportunity:

- To identify changing and emerging needs within PLHIV populations;
- Maintain a regular dialogue with engaged PLHIV and Positive Life NSW members; and
- To provide PLHIV with information that may affect their health.

Examples of current peer-based health promotion programs include:

**The Quarterly** is an inclusive social event for all PLHIV, their family and significant others. The program provides an opportunity for positive people to get together and celebrate living with HIV in a safe, accessible and friendly environment.

Since The Quarterly was launched at the Gaelic Club on Devonshire Street on 25 October last year, the program has found a permanent home at the Black Penny gallery on Bourke Street and has been held every quarter, attracting 65 people or more. The change in the structure and location of the event has resulted in more diverse PLHIV attending the event, such as, an increase in the number of heterosexual men and women living with HIV.

**Fresh Start** is now in its second year. This peer delivered smoking cessation program is offered to PLHIV who aim to quit smoking. PLHIV participants are encouraged to take a proactive approach in managing their health and are provided with skills to reduce or quit smoking. Fresh Start is promoted through the Positive Life NSW website and Talkabout; at HIV clinical services; through GPs and primary health care; private sexual health clinics; at outpatient pharmacies; and through the gay press.

To date, 18 PLHIV have attended the Fresh Start course, which are offered every two months. Interventions are mostly held one-on-one or in small groups. Apart from the information and support provided during the course, participants are also referred to the Albion Centre and the Prince of Wales Hospital Smoking Clinics that provide them with Nicotine Replacement therapies and counselling.

**Peer to Peer** is a peer support and discussion group for gay men living with HIV. The group aims to engage HIV-positive gay men of any age, background or length of diagnosis. Peer to Peer provides an opportunity for HIV-positive gay men to come together and to talk openly with each other about the social and health issues that affect them in a safe and friendly environment.

Condoms and water-based lube are made available to participants at our peer to peer discussion groups. Safe sex behaviour is discussed during relevant discussions. Likewise, early treatment uptake; access to health services and treatments; and the importance of adherence to achieve and maintain levels of undetectable viral load is regularly discussed at the peer groups. The program has been running each quarter, with an average of 18 HIV-positive gay men attending each session. The discussion group will be run every two months in the coming financial year and the increase in group frequency is aimed at improving community connectedness and maintaining participants support and friendship networks.



**Genesis** is a 3 day workshop that provides information, support and opportunities to create ongoing peer support networks to gay men who have been diagnosed with HIV in the past 2 years. Genesis as a peer support program addresses and explores complex issues pertinent to guys coming to terms with a reasonably recent HIV diagnosis. The Genesis workshop covers topics including: telling your story; the basics of HIV, treatments, the doctor/patient relationship; sexual risk taking and STIs; and disclosure of HIV. A workshop is held every 3 months and is attended by an average of 10 to 12 gay men living with HIV. Genesis is an ACON and Positive Life NSW partnership project.

**Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB)** as a program of Positive Life NSW offers a range of trained, passionate and committed speakers from the community, who speak about their experience of living with HIV. PLHIV courageously stand before audiences and educate the wider community. The PSB heightens awareness and combats HIV stigma and discrimination.

In this financial year, the PSB provided ongoing comprehensive public speaking and media training for both new and existing speakers; continuously updating the speaker's HIV knowledge and professional development by adding to their speaking and communication skills. A total of 10 new speakers were trained so newly diagnosed perspectives could be offered and represented to audiences throughout NSW. A key objective this year was to continuously promote and expand the PSB which resulted in the bureau doubling the amount of projected talks to 140 (audience 6,500). Many new PSB clients were also referred to the PSB by existing clients this year, clearly demonstrating strong satisfaction and need for the service.

Feedback shows increased coverage and cut-through to wider populations profiling contemporary HIV lived experience, including foreign language media. Media approaches and requests to Positive Life NSW reflect a better understanding of living with HIV, including access to medications and living long term with the virus.

A PSB DVD has been produced for educational and promotional purposes. The DVD was launched at the IAS AIDS 2014 Conference in Melbourne and will then be promoted directly to new and existing clients across NSW throughout 2014-15. Clients viewing the DVD can more quickly grasp what the PSB has to offer their audience and aims to stimulate bookings. The PSB DVD will play a vital role in maintaining currency with existing organisations and communities.

**José Machado and Hédimo Santana**

# Community Events and Engagement

**Positive Life NSW Christmas function** is an opportunity for members and clients to come together, and meet up with staff and the Board. The 4th December Christmas function was held at the Adina Hotel near Central Station. We had over 65 people, including: board and staff members; other Positive Life NSW members; volunteer, clients and peers from support groups.

**World AIDS Day 2013** is an international event and has become an important feature of Positive Life NSW's community events calendar. Last years' WAD was launch by the Health Minister Ms Gillian Skinner at Customs House. Over 100 people from varied backgrounds came together: those living with and affected by HIV; health professionals; positive speakers and community supporters came to commemorate and celebrate WAD. This provided an opportunity to acknowledge what it means to live with HIV and to launch our Choose Treatment's campaign – Choose a Positive Life.



**Coast Out Fair Day** is held on the mid-north-coast city of Coffs Harbour every October and is attended by over 1200 people. Coast Out is one of the largest regional festivals in NSW. For the third consecutive year Positive Life NSW held a stall at the Fair. This provides us with the opportunity to meet and build networks with local PLHIV, consult about PLHIV concerns and issues and to showcase our work to regional members. Over 150 show bags were handed out to PLHIV and other community members.

**Mardi Gras 2014** - after a long and noticeable absence Positive Life NSW entered the parade wearing the Choose Treatment campaign T-shirts and carrying campaign placards. There was a group of 20 staff, board and volunteers walking Oxford Street and promoting the message, encourage people with HIV to choose treatment and play an active and vital role in preventing HIV transmission.

**Mardi Gras Fair Day 2014** is an annual event where we have the strongest level of involvement with Positive Life NSW members, volunteers and PLHIV. It gives us the opportunity to provide people with health education and peer support resources, information and referrals. At the community event we had fifteen of our regular volunteers helped out running two stalls.

The event allowed us to distribute over 500 show bags containing:

- 500 plastics fans with the Choose Treatments campaign message
- 150 t-shirts, likewise with the Choose Treatment campaign message
- 500 copies of Talkabout magazine
- 500 copies of Positive Life NSW flyer

From top: Board and Staff of Positive Life NSW at launch of Choose Campaign WAD NSW 2013; Lance Feeny Policy Analyst Positive Life NSW and Adrian Ogier Manager NAPWHA at launch of Choose Campaign WAD NSW 2013; Nic Holas and Abby Landy Positive Speakers at launch of Choose Campaign WAD NSW 2013



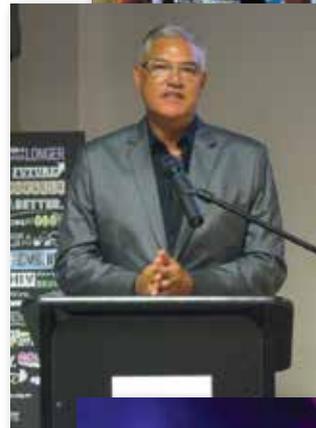
**Seniors Week 2014** - Positive Life NSW partnered with the organisers of Seniors Week 2014. Seniors Week celebrations embraced older people living with HIV. Events held during the week promoted awareness of the lives of people who are over 55 and invited us to reflect on their experiences while acknowledging the contribution they have made to society. The week also highlighted invisibility affecting older people and the stigma associated with being older.



**Sonny Williams Farewell** - Positive Life NSW held a special event on 25 March to say goodbye and thank you to Sonny Williams, our outgoing CEO. It was a lovely moment of reflection and celebration of Sonny's work and his contribution to the HIV public health response in Australia. The celebration gave colleagues, peers and sector partners a chance to say good-bye. Sonny has returned home to New Zealand and we wish him all the very best for the future.



**Death of Kings** by Colette F. Keen is a cabaret that celebrates and remembers Gay Sydney during the 1980s HIV/AIDS crisis. Using the words of Gay men living in Sydney at the time the play lets us into the world of those who experienced the joy of being part of the community in the early 1980s. These stories are essential in piecing together our collective story of love and loss in the fight against HIV.



From top:  
Seniors Week;  
Mardi Gras Parade;  
Mardi Gras Fair Day;  
Sonny Williams Fairwell;  
Death of Kings

While discussion of HIV/AIDS is often attached to safe sex messages, there is also a place to celebrate this generation of gay men. This is an Australian story, about the Australian community, performed at the heart of where it all happened. The performance was at Ginger's in the Oxford Hotel.



**José Machado, Hédimo Santana and Harry Richardson**

# Administration

2013-14 has seen many changes to the project structure of the organisation and the way Positive Life NSW interacts with members and all people living with HIV in NSW. The administrator oversaw the rebuild of the agency's website [www.positivelife.org.au](http://www.positivelife.org.au), which was relaunched in December 2013 and integrated with social media and publications providing an enhanced and interactive online presence for the agency. This process generated renewed support and engagement with HIV sector partners across all digital media used by Positive Life NSW.

The Administrator coordinates Positive Life NSW events and supports project work including regional outreach events. Highlights this year were the launch of the Choose Campaign at World AIDS Day 1 December 2013 by The Hon. Jillian Skinner MP Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research. The event was very successful providing Positive Life NSW with a meaningful public platform for the launch. A farewell event for retiring CEO Sonny Williams in March 2014 was very well attended and was an opportunity for a very diverse range of people to farewell Sonny and meet in an informal and fun environment. Other events included Coast Out Festival, Coffs Harbour in October 2013; a verbatim theatre performance of "The Death of Kings" by Colette Keen about the HIV/AIDS crisis in Sydney in the 1980's performed as part of Mardi Gras Arts Festival 2014 at the Oxford Hotel, Darlinghurst.

To the right is a summary of resources distributed during 2013-2014

**Harry Richardson**

## Physical and Online Resource Distribution 2013-14

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Positive Life NSW Service Brochure   | 4,000                     |
| Positive Life NSW Speakers Bureau Service Brochure   | 4,500                     |
| Enhanced Medication Access Scheme Brochure   | 2,000                     |
| Talkabout Magazine – street and mail   | 12,000                    |
| Positive Living magazine with Talkabout News   | 5,000                     |
| Sero Disco 2 Magazine  | 1,200                     |
| Sero Disco magazine  | 500                       |
| Sero Disco CD's and Badges   | 200                       |
| Choose Campaign Chalkboard   | 10                        |
| Choose Campaign t-shirts   | 800                       |
| Choose Campaign large scale foyer posters  | 6                         |
| Choose Campaign A3 health venue posters  | 100                       |
| Choose Campaign fans   | 1,500                     |
| Choose Campaign fridge magnets   | 1,000                     |
| Positive Life NSW Promotional Fans   | 750                       |
| HIV Fact Sheets  | 300 + online downloads    |
| Wrapped or Raw STI Information Brochures; Gonorrhoea, Sex and Hep C, Syphilis              | 1,000 combined            |
| Website  | 45,120 unique site visits |
| Promotional Packs at events  | 650                       |
| Member related mail- outs  | 860                       |
| Positive Speaker Bureau direct promotion to NSW Schools                                    | 400                       |
| Positive Life NSW Resource promotion direct to Primary Health Care and partners across NSW | 200                       |

# The Board

## Statements of interests

**Jane Costello:** is the current President of Positive Life NSW and has been involved with Positive Life NSW since 2008, firstly with the Positive Life HIV Media Project, then in 2009 as a member and Ordinary Director of the board. She brings a particular interest in effecting change in public health policy to improve the outcomes for people with HIV. Jane is the Australian Representative to APN+ and a member of both the NAPWHA National Network of Women Living with HIV and the HHAS (Pozhet) Consumer Reference Group as well as co-founding and coordinating a peer support/ social group for positive heterosexuals in NSW.

**Peter Schlosser:** became a Positive Life NSW member, volunteer and Positive Speaker in 1996. In 2011 Peter was elected onto the Board of Positive Life NSW as Ordinary Director, then 2012 as Vice President. He is currently Secretary and was the 2013 Positive Life NSW NAPWHA Representative. He is passionate about addressing HIV stigma and discrimination and presenting a positive image of people with HIV.

**Cameron Colwell:** Currently Treasurer, he joined the Positive Life NSW Board in 2011 as an Ordinary Director and is also a member of the Positive Speakers Bureau. Cameron is continuing studying his Advanced Diploma of Accounting. Cameron's motivation for standing for the Board is to share his community experiences and financial expertise to support and advocate the interests of young people with HIV, especially those who are gay from regional areas.

**David Crawford:** became an Ordinary Director on the Positive Life NSW Board in 2012 has been the NSW Representative to NAPWHA for one year and the Positive Life NSW Representative on the Health Consumers NSW Business Management Committee. Now retired, he has been able to utilize 27 years of personal and professional experience with HIV as a nurse. He has a Masters in International Public Health with experience working overseas, and is passionate about the need to address discrimination, isolation, mental health, disability and suicide as primary concerns. Until recently living in Tamworth, David also provides a valuable perspective on living with HIV in regional NSW and is currently Vice President.

**Cameron Clark:** as a new ordinary director brings 10 years' experience being a volunteer carer with the Community Support Network and considerable business experience and financial training to support Positive Life NSW achieve it aims to empower and improve the lives of people with HIV in an era of great change.

**Rod Spark:** has extensive GLBTI community involvement over the past 21 years and wishes to continue the good work Positive Life NSW provides for the PLHIV community and in providing a voice for people living with HIV. He joined the Board of Positive Life NSW in 2012 as an Ordinary Director and is also a Positive Speaker.

**Dianne Nyoni:** joined the Positive Life NSW Board in 2012 as an Ordinary Director and is a very active Positive Speaker. Dianne is also a member of the NAPWHA National Network of Women Living with HIV and the HHAS (Pozhet) Consumer Reference Group.

**Craig Andrews:** has built a lifetime of personal experience and considerable skill navigating the Australian medical system, with a major interest in community development and the empowerment of the individual as central to their journey through life. He would like to contribute this through the board to the community of people living with HIV. Holding many roles in the NSW Disability sector his successful communications experience is well placed

**Paul Caleo:** joined the Positive Life NSW Board this year as an Ordinary Director with a desire to help eliminate stigma surrounding HIV and considerable experience in management, teaching and IT and has served on numerous community committees and advisory groups.

**José Machado:** is the Positive Speakers Bureau Project Officer for Positive Life NSW and has been the staff representative for this year.

**Robert Agati:** was seconded onto the Positive Life NSW Board during 2014 as a non-voting representative after initially volunteering for any governance related skills the agency might be seeking. His experience being a company secretary and corporate governance professional with near 20 years' experience in financial services enabled his timely contribution with the Board Constitution Working Group and the redrafting of the new Positive Life NSW Constitution.

# Representation

NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS)  
Kirby Institute (SPANC study) –  
preventing morbidity and mortality from anal cancer  
SESLHD Planning and Performance Committee  
SESLHD Testing Project  
BGF Client Service Advisory Group  
Enhanced Medication Access Scheme (Steering Committee)  
World AIDS Day 2013 (Coordinating Committee)  
NSW Oral Health Alliance  
Policy Officers Network (POUT)  
Eastern Sydney Medicare Local  
Housing NSW NGO Partners (Reference Group)  
Health Consumers NSW  
Health Care Complaints Commission (Consumer Reference Group)  
AFAO Policy Team  
AFAO Board  
NAWPHA Board  
ACON Housing  
ACON Policy  
NAPWHA Positive Action Group  
Centre for Social Research in Health (CSHR)  
Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey  
City of Sydney Seniors Working Group  
NSW HIV Strategy Implementation Committee  
Kirby Institute (PRELUDE Study)  
Kirby Institute (PrEP Clinical Guidelines Reference Group)  
HIV Alliance



# Positive Life NSW

ABN 42 907 908 942

## Audited financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2014

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

|  | Notes | 2014<br>\$   | 2013<br>\$      |
|--|-------|--------------|-----------------|
| Revenue from grants                            | 10    | 821,700      | 846,581         |
| Other revenue                                  |       | 89,788       | 39,375          |
| Interest income                                |       | 8,423        | 11,514          |
| Employee benefits expenses                     | 15    | (398,470)    | (600,586)       |
| Depreciation expense                           |       | (12,124)     | (12,798)        |
| Occupancy expenses                             |       | (27,766)     | (27,032)        |
| Finance costs                                  |       | (5,961)      | (6,357)         |
| Core activity expenses                         | 13    | (471,961)    | (335,290)       |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit) before income tax</b>     |       | <u>3,629</u> | <u>(84,593)</u> |
| Income tax expense                             | 1(a)  | -            | -               |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit) after income tax</b>      |       | <u>3,629</u> | <u>(84,593)</u> |
| <b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b> |       |              |                 |
| Other comprehensive income for the year        |       | -            | -               |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b> |       | <u>3,629</u> | <u>(84,593)</u> |

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

|  | Notes | 2014<br>\$     | 2013<br>\$     |
|--|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                        |       |                |                |
| Cash and cash equivalents                    | 2     | 237,738        | 297,366        |
| Trade and other receivables                  | 3     | 5,546          | 13,105         |
| Other assets                                 | 4     | 12,819         | 7,610          |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>                  |       | <u>256,103</u> | <u>318,081</u> |
| <b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>                    |       |                |                |
| Property plant & equipment                   | 5     | 15,856         | 27,981         |
| <b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>              |       | <u>15,856</u>  | <u>27,981</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                          |       | <u>271,960</u> | <u>346,062</u> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                   |       |                |                |
| Trade and other payables                     | 6     | 27,058         | 116,038        |
| Provision - Annual Leave                     | 7     | 36,043         | 45,628         |
| Other liabilities                            | 9     | 9,574          | 2,000          |
| Long Service Leave Provision                 | 7     | 30,869         | 17,610         |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>             |       | <u>103,544</u> | <u>181,276</u> |
| <b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>               |       |                |                |
| <b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>         |       | <u>-</u>       | <u>-</u>       |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                     |       | <u>103,544</u> | <u>181,276</u> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                            |       | <u>168,415</u> | <u>164,786</u> |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>                     |       |                |                |
| Accumulated surplus at beginning of the year |       | 164,786        | 249,379        |
| Current Year surplus/(deficit)               |       | 3,629          | (84,593)       |
| <b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>               |       | <u>168,415</u> | <u>164,786</u> |

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

|  | <u>Accumulated</u> | <u>Total</u>    |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
|  | \$                 | \$              |
| <b>At 1 July 2012</b>                              | 249,379            | 249,379         |
| Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year | <u>(84,593)</u>    | <u>(84,593)</u> |
| <b>At 30 June 2013</b>                             | <u>164,786</u>     | <u>164,786</u>  |
| <br>   |                    |                 |
| <b>At 1 July 2013</b>                              | 164,786            | 164,786         |
| Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year | <u>3,629</u>       | <u>3,629</u>    |
| <b>At 30 June 2014</b>                             | <u>168,415</u>     | <u>168,415</u>  |

## STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

|  | Notes | <b>2014</b>     | <b>2013</b>     |
|--|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
|  |       | \$              | \$              |
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                     |       |                 |                 |
| Receipts from donors & granting bodies                           |       | 905,444         | 969,630         |
| Payments to suppliers & employees                                |       | (973,495)       | (1,005,416)     |
| Interest received  |       | 8,423           | 21,549          |
| Interest and other costs of finance paid                         |       | -               | -               |
| <b>Net cash from operating activities</b>                        | 2(b)  | <u>(59,629)</u> | <u>(14,237)</u> |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                     |       |                 |                 |
| Payments for furniture & fittings and plant & equipment acquired |       | -               | -               |
| <b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>                     |       | <u>-</u>        | <u>-</u>        |
| <b>Net increase in cash held</b>                                 |       | (59,629)        | (14,237)        |
| <b>Cash at the beginning of the year</b>                         |       | 297,366         | 311,603         |
| <b>Cash at the end of the year</b>                               | 2(a)  | <u>237,738</u>  | <u>297,366</u>  |

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

### 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 24th of September, 2014.

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:

| <b>Class of Fixed Assets</b> | <b>Depreciation Rate</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

### NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

**(g) Other 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 \$1,489 has been utilised. Funding to the Association is provided by Community Sector Banking, Bendigo Bank.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

### NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

|   | 2014            | 2013            |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | \$              | \$              |
| Cash at Bank:   |                 |                 |
| Bendigo Bank  | 37,195          | 297,034         |
| Bendigo Debit Card  | 2               | 2               |
| Bendigo Term Deposits   | 200,000         | -               |
|   | <u>237,197</u>  | <u>297,036</u>  |
| Cash on Hand:   |                 |                 |
| Petty Cash  | 541             | 330             |
|   | <u>237,738</u>  | <u>297,366</u>  |
| <b>(a) Reconciliation of cash</b>   |                 |                 |
| 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: |                 |                 |
| Cash  | 237,738         | 297,366         |
| Bank overdraft  | -               | -               |
|   | <u>237,738</u>  | <u>297,366</u>  |
| <b>(b) Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to operating profit after income tax</b>  |                 |                 |
| Profit for the year   | 3,629           | (84,594)        |
| Non-cash flows in profit  |                 |                 |
| Depreciation  | 12,124          | 12,797          |
| Write off of fixed assets   | -               | -               |
| <b>Increase/(decrease) in assets</b>  |                 |                 |
| Trade and other receivables   | 7,559           | (2,439)         |
| Accrued interest  | -               | -               |
| Other current assets  | (5,209)         | 13,075          |
| <b>Increase/(decrease) in liabilities</b>   |                 |                 |
| Trade and other payables  | (88,980)        | 78,385          |
| Other liabilities   | 7,574           | (26,000)        |
| Provision - Annual leave  | (9,585)         | (1,446)         |
| Provision - Long service leave  | 13,259          | (4,015)         |
| <b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>  | <u>(59,629)</u> | <u>(14,237)</u> |
| <b>NOTE 3 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>   |                 |                 |
| Other receivables   | 5,546           | 13,105          |
|   | <u>5,546</u>    | <u>13,105</u>   |

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

|   | 2014<br>\$      | 2013<br>\$      |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>NOTE 4 - OTHER ASSETS</b>                    |                 |                 |
| <b>CURRENT</b>                                  |                 |                 |
| Other prepayments                               | 3,634           | 849             |
| Accrued Interests                               | 499             | -               |
| GST receivable                                  | 8,687           | 6,760           |
|   | <u>12,819</u>   | <u>7,609</u>    |
| <b>NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b> |                 |                 |
| Furniture & Fittings - At Cost                  | 3,233           | 3,234           |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation                  | <u>(2,730)</u>  | <u>(2,123)</u>  |
|   | 503             | 1,110           |
| Office Equipment - At Cost                      | 47,239          | 68,852          |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation                  | <u>(33,571)</u> | <u>(44,912)</u> |
|   | 13,669          | 23,939          |
| Software - At Cost                              | 7,340           | 7,342           |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation                  | <u>(5,656)</u>  | <u>(4,412)</u>  |
|   | 1,684           | 2,930           |
| Leasehold Improvements - At Cost                | -               | -               |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation                  | <u>-</u>        | <u>-</u>        |
|   | -               | -               |
|   | <u>15,856</u>   | <u>27,980</u>   |

### (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

|   | Furniture<br>& Fittings<br>\$ | Office<br>Equipment<br>\$ | Software<br>\$ | Leasehold<br>Improvement<br>\$ | Total<br>\$   |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>2013</b>                                   |                               |                           |                |                                |               |
| Balance at the beginning of year              | 1,718                         | 34,824                    | 4,234          | -                              | 40,776        |
| Additions                                     | -                             | -                         | -              | -                              | -             |
| Depreciation expense                          | (607)                         | (10,884)                  | (1,305)        | -                              | (12,796)      |
| Write off                                     | -                             | -                         | -              | -                              | -             |
| <b>Carrying amount at the end of the year</b> | <u>1,110</u>                  | <u>23,940</u>             | <u>2,928</u>   | <u>-</u>                       | <u>27,980</u> |
| <b>2014</b>                                   |                               |                           |                |                                |               |
| Balance at the beginning of year              | 1,110                         | 23,940                    | 2,928          | (0)                            | 27,978        |
| Additions                                     | -                             | -                         | -              | -                              | -             |
| Depreciation expense                          | (607)                         | (10,272)                  | (1,244)        | -                              | (12,123)      |
| Write off                                     | -                             | -                         | -              | -                              | -             |
| <b>Carrying amount at the end of the year</b> | <u>503</u>                    | <u>13,669</u>             | <u>1,684</u>   | <u>(0)</u>                     | <u>15,856</u> |

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

### NOTE 6 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES CURRENT

|                  | 2014<br>\$    | 2013<br>\$     |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Trade Creditors  | 23,160        | 111,014        |
| PAYG Withholding | 3,898         | 5,024          |
|                  | <u>27,058</u> | <u>116,038</u> |

### NOTE 7 - PROVISIONS

|  |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Annual Leave (including loading) - Current | 36,043        | 45,628        |
| Long Service Leave - Current               | -             | 17,610        |
| Long Service Leave - Non-current           | 30,869        | -             |
|  | <u>66,912</u> | <u>63,238</u> |

In the Statement of Financial Position a statutory provision of accrued annual leave is made of \$36,043 (2013: \$45,628) and long service leave of \$30,869 (2013: \$17,610). 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.

### NOTE 8 - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

|                                 |          |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Number of employees at year end | <u>5</u> | <u>7</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|

### NOTE 9 - OTHER LIABILITIES CURRENT

|                      |              |              |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Grants in advance    | -            | 2,000        |
| Credit card expenses | 3,039        |              |
| Accruals             | 6,536        |              |
|                      | <u>9,574</u> | <u>2,000</u> |

### NOTE 10 - OPERATING GRANTS

|                          |                |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Grant income recognised  |                |                |
| NSW Department of Health | 821,700        | 794,500        |
| Other Grants             | -              | 52,081         |
|                          | <u>821,700</u> | <u>846,581</u> |

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

|   | 2014<br>\$    | 2013<br>\$    |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <b>NOTE 11 - FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>         |               |               |
| <b>Income from Fundraising Activities</b>       |               |               |
| Miscellaneous Donations                         | 71,850        | 10,546        |
|   | <u>71,850</u> | <u>10,546</u> |
| <b>Less: Expenses of Fundraising Activities</b> |               |               |
| Fundraising expense                             | -             | -             |
|   | <u>-</u>      | <u>-</u>      |
| <b>Surplus/(Loss) on Fundraising Activities</b> |               |               |
| Miscellaneous Donations                         | 71,850        | 10,546        |
| <b>NET SURPLUS ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>    | <u>71,850</u> | <u>10,546</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%.

|  |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>NOTE 12 - MEMBERSHIP SERVICES</b>                         |               |               |
| Board Meeting, Annual Reports & Annual General Meeting Costs | 13,270        | 23,817        |
|  | <u>13,270</u> | <u>23,817</u> |

|   |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b>NOTE 13 - CORE ACTIVITY EXPENSES</b> |                |                |
| Communications                          | -              | 22,387         |
| Positive Speakers' Bureau               | 48,843         | 12,598         |
| Community Development                   | -              | 9,253          |
| Health Promotion/Social Marketing       | 184,769        | 84,421         |
| Policy                                  | 16,160         | 1,671          |
| Governance                              | 86             |                |
| Administration Services                 | 222,478        | 204,960        |
|   | <u>472,336</u> | <u>335,290</u> |

Advocacy was renamed Policy in 2014

|   |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>NOTE 14 - AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION</b> |              |              |
| Audit services - ESV                    | 4,600        | 4,500        |
|   | <u>4,600</u> | <u>4,500</u> |

|   |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b>NOTE 15 - EMPLOYEE RELATED COSTS</b> |                |                |
| Salaries & wages                        | 359,260        | 506,895        |
| Employee leave entitlements             | 3,675          | 46,633         |
| Superannuation                          | 32,631         | 43,349         |
| Workers' compensation insurance         | 2,903          | 3,709          |
| Staff recruitment costs                 | -              | -              |
|   | <u>398,470</u> | <u>600,586</u> |

### NOTE 16 - INSURANCE

The Association has the following insurance policies which were in place and current as at 30 June 2014.

Workers' Compensation insurance is disclosed separately in Note 15.

Specific & General Property, Crime, Primary

Liability, Protector Liability, Non-Owned Motor

Vehicles and Personal Accidents, Directors and Officers Insurance

|               |              |              |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Premium paid: | <u>5,073</u> | <u>5,324</u> |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

### 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 5, Suite 5.2,  
414 Elizabeth Street  
Surry Hills, 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. Sonny Williams

Appointed : 18/07/2011

Short term employee benefits:

Salaries & wages \$96,824.91

Superannuation \$8,555

Sonny Williams resigned on 2 June 2014.

2. Craig Cooper

Appointed: 17/03/2014

Short term employee benefits:

Salaries & wages \$31,731

Superannuation \$2,935

### 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

#### (a) Operating lease commitments

|  | 2014          | 2013          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
|  | \$            | \$            |
| Being for rent of premises & office equipment  |               |               |
| Payable:                                       |               |               |
| - not later than 1 year                        | 6,250         | 6,250         |
| - later than 1 year but not later than 5 years | 14,792        | 21,032        |
| - later than 5 years                           | -             | -             |
|  | <u>21,042</u> | <u>27,282</u> |

The Association has an MOU with ACON Health Limited for the lease of their premises. The term of the lease is not locked and either party can give the other 60 days notice to vacate the property.

(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 (2013: 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 2014 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 Jane Costello  
Jane Costello

Treasurer Cameron Colwell  
Cameron Colwell

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014

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

**30 JUNE 2014**

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

I, Jane Costello, 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

  
Jane Costello

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2014



**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 2014, 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 2014, 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2014.

ESV Accounting and Business Advisors

Tim Valtwies  
Partner

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