



Positive Life NSW
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015

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PositiveLifeNSW
the voice of people with HIV since 1988

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President's Report

This has been a remarkable year for Positive Life New South Wales (NSW). We are on the cusp of an exciting time for the HIV response and what this means for our community.

In much the same way that 1996 was declared the 'protease moment' with the first truly effective medication and treatment combinations, 2015 has ushered in an exciting new era of treatment as/and prevention, and 2016 is shaping up to be even more momentous and ground-breaking.

Under the extraordinary vision and direction of our CEO Craig Cooper and the wealth of experience and knowledge that he has built in the incredibly talented team of individuals we have working for Positive Life NSW (Positive Life), we have achieved much in the past twelve months. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff who have been equal to the task.

Our new TAKE CONTROL Campaign which was launched at our World AIDS Day event by the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, The Hon. Jillian Skinner encourages people living with HIV (PLHIV) to take control and be empowered around decisions regarding their health. It synthesises five simple messages: treat early, take your meds, know your viral load, ask questions, and get more answers into a powerful and holistic campaign message which speaks to the centrality and vital nature of PLHIV in the HIV response.

In 2015 Positive Life has continued to be at the forefront of policy change. Our continued advocacy efforts on behalf of all PLHIV have heralded some significant gains. Our The Choice is Yours campaign supported the voices of PLHIV to exercise choice around how, when and where they are able to access their HIV medications. Positive Life was instrumental in advocating for and facilitating the introduction of community pharmacy dispensing of HIV medications which has given PLHIV the option to collect their medications from either a hospital pharmacy, a community pharmacy or online as of 01 July 2015. During the year we continued to advocate for the waiver of the HIV medications co-payment charge for PLHIV to reduce economic stigma around the cost of medication, and ensure we are not disadvantaged by virtue of our medical condition. I am very pleased to advise that this

scheme was implemented, and from 01 October 2015 NSW residents living with HIV can have their HIV medication dispensed free of charge.

In my President's Report last year, I touched on how essential a successful human rights-based model is to an effective public health response to HIV; one that appreciates the diversity of the lived HIV experience and acknowledges that PLHIV have a right to self-determination and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives. I am proud to say that Positive Life was invited to contribute to over 35 policy papers and submissions, and this provides evidence of the work that Positive Life does on behalf of PLHIV, and a measure of the importance that the NSW government and Ministry of Health place on the meaningful involvement and perspectives of our communities. Some of these areas include work around treatment access and adherence; retention in care; mental health issues; the needs of people living with HIV as they are referred into, access and engage with health care in NSW; HIV-related multi morbidities; provision of specialist hospital services; substance use and medical cannabis; housing; ageing and HIV; partner notification; and stigma and discrimination.

In addition to the policy work we have been doing with government, the Board has undertaken a systematic review of all of Positive Life's policies and procedures in regards to the governance of the agency. Positive Life has also become increasingly involved in its contribution to research and establishing partnerships to better the lives of all PLHIV.

One of the Board's key objectives this year was to facilitate better engagement with our members, and to promote and enhance community awareness and involvement with Positive Life. The Membership Working Group developed a number of recommendations for the Board to consider and implement around social media; an upgrade of Positive Life's website; new outreach initiatives; a structured volunteer program; showcasing the work of Positive Life; and innovative ways to promote our activities and incentivise our membership. Positive Life has expanded the reach of our social media and continued to conduct rural and regional outreach sessions around NSW that facilitate a wider engagement and consultation with PLHIV; provide information and resourcing to PLHIV and other HIV service partners, expedite contact between PLHIV and health service providers; and implement capacity building and training for PLHIV.

Following the successful consultation process and review of the Positive Speakers Bureau, we have run a number of training programs for existing and new speakers capitalising and maximising on their existing skills and fostering new ones. This has reinvigorated the Bureau and the requests the organisation receives for speakers has exceeded those of previous years.

Each year the Board conducts a Board Induction Day which provides an overview of the Board's roles and responsibilities as regards governance and legislation. An evaluation of the skills, strengths and talents of the Board is also undertaken to ensure that the Board has a richness and diversity in both competencies and experience. In the middle of each year we conduct a Board and staff planning day which is a valuable opportunity for Board members and the Positive Life staff to engage and interact at a strategic level, ensuring that the voices of all participants are respected and valued and contribute to a robust and unified organisational direction.

This year Positive Life had another strong presence at Fair Day through the efforts of our staff, Board members and volunteers who engaged with community members and others who dropped by our stall. We gave out over 500 of our promotional show bags including our TAKE CONTROL t-shirts and singlets which were a hit with all our visitors on the day, and fostered connections and networks with local and regional communities in the likes of Dubbo and beyond. The Board also supported and was well represented in the Mardi Gras Parade further enhancing our engagement and visibility and providing another opportunity to promote our campaign work. Positive Life has continued to cultivate our partnerships with other organisations in the sector and another example of this was the very successful Candlelight Memorial service co-hosted with ACON at the Eternity Playhouse. Board members again participated in the memorial remembering and honouring those we have lost to HIV/AIDS.

Currently Positive Life is undertaking a review and evaluation of our current Strategic Plan, which will inform the development of a new Strategic Plan that will encapsulate the vision of the organisation and its membership for the next four years until 2020. Some of the questions which will guide this development and on which we will consult and seek input from our members and other stakeholders to ensure a dynamic working document for the future include:

- *What are the key emerging issues for PLHIV in the next 5 years?*
- *What specific strategic directions should we set to acknowledge and address these issues?*
- *What are our key current strengths to build on and what gaps do we need to address?*
- *Are there new, innovative and creative ways that we can engage with our communities and reach more people living with and affected by HIV in NSW?*
- *How can we best measure and evaluate our achievements over the next 5 years?*

As I write this I have just returned from having presented to a group of women living with HIV in regional NSW. What this highlighted for me was the fact that there are still disparities in the levels of service and support available for people living within the state of New South Wales, and it underlined the challenges we face, the work we do and the change we've effected. We are undoubtedly in a new and changed era of life with HIV. An era of better treatments, of better life prospects and quality, an era of changing needs and challenges, reflected in the lives we lead, the language we use and most of all the genuine sense of hope that exists. We have achieved much, however, there is so very much more work for us to do. This visit also emphasised how important the centrality of the positive voice is and always will be key to everything we do, and it is why in Positive Life's organisation flowchart - community whom we are privileged to represent sits first and foremost at the top of the chart.

Without the cooperation and support of our members, staff, Board and volunteers we could not accomplish any of our work.

In a recent shout-out to our membership for the Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI), Malcolm Leech, Positive Life's former President was honoured as the embodiment of leadership for the body positive. The PLDI's leadership theory states - We believe that strong leaders create stronger communities. We honour the leadership of the past; value the leadership of today; and inspire leadership for the future.

Malcolm used his energy and experience to inform, educate and advance the interests of PLHIV. He was committed to PLHIV being heard, to being full and equal partners in HIV education, research, policy and programming. He understood that by sharing his lived experience, he would contribute to others being able to maintain and improve their health, and to make choices that would have a positive impact on themselves, their partners and the community in general. It seems fitting therefore to conclude with Malcolm's own words to acknowledge and thank each and every one of you for your contribution to Positive Life this year.

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

Jane Costello
President



Ceo's Report

The past year has been extremely exciting for Positive Life and all PLHIV in NSW. There have been numerous campaigns, policy changes and achievements during this time, which will be detailed later in the report. All these achievements have been made possible by our committed Board and team; members; and sector partners and allies. Our communications and community events have improved and digital reach expanded. We have remained committed to the agency's core business, through the continued provision of information, referral, peer support and representative HIV policy advice. Our community engagement and consultation work has been critical in us being able to speak with confidence on behalf of PLHIV in NSW. The voice of PLHIV continues to remain vital and central to the NSW HIV response.

Partnership and collaboration with members, service partners and allies is best understood and contextualised by the NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015. PLHIV are taking control of their health, remaining engaged in treatment and care and are actively mobilised to suppress HIV within themselves and the community. The NSW government, in particular the Honourable Minister Skinner, along with the Ministry of Health, have enabled a critical significant leadership moment, allowing PLHIV and Positive Life to be active contributors to outcomes in this year. The Board and team continue to monitor and respond to emerging and ongoing HIV health and social needs of PLHIV. Treatment commencement, treatment adherence, treatment reviews and retention in care have all been key messages for PLHIV and service partners.

Funding from the Ministry of Health has been confirmed into the 2015-2016 financial year. The active working partnership with M-A-C Cosmetics has been extremely supportive and supplemented activities such as the Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB) and social inclusion programs. The priorities for PLHIV and the funders have been closely synergised and aligned. Examples of priority areas of activity have been: contact tracing (to increase HIV testing); treatment access and commencement (treatments campaigns and dispensing at local chemists); substance use; HIV/AIDS neuro-cognitive disorder and mental health (social determinants of health, retention in care, treatment adherence, treatment decision making); and PSB (community awareness and stigma) and PrEP (prevention of onward transmission).

Communications and campaign highlights include the World AIDS Day 2014 launch of the TAKE CONTROL campaign. The Positive Life website was refreshed, with a soft launch in June 2015. This resulted in a synergising of the Life.mail e-Newsletter and our social media, mainly using Facebook and Twitter accounts. Talkabout Online has been transitioned from a print publication to electronic and planning and development for the new electronic resource took place from February to June 2015. The Choice is Yours (getting your HIV medications from a local chemist) electronic communications and campaign materials has been well received by PLHIV, HIV service partners and local chemists. The co-payment waiver for highly specialised drugs (HIV medications), made by Premier Baird and the Hon. Jillian Skinner (Minister for Health) during the lead-up to the March 2015 elections was welcome news and Positive Life maintained communication and advice to the

Ministry of Health regarding the needs of PLHIV. The PSB review conducted by Tim Leach was finalised in November 2015 and recommendations were implemented over the last six months of this year. The PSB continues to evolve, with ongoing marketing and promotion, including further development of DVD clips and a revised promotional brochure. We are constantly seeking new ways to improve PSB service delivery, ensuring HIV stigma and discrimination is addressed by positive people telling their stories. Other improvements have been in the training calendar ensuring speaking engagements are well resourced, targeted, with a common skill mix among speakers. The PSB peer leadership response demonstrates PLHIV resilience in action and is a critical element of our work.

Fresh Start - a quit smoking program for PLHIV which works across agencies was reviewed. Even though PLHIV smoking cessation remains a critical priority, we have adapted the program to peer education and referral options for PLHIV. The resources for Fresh Start have been redirected to a pilot peer support program for PLHIV diagnosed with acute HIV infection, as a treatment as prevention initiative. The Genesis workshop for newly diagnosed PLHIV, remains an important ACON / Positive Life partnership, with five programs being delivered throughout the year for Gay Men that have been recently diagnosed (within the previous two years) with HIV. Peer support and PLHIV social inclusion programs have continued to run, namely Peer2Peer (Gay Men living with HIV); The Quarterly and The Social (Heterosexual PLHIV). Furthermore, Positive Life community events, such as HIV Testing week, Fair Day and Mardi Gras remain a feature of our events schedule and produced opportunities to profile agency campaigns, distribute resources and engage with affected communities. A big thank you to the Positive Life volunteers, staff and Board that made these community events a success.

Community engagement and consultation provides an important communication loop with PLHIV and is informed by National Safety and Quality in Health Service Standards (Partnering with Consumers Standard 2) and Positive Life's Community Consultation and Engagement Framework. We have run four community surveys throughout the year and promoted a number of PLHIV research projects. The surveys have been: community dispensing of HIV medications (under Access to HIV Medications Advisory Group); PLHIV access to health care (in partnership with ASHM); Meth Use in NSW (in partnership with NUAA); and partner notification (under the guidance of the NSW Contact Tracing Working Group).

These surveys provide us with an important way to hear from and confer with Positive Life members and PLHIV throughout NSW. Our community outreach via HIV Rural Forums facilitates peer led education sessions and diverse interactions with PLHIV and HIV service providers. In the past year we ran outreach sessions in: Bega; Wagga Wagga; Newcastle and Coffs Harbour.

Our representation and policy work in the past year has created significant gains for PLHIV in NSW. Positive Life progressed and investigated PLHIV health considerations in the areas of: acute HIV infection; immediate treatment commencement; HIV-related multi-morbidities; access to HIV medicines (local chemist dispensing and co-payment waiver); retention in care; PrEP; partner notification; and mental health (HIV neurocognitive disorder, PLHIV suicide prevention and substance use). We have been responsible for improved access to the dispensing of HIV medication, through the implementation of PLHIV collecting their HIV medications from a hospital, community pharmacy or online, as of 1 July 2015. The Enhanced Medication Assistance Scheme has ceased now community dispensing is a reality. The Positive Life / ACON submission in response to the diagnosis, monitoring and management of anal cancer has resulted in services being funded at St Vincent's Hospital.

The coming year is likewise shaping up to be another monumental year for PLHIV in NSW and Positive Life. Finally I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of both the Board and staff. The progress made and outcomes achieved have provided evidence of the importance of why we do what we do. I'd also like to thank the Ministry of Health and M-A-C AIDS Fund for their ongoing funding, partnership and continued support of PLHIV. The commitment of staff, the Board, our funders, members and allies enable us to produce quality outcomes.

Craig Cooper
Chief Executive Officer



Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Board I am pleased to be presenting the Annual Financial reports. After all depreciations, accruals and provisions Positive Life delivered a surplus of \$1,852 for the financial year July 2014 to June 2015. This surplus represents 0.19% of our total revenue for the year and is on par with our budgetary goals.

We have worked to maintain a healthy fiscal position throughout the year, ending with a working capital ratio of 5:1, which gives an indication that we are very well placed to pay our debts as they fall due. In addition we have a reserve to expenditure ratio of 19%, ensuring we are well placed to weather future unexpected financial circumstances, and as at 30 June 2015 we had a cash reserve of 11.6 weeks.

Total revenue for the year was \$954,268 which exceeded our budget by \$3,106. Of this we received our core operating grant of \$845,700 from the NSW Ministry of Health and a continuation of support from M-A-C Cosmetics, through the M-A-C AIDS Fund Affiliate Community Grants Program, with \$70,000. We also saw an increase of one off donations, receiving \$4,692 throughout the year. Positive Speakers Bureau activity contributed \$15,486 accounting for 124 talks over the year (note that travel reimbursement and speakers income are paid out to each speaker, leaving the agency with booking fees income, which totals \$2,880 for the year). Bank Interest for the year was \$8,920 through investment in term deposits and interest earned on the trading accounts; this is slightly up on last year but has been trending down over the last eight years in line with interest rates.

Total expenses were \$952,416 which was slightly up on budgeted expectations by \$6,061. This is made up of 4.69% on overheads, 45.14% on core activity expenses and 50.17% on employee benefits. Employee expenses were up on last financial year due to the restructuring of the agency and a diversification in the staff profile to include a Health promotion Officer and Communications Officer, and a new Administration Officer in this time. However employment expenses are still below the last five year average of 53%.

I consider the organisation has managed its finances well and has placed itself in a strong position going forward.

I would like to thank the NSW Ministry of Health for their continued support as our main source of income, and M-A-C Cosmetics for their ongoing commitment to Positive Life. I would also like to thank CEO Craig Cooper, Liz Sutherland our Administration Officer, Accounting for Good for their financial management over the year, and the Positive Life 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

PozAction is the operational leadership of NAPWHA and the three largest NAPWHA member organisations: Positive Life NSW; Queensland Positive People; and Living Positive Victoria. It works to effectively represent and advocate for PLHIV throughout Australia by sharing expertise, resources, strategy and tactics. PozAction considers that the lived experience of PLHIV is central and vital to any effective local and global HIV response.

In 2014-2015, PozAction worked to coordinate a successful PLHIV presence at the 2014 International AIDS Society Conference in Melbourne. It hosted the Poz Lounge and presented at the conference on 1) Ageing and HIV and 2) The benefits of removing cost barriers to antiretroviral treatment in Australia. PozAction member Living Positive Victoria organised a Global Planet Positive and Candlelight Vigil and NAPWHA organised a 30 years of HIV exhibition. During the year, PozAction members worked to remove cost barriers to ART and contributed to the production of an animated YouTube video on HIV and Criminalisation. At PozAction's request, HALC sought and received legal advice on the likelihood of undetectable viral load being successfully used as a defence in HIV transmission case. PozAction worked with Australian Research Centre in HIV Sex and Society to develop a new HIV Futures questionnaire which meets the research needs of state and territory PLHIV agencies.

In response to the announcement by the Commonwealth Health Minister that HIV dispensing would be available from community pharmacies after 1 July 2015, Poz Action members used an updated version of the NSW community dispensing survey to assess attitudes to HIV community dispensing throughout Australia. Positive Life hosted the survey and provided support to NAPWHA with data analysis and the development of a report on the findings. Community Dispensing Survey Report results were presented at the NAPWHA Treatment Officers meetings along with the sharing of NSW community dispensing resources to assist other service partners develop local education campaigns.

PozAction also worked to increase meaningful participation from smaller states and territories. Tasmania, Western Australia, the ACT and Northern Territory do not have PLHIV community organisations. To address the deficit, strategies have been initiated to enable PLHIV from these regions to input into the PozAction agenda and discussions.

Positive Life remains committed to PozAction and sharing expertise and resources so that the lives of PLHIV around Australia can be improved.



Campaigns

The Choice is Yours

The Choice is Yours Campaign is to promote the understanding of community and HIV service partners about the transition from hospital based HIV medication dispensing to chemist dispensing. It supports PLHIV to exercise choice in accessing their HIV medications as well as support and inform HIV service partners and pharmacists about the changes to dispensing HIV medications.

The audience of this campaign includes PLHIV throughout NSW, HIV Prescribers, HIV Service Partners, Hospital Pharmacists and Local Pharmacy staff.

During this reporting period, Positive Life has:

- created an online resource at <http://thechoiceisyours.positivelife.org.au/> which went live early June 2015;
- distributed information to pharmacists and consumers with HIV;
- published a report of the survey Dispensing HIV Medications at Community Pharmacies in NSW 2014;
- promoted the campaign with hard copy promotional 'business cards' and pharmacists bookmark resources, and soft copy factsheets and infographics;
- participated in regular community media about the changes to dispensing community medications in NSW;
- presented educational information sessions to pharmacists, tertiary students and community forums; and
- regularly promoted details of changes to dispensing in NSW throughout social media supported by infographics, videos and blog posts.

While The Choice is Yours campaign website has been online since early June, it received over 17,000 hits.

TAKE CONTROL

The TAKE CONTROL Campaign encourages PLHIV to take control of their health by treating HIV early, getting on treatments, and being more informed about their health. After the TAKE CONTROL campaign was launched on the 1 December 2014 on World AIDS Day by The Hon. Jillian Skinner MP NSW Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, campaign content was developed on key campaign messages. After considerable consultation with the PLHIV community throughout 2014, five simple messages were included: Treat Early; Take Your Meds; Know Your Viral Load; Ask More Questions; and Get More Answers.

During this reporting period, Positive Life has:

- created an online resource at <http://takecontrol.positivelife.org.au/> which went live early June 2015;
- promoted the campaign through Taxi and Billboard advertising at train stations which have had 3 million people view the material;
- distributed over 800 show bags branded with the TAKE CONTROL message at Fair Day 2015;
- received regular and constructive feedback from PLHIV, service providers and pharma; and
- participated in regular community media publications.



HIV Health Policy

Policy Development

Positive Life developed 35 policy responses during the 2014-2015 financial year. These included Reports, Submissions, Briefs, Position Papers, Options Papers, and Policy Statements. We also provided feedback on a range of draft government policies, strategies, and operation plans.

Highlights included:

Anal Cancer - Positive Life together with ACON provided a submission to St Vincent's Hospital and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital advocating for anal cancer diagnosis, monitoring and management in Sydney and South eastern Sydney Local Health Districts. The SPANC study has shown that high risk Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is very common in HIV-negative Gay Men and even more common in HIV-positive Gay Men. 90% of all HIV-related anal cancer is associated with high risk HPV infection. We estimated that the current number of individuals who may need referral for diagnosis and monitoring may be as many as 200-300 per year. The service could see a maximum of 70 patients per year which meant the waiting time for diagnosis was up to 4 years. Early detection of anal cancer is critical to survival rates. Following our submission, St Vincent's Health Network announced that the current diagnostic service would be expanded to triple capacity. This is an excellent outcome for PLHIV and HIV-negative gay men and means that people at risk of anal cancer will get timely access to diagnostic services.

Community HIV dispensing in NSW - Positive Life led the community response to ensure that PLHIV in NSW understood the transition from hospital based HIV dispensing to community pharmacy HIV dispensing. In November 2014 we surveyed 510 PLHIV to investigate their attitudes to switching to HIV community dispensing, and to better understand their information and support needs. Results from the survey informed the development of a mini-website (The Choice is Yours) which became a resource for PLHIV, community pharmacists and the HIV sector in general. The Access to HIV Treatment Advisory Group was convened and chaired by Positive Life to liaise with stakeholders, HIV sector partners, hospital based pharmacies, The Albion Centre Pharmacy and community based pharmacists. Its main function was to ensure that timely and consistent messaging was available across community, pharmacy and the government sectors and the information needs of PLHIV and pharmacists were adequately met.

Free access to HIV medications - The removal of financial and structural barriers to increase uptake and adherence to HIV medicines in NSW has been a long standing priority for Positive Life. PLHIV on low incomes struggle to afford the cost of HIV and non-HIV medicines. We advocated to Government via the NSW HIV Strategy Implementation Committee for a waiver of the patient co-payment for HIV medicines in NSW. Submissions articulated a compelling rationale and provided costings for a complete or partial waiver of the patient co-payments for all people with diagnosed HIV in NSW. During the NSW pre-election campaign the Premier of NSW made a commitment that if elected, a Baird Government would provide free access to HIV medications and waive the patient co-payment

for HIV medicines. The waiver was implemented from 1 October 2015 and has delivered significant individual and public health benefits for PLHIV in NSW who struggle to meet the cost of HIV treatment.

Medical Cannabis in NSW – Positive Life in partnership with NAPWHA, AFAO and ACON develop a joint submission to Senate Legal and Constitution Affairs Community Inquiry on the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014. Following the submission Positive Life was asked to testify to the Inquiry and provided information on 1) the use of medicinal cannabis for the alleviation of pain and distressing symptoms in PLHIV with chronic and complex health conditions, 2) the need to decriminalise the cultivation and possession of small quantities of cannabis for medicinal use, and 3) the need for research into the use of medicinal cannabis in PLHIV. Following the inquiry, the NSW Government committed to clinical trials to further explore the use of cannabis and or cannabis products in providing relief for people suffering from a range of debilitating or terminal illnesses. The NSW Government will invest up to \$9 million over the next five years to support trials with adults with terminal illness and symptoms such as pain, nausea and vomiting.

Consultation and Engagement with people with HIV in NSW – Ongoing consultation with PLHIV throughout NSW is critical to Positive Life being able to effectively represent the interests of PLHIV and respond to their emerging issues - both in relation to programming and policy priorities. Positive Life developed a Consultation and Engagement Framework to help the agency capture, document and prioritise issues raised by PLHIV during education workshops, social groups and through one-on-one peer support interactions. These issues are then fed into the business planning and strategic planning cycles and enable Positive Life to continue to evolve its programing and advocacy priorities and remain relevant to the needs of PLHIV in NSW.

Presentations

Positive Life receives requests to provide presentations on a range of HIV-related content from an HIV community and sector response partners. In the 2014-15 year we provided presentations or addresses for events run by the Centre for Social Research, Kirby Institute, Pharmacy Society of Australia, ASHM, NAPWHA, AFAO, Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service, International AIDS Society Conference 2014, HIV Support Project, the NSW Ministry of Health, NUAA, and the University of Sydney.



Communications

Website

Towards the end of this reporting period in June 2015, the Positive Life Website was completely revised. June 2015 statistics were immediately encouraging with over 6,500 users making 174,502 hits on the site.

Throughout this financial year the website continues to be an integral pivot point around our communications with members, stakeholders, partners and the public.

Membership Communications

- Speak to your local chemist Campaign – 29 June
- Quarterly July 2015 – 23 June
- Position Vacant: Communications and Policy – 23 June
- HIV Connect Launch – 18 June
- Flux study: Sex, drugs, gay life - Have your say – 17 June
- NSW Book Launch - "Through Our Eyes" – 15 June
- Sausage Sizzle shoutout - 10 June 2015
- Peer 2 Peer - 18 June 2015 – 9 June
- NSW Meth Users Forum – 5 June
- HIV Medicines from Community Pharmacists – 4 June
- HIV Medicines from Community Pharmacists – 29 May
- It's Not Over - Film for HIV Testing Week – 25 May
- Community Consultation on Meth Use – 19 May
- Positive Life NSW shoutout PLSA Petition – 15 May
- It's Not Over - Film for HIV Testing Week – 13 May
- Community Dispensing for HIV medication – 12 May
- Save the Date - PSB Trainings – 11 May
- Candlelight Memorial Name Readers – 7 May
- HIV medication dispensing conditions – 27 April
- Candlelight Memorial 2015 – 24 April
- Smokers Discussion Group – 24 April
- Your Say on Meth Use – 22 April
- Quarterly Out West Reminder 21 April
- ASHM Community Pharmacy Clarification – 20 April
- Peer to Peer - Thursday 16 April 2015 – 18 April
- Quarterly Out West – 13 April
- Drama Workshop Invitation Performance Night – 7 April
- Quarterly Shout Out – 17 March

- Drama Workshop - Living with HIV – 12 March
- Administration Officer Advertisement – 11 March
- Peer to Peer 26 February 2015 = 25 February
- Inside/Out Community Forum – 20 February
- ShoutOut: Survey - PLHIV access to health care in NSW – 17 February
- ShoutOut: Focus Group - 20 Feb 2015 – 16 February

Media Releases

2015

- 6 March: *Happy Mardi Gras!* - Positive Life NSW in the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade
- 17 March: *Gonorrhoea on the rise* - Positive Life calls on gay men living with HIV to test and treat for gonorrhoea
- 30 March: *Ice Storm? stereotypes evade enlightened debate* - PLNSW CEO and NUAA CEO speak out on Ice stigma
- 27 May: *HIV - It's not over in NSW* - Around 1,000-1,100 people in NSW are unaware they are infected with HIV
- 28 May: *Immediate treatment of HIV is clinically superior* - Positive Life NSW welcomes today's announcement from the Kirby Institute
- 3 June: *Get tested and know your HIV status* - HIV is most often passed on by people who don't even know they have it

2014

- Nov: *People with HIV are encouraged to TAKE CONTROL of HIV*
- Oct: *SURVEY of Community Dispensing of HIV Medications in NSW*

Life.mail

- Life.mail April 2015
- Life.mail May 2015
- Life.mail June 2015
- Life September 2014

In the Media

2015

- 28 Jun: *From hospitals to local pharmacies: Changes to access to HIV treatment* - GNN
- 24 Jun: *People living with HIV share their stories on responding to HIV/AIDS over past 30 years* - GNN
- 22 Jun: *Talking HIV: Your Mates and You* - GNN
- 12 May: *PrEP: A tool in the arsenal to prevent HIV* - GNN
- 4 May: *Loved ones lost to HIV and AIDS to be commemorated* - Star Observer
- 21 Apr: *Poz gay men talk about meth* - GNN
- 15 Mar: *Enjoy sex while protecting yourself from Hep C* - GNN
- 10 Feb: *Criminalisation does not work* - GNN
- 7 Feb: *Managing HIV and your mental health* - GNN
- 14 Jan: *Major barrier to treating HIV removed* - GNN
- 4 Jan: *PrEP: A new tool for HIV prevention* - GNN

2014

- 18 Dec: *Supported housing for people with HIV dwindles* - Government News
- 26 Nov: *PrEP in Australia: Trials into HIV prevention drug rolls out in Sydney* - GNN
- 26 Nov: *Kirby Institute launches HIV PrEP study in NSW* - Kirby Institute
- 26 Nov: *Australia's biggest study on the use of HIV prevention treatment begins* - Star Observer
- 13 Nov: *Back to the future: HIV researchers seeking 1980s levels of community input* - Star Observer
- 11 Nov: *How gay men can decrease their chances of developing anal cancer* - GNN
- 8 Sep: *HIV meds from your local pharmacy* - GNN
- 11 Jul: *Sex, HIV disclosure and the law: What you need to know* - GNN

Social Media

Blogs

Advocacy and Policy

- *Sex, HIV disclosure and the law: What you need to know* – 11 July 2014
- *HIV meds in community pharmacies from July 2015* – 5 September 2014
- *Reducing your risk of anal cancer* – 27 November 2014
- *PrEP: A New Tool for HIV Prevention* – 4 January 2015
- *Poz Gay Men talk about Meth* – 12 April 2015

Treatments

- *Mind Matters* – 17 March 2015
- *In The Blood* – 24 March 2015
- *PrEP: A tool in the arsenal to prevent HIV* – 12 May 2015
- *Talking HIV: Your Mates and You* – 22 June 2015

Communications

- Australian premiere of documentary "*It's not over*" – 15 June 2015
- NSW launch of "*Through our eyes*" – 7 July 2015

We increased our social media platforms from two to six – including Tumblr, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram.

Facebook

- 214% increase in likes (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015)
- 800% increase in our reach during this reporting period. Reach is the size of the potential audience for a message. This has ranged from a Facebook audience of 9,445 up to 226,456 people seeing our messages, depending on the campaign and placement of the promotion

Twitter

- 51% increase in followers (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015)
- Impressions here have also been steadily increasing from the lowest point of 2,063 to a high of 25,600

Talkabout Online

- February 2015 <http://talkabout.positivelife.org.au/previous-editions/183-february-2015>



Health Promotion & Community Development

Peer2Peer

Peer2Peer is a peer support and discussion group for gay men living with HIV which met every second month during 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015 and attracted on average 10-15 men from 20-60 years of age. Total attendance during this reporting period (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) was 57 attendees.

Throughout this time, Positive Life facilitated an environment in which participants developed a peer-based agreement on how they wanted to engage in the space to meet their needs. Discussion topics included the recent community pharmacy dispensing of HIV medications, the removal of the medication co-payment, access and overcoming barriers to care, to the more practical lifestyle based evenings where the group had a guest facilitator in to refresh and learn more relaxation techniques.

Emerging issues for this group of men are impacted by a growing move in the broader community to online engagement. About 70% of the community of men who have sex with men now form prospective attachments and connections online which might normally have been bars and night clubs in the past. In the online space, PLHIV can face a new experience of anonymous stigma and discrimination. As a face to face group, Peer2Peer offers a haven away from this online environment to build stronger social bonds and provides the opportunity to form social connections without the risk or fear of being trolled online. Other emerging themes identified a lack of opportunity where someone in recovery from substance addiction can socialise without the presence of alcohol or other drugs. Peer2Peer offers such a space to foster social engagement. Other emerging themes during this reporting period include isolation, poor nutrition, issues related to treatments, and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.

The longer-term goal of Peer2Peer is to expand attendance and include those who are more socially marginalised, isolated and needing greater peer support.

Genesis

Genesis is a workshop co-facilitated with ACON and is held every two months, spanning Friday evening and two days on the weekend for eight to ten gay men. Total attendance during this reporting period (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) was 41 attendees.

As a focused space for gay HIV positive men diagnosed within the previous two years, participants are supported to find the common ground and unity that comes from the realisation that they are not alone in the way they are feeling. They often develop very strong bonds with each other and the broader community that last well beyond the workshop. Genesis also provides a highly effective platform for ACON and Positive Life to join together in working to benefit of community, and provides opportunity to introduce participants to the work that each organisation does for the HIV community.

The Quarterly

The Quarterly is an inclusive social event for all people with HIV, their family and significant others to celebrate life in a safe, accessible and friendly environment. It is held every three months and offers an opportunity for PLHIV to build and develop friendship networks as well as to share information and strategies to enhance their health and wellbeing.

Throughout 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015 four events were held which attracted approximately 280 attendees in total. Due to some extra funding from the City of Sydney (CoS), January to June the event was held every second month with an additional event in May 2014. The venue was in the Western suburbs in an effort to attract more heterosexual PLHIV and families into this socially inclusive event. It was also different to the usual Quarterly event with an activity corner for outdoor games, a café and socialisation area with catering and a relaxing corner with M-A-C Cosmetics providing facial make-overs. The make-up area facilitated by M-A-C volunteers became a social mingling space for most women attending that day, offering a more private space for conversations between women. All women gave positive feedback about the make-up space and enjoyed the beauty treatments.

The Social

The Social Group is a heterosexual PLHIV Peer Support group that is held in Newtown. The peer and social support needs of heterosexual PLHIV are critical in maintaining good health and connections to HIV and health services. In response to an increased number of heterosexual PLHIV requesting peer support services from Positive Life, and higher participation and attendance rates at Positive Life events and programs, we started running a monthly low cost peer led social event, which facilitates contact for heterosexual PLHIV.

PositiveLifeNSW presents

The Quarterly



Community Events

2015 Candlelight Memorial – 17 May 2015

On Sunday 17 May, the 2015 Candlelight Memorial to honour and acknowledge those we have lost to HIV/AIDS was held at the Eternity Playhouse in Darlinghurst Sydney in collaboration with ACON.

Screenwriter and Associate Producer for the film Holding the Man, Tommy Murphy, was guest speaker at the event attended by approximately 130 guests who participated in the annual reading and acknowledgment of names. Afterwards, guests mingled in the foyer over refreshments where they reminisced over past friendships and memories of loved ones.

Australian Premiere of 'It's Not Over' – 1 June 2015

Positive Life presented the premiere of the documentary 'It's Not Over' in the Dendy Cinema Newtown, for the start of the NSW HIV Testing Week on 1 June 2015. Award winning filmmaker Andrew Jenks takes viewers on a journey through the eyes of three millennials from India, South Africa and the United States who are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, to experience first-hand what it's like for the people there to live with HIV. Director Andrew Jenks prepared a special personal greeting for our Australian audience of approximately 50 people who were joined by Sydney MP Alex Greenwich and MP Jenny Leong who opened the event. The production and screening of 'It's Not Over' was made possible by the M-A-C AIDS Fund.

NSW Launch of 'Through Our Eyes' – 25 June 2015

The NSW book launch of 'Through Our Eyes' by editor Dr John Rule was held at the LOSTSpace art gallery in Little Oxford Street, historically a significant space for the PLHIV community. The evening opened with Positive Life President Jane Costello welcoming attendees and opening the book launch. Dr John Rule, followed by some of the NSW authors, including Levinia Crooks, Lance Feeney, and Garry Wotherspoon delighted the audience with their reflections on the project.



PEER 2 PEER
for gay men with HIV

Thursday 18 June 2015



Positive Speakers Bureau

The Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB) has conducted 105 speaking engagements during 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015 which educated audiences from high school students to General Practitioners bringing to life the reality of living with HIV in today's world through personal stories and experiences of our speakers.

Intake training over the weekend of 31 January - 1 February, trained six speakers on delivery and presentation techniques. This was followed by Advanced Media Training to eleven attendees on Saturday 30 May which provided speakers with examples and strategies of two different styles of presentation (impromptu presentations and planned structured formats). Participants responded well to this training and expressed this content had 'more meat' and 'more substance' to it. Attendees wanted occasion to discuss these strategies more with opportunity for practice and requested a follow-up workshop later in the year.

On Saturday 13 June, a Current Treatments workshop was offered for speakers to bring their knowledge up-to-date. This workshop was attended by eleven attendees and facilitated by the Positive Life Treatments Officer David Crawford, and Dr Catriona Ooi Senior Staff Specialist from Parramatta Sexual Health Clinic. Participants' feedback expressed appreciation for the update and clarification of the latest developments in HIV and STIs. Participants commented that they will take this new information and understanding into their own Q and A sessions as PSB speakers.

Administration and procedures of the PSB has been significantly reviewed with a higher level of accountability and links back into our financial systems. The final report of the Review of the PSB was handed down in December 2014 and provided seven recommendations. With the recruitment of a new PSB Coordinator in January 2015 (with Certificate IV in Training and Assessment), much of the work throughout this year has centred on meeting the review recommendations.

PositiveLife
the voice of people with



Freddy
Positive Speaker

our stories
...our words

POSITIVE
SPEAKERS
BUREAU

a project of Positive Life NSW

Community Engagement & Regional Outreach

Positive Life conducts Community Engagement and Regional Outreach programs throughout NSW.

The following community forums and events were conducted in 2014-2015:

HIV Treatments Forum – Pozhet, June 2014 and November 2014

HIV Community Dispensing - Coffs Harbour, October 2014

HIV Community Dispensing – Bega, December 2014

Wagga Wagga – Community Consultation, February 2015

Treat Early Forums with ACON

- Sydney, April 2015
- Newcastle, April 2015
- Wagga Wagga, May 2015
- Byron Bay, May 2015

Emerging Identified Themes and Concerns

The following emerging issues were reported by PLHIV during forums and events:

- Fears associated with HIV disclosure - the fear of disclosing HIV status to health care providers, family and social contacts continues to be a significant issue for PLHIV in rural and regional areas of NSW. Fear of being outed as HIV-positive continues to be of particular concern to heterosexual men and women in regional NSW, but it is also an issue for gay men with HIV in rural areas. Some people go to extraordinary lengths to keep their HIV-status private.
- Access to mental health services in regional NSW - PLHIV in regional and rural NSW reported difficulties accessing counselling (psychology and mental health) services in their local area. The main concerns are waiting lists (up to 12 to 24 months in some instances), the time taken to travel to reach a counsellor (if out of the local area) and a lack of confidence in the knowledge and experience of the counsellor to assist them with issues related to living with HIV and/or issues related to sexuality and sexual health. The problem exists for both crisis and longer-term access.
- Access to bulk billing specialists in regional NSW - affordable access to specialists for PLHIV in rural and regional NSW continues to be an issue. PLHIV in Sydney can obtain referrals to public hospitals (St Vincent's or Royal Prince Alfred) where multi-disciplinary teams of specialists provide access to specialist care. These multidisciplinary facilities are not easily accessed by regional and rural PLHIV due to distance and time factors. PLHIV in Southern NSW report being told to wait until health issues becomes serious and then present to the local accident and emergency department to get access to specialist care. We also hear reports that PLHIV struggled to pay consultation fees for specialists and are subsequently referred to the local hospital for follow-up treatment and care.

● Travel costs - PLHIV in regional and rural NSW sometimes need to travel to Sydney for specialist treatment and care. The cost of travel to medical appointments in Sydney (including travel costs and overnight accommodation) can be substantial, particularly for PLHIV on low incomes. The Isolated Patients Travel and Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) is a subsidy program which provides financial assistance to help with travel and accommodation costs for people (and their carers) that need to travel long distances to access specialist treatment not available locally. Access to IPTAAS appears to be an issue.

● HIV treatment motivation, fatigue and HIV guilt - HIV treatment fatigue continues to be a demotivating issue for a minority of mainly long-term PLHIV over the age of 40 years. Fatigue and disengagement was expressed in a range of ways including: non-adherence to HIV and other medications; overindulging in alcohol and other drugs; embracing self-destructive behaviours; and either missing medical appointments to monitor HIV and other health conditions, or completely disengaging from clinical care at the most extreme end of the spectrum.

Administration

2014-15 was a year of change and revitalisation within the administrative side of Positive Life. Harry Richardson, Craig Godfrey, and Margaret Allen have previously acted in the role this year, with Liz Sutherland now in the position. In addition to the changes within administration, the organisation as a whole has undergone a reinvigoration of staff profiles and projects, as well as a refresh of the volunteer intake process which is enabling us to engage with a range of passionate community members.

The Administrator oversaw the development and implementation of an auspice agreement between Positive Life and HIVE Connect, a community group with the aim of providing a supportive environment for PLHIV, a project led by Roy Christopher and the HIVE Connect Management Committee.

Throughout the year a number of processes were reviewed and developed by the Administrator, including an update of the security software on our server, which occurred in line with the risk management plan assessment of electronic files stored on the server, and mitigation of this perceived risk. This process, among others, was initiated by an ongoing practice of review, development and implementation of the various policies and procedures that Positive Life has in effect. With the introduction of an updated document retention policy there has been a considerable amount of work put into stock control and archiving processes over the last year.

The Administration Officer coordinates Positive Life events and supports project work including regional outreach forums. Some of the highlights throughout the year were the Australian premier film screening of 'It's Not Over' at Dendy Cinemas Newtown in June 2015 for HIV Testing Week, the NSW book launch of 'Through Our Eyes' at LOSTSpace Art Gallery in June 2015, and the Candlelight Memorial service in May 2015. These events, among others throughout the year, have provided Positive Life with the opportunity to meaningfully connect with people living with and affected by HIV in NSW, as well as sector partners.



Board Statement of Interests

Jane Costello: is the current President of Positive Life NSW and has been involved with the agency since 2008, firstly with the Positive Life HIV Media Project and as a positive speaker, then in 2009 as a member and Ordinary Director of the Board. She brings a particular interest in effecting change in public health policy that delivers better services and maximises positive outcomes for people living with and affected by HIV. Jane is a Director on the NAPWHA Board, and a member of the NAPWHA National Network of Women Living with HIV, and founded and coordinates a peer support/social group for positive heterosexuals in NSW. In addition, she serves on the Talkabout (Positive Life NSW) and the Positive Living (NAPWHA) Editorial Committees.

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 20 years' experience in financial services enabled his timely contribution to the Board Constitution Working Group, and the redrafting of the new Positive Life NSW Constitution. He is the current Vice President of the Board.

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 for his Advanced Diploma of Accounting. Cameron's motivation for being on 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.

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 an Ordinary Director, then in 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.

Rod Spark: has extensive GLBTI community involvement over the past 22 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 the Co-Chair of the NAPWHA National Network of Women Living with HIV, and a member of the HHAS (Pozhet) Consumer Reference Group.

Paul Caleo: joined the Positive Life NSW Board in 2014 as an Ordinary Director with a desire to help eliminate stigma surrounding HIV. He has considerable experience in management, teaching and IT and has served on numerous community committees and advisory groups. In 2014 Paul was nominated by Positive Life NSW to the Health Consumers NSW Board, and was the Positive Life NSW NAPWHA representative.

Cameron Clark: joined the Board in 2014 as an Ordinary Director bringing 10 years' experience as a volunteer carer with the Community Support Network. He has considerable business experience and financial training to assist and support Positive Life NSW to achieve its aims to empower and improve the lives of people with HIV in an era of great change.

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 has held many roles in the NSW Disability sector and his successful communications experience is well placed in his role as Communications Officer for Positive Life NSW, and as the staff representative to the Board.



Representation

Positive Life provides representation on relevant government, non-government, research and clinical committees to articulate the needs of people living with and affected by HIV in NSW. These include:

Government:

NSW Ministry of Health
NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015 Implementation Committee
NSW PrEP Guidelines Group
NSW HIV Data Expert Working Group
NHMRC Partnership HIV Prevention Project Steering Committee
Centralised Contact Tracing Working Group
HIV Testing week
HIV Support Program
HIV and Related Programs Units
Yaralla House, Concord Hospital
PozHet
World AIDS Day Coordinating Committee
HIV & HCV Co-infection Forum
NDIS Framework Forum
NSW Expert Panel HIV Point of Care Testing
Housing NSW NGO Partners Reference Group
Adahps
Stanford House
STIGMA
AH&MRC

Non-government:

BGF Client Service Advisory Committee
BGF Housing Transition Committee
International AIDS Society Conference 2014
NUAA policy
LGBTI Health Roundtable
ACON
PrEP Access Working Group
Sex Workers Outreach Project
Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis C Service
HIV/AIDS Legal Centre
NAPWHA and NAPWHA Board
PozAction Leaders Group
Australian Society of HIV Medicine
Australian Sexual Health Conference 2014
Health Care NSW Board and Consumer Networks
Homelessness NSW
NCOSS
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Research:

Kirby Institute (*Anal Cancer Advocacy Committee, eTest, PELUDE Steering Committee, CEASE Protocol Steering Committee, BRISE Study, HIV Prevention Revolution Pillar Working Groups, HIV Phylogenetic Clustering Sub Study*)
Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society (*Ending HIV: Addressing Stigma, Discrimination and Criminalisation*)
National Centre in HIV Social Research

Clinical service:

St Vincents Hospital
Albion Centre
SPANC Study
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue from grants	10	854,445	821,700
Other revenue		90,903	89,788
Interest income		8,920	8,423
Employee benefits expenses	15	(477,827)	(398,470)
Depreciation expense		(10,685)	(12,124)
Occupancy expenses		(26,499)	(27,766)
Bad debts expense		(570)	-
Finance costs		(6,924)	(5,961)
Core activity expenses	13	(429,911)	(471,961)
Surplus/(Deficit) before income tax		1,852	3,629
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) after income tax		1,852	3,629
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,852	3,629

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	212,194	237,738
Trade and other receivables	3	7,543	5,546
Other assets	4	15,623	12,819
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		235,360	256,103
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment	5	5,171	15,856
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		5,171	15,856
TOTAL ASSETS		240,531	271,960
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	14,685	27,058
Provision - Annual Leave	7	32,122	36,043
Long Service Leave Provision	7	12,626	30,869
Other liabilities	9	10,831	9,574
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		70,264	103,544
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		70,264	103,544
NET ASSETS		170,267	168,415
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Accumulated surplus at beginning of the year		168,415	164,786
Current year surplus (deficit)		1,852	3,629
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		170,267	168,415

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total \$
At 1 July 2013	164,786	164,786
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	3,629	3,629
At 30 July 2014	168,415	168,415
At 1 July 2014	168,415	168,415
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,852	1,852
At 30 July 2015	170,267	170,267

Statement of Cashflows for the year ended 30 June 2015

Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from donors & granting bodies	936,641	905,444
Payments to suppliers & employees	(971,105)	(973,495)
Interest received	8,920	8,423
Interest and other costs of finance paid	-	-
Net cash from operating activities	(25,544)	(59,629)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Payments for furniture & fittings and plant & equipment acquired	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	-	-
Net increase in cash held	(25,545)	(59,629)
Cash at the beginning of the year	237,738	297,366
Cash at the end of the year	212,193	237,738

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have 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. (the "Association") adopted the Accounting Standard AASB 1053 on Reduced Disclosure Requirements during 2010 and also relevant standards that specify Tier 2 reporting requirements as outlined in AASB 2010-2.

These financial statements are 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 30th of September 2015.

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

(a) Income Tax

Positive Life NSW Inc. is a recognised public benevolent institution and is therefore exempt from paying income tax and therefore, no provision for income tax has been made.

(b) Property, Plant & Equipment – Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation.

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

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

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

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

(c) Leases

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

(d) Employee Entitlements

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

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

(e) Grant Income

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

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

(f) Cash

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

(g) 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 GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, 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 Statement of Cash Flow 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 to changes in presentation of the current financial year.

(j) Statement of Compliance

Positive Life NSW Inc adopted the Accounting Standard AASB 1053 in 2010 and, in addition those 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 NSW Inc is dependent on the NSW Department of Health for the majority of its revenue, which is used to operate the Association. As at the date of this report, the Board of Directors have no reason to believe the NSW Department of Health will not continue to support the Association.

(n) Financial Liabilities

As at balance sheet date the Association had access to a business credit card facility totaling \$7,000 of which \$2,164 had been utilised. Banking facilities have been provided by Bendigo Bank, Community Sector Banking.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash at Bank:		
Operating Bank Account	37,345	37,195
Debit Card	43	2
Term Deposits	174,283	200,000
	<u>211,671</u>	<u>237,197</u>
Cash on Hand:		
Petty Cash	523	541
	<u>212,194</u>	<u>237,738</u>

(a) Reconciliation of cash

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

Cash at the end of the year is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash	212,194	237,738
Bank Overdraft	-	-
	<u>212,194</u>	<u>237,738</u>

(b) Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to operating profit after income tax

Profit for the year	1,851	3,629
Non-cash flows in profit		
Depreciation	10,685	12,124
Increase/(decrease) in assets		
Trade and other receivables	(1,997)	7,559
Accrued interest	-	-
Other current assets	(2,804)	(5,209)
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities		
Trade and other payables	(12,373)	(88,980)
Other liabilities	1,257	7,574
Provision - Annual leave	(3,921)	(9,585)
Provision - Long service leave	(18,243)	13,259
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(25,545)</u>	<u>(59,629)</u>

NOTE 3 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables	7,543	5,546
	<u>7,543</u>	<u>5,546</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

NOTE 4 - OTHER ASSETS - CURRENT

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Prepayments	1,760	3,634
Accrued Interest	-	499
GST receivable	13,861	8,687
	<u>15,623</u>	<u>12,819</u>

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT - NON CURRENT

Furniture & Fittings - At Cost	3,233	3,233
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(3,233)	(2,730)
	<u>-</u>	<u>503</u>
Office Equipment - At Cost	47,239	47,239
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(42,740)	(33,571)
	<u>4,500</u>	<u>13,669</u>
Software - At Cost	7,340	7,340
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(6,670)	(5,656)
	<u>671</u>	<u>1,684</u>
	<u>5,171</u>	<u>15,856</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 & Fittings	Office Equipment	Software	TOTAL
2014				
Balance at the beginning of year	\$ 1,110	\$ 23,941	\$ 2,928	\$ 27,980
Additions	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(607)	(10,272)	(1,244)	(12,124)
Write off	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>503</u>	<u>13,669</u>	<u>1,684</u>	<u>15,856</u>
2015				
Balance at the beginning of year	\$ 503	\$ 13,669	\$ 1,684	\$ 15,856
Additions	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(503)	(9,171)	(1,011)	(10,685)
Write off	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>(0)</u>	<u>4,498</u>	<u>673</u>	<u>5,171</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

NOTE 6 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES - CURRENT

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Trade Creditors	8,707	23,160
PAYG Withholding	5,017	3,898
Other Payables	961	-
	<u>14,685</u>	<u>27,058</u>
NOTE 7 - PROVISIONS		
Annual Leave (including loading) - Current	32,122	36,043
Long Service Leave - Current	12,626	30,869
	<u>44,748</u>	<u>66,912</u>

For purposes of the Statement of Financial Position, a statutory provision of accrued annual leave is made up of \$32,122 (2014: \$36,043) and long service leave of \$12,626 (2014: \$30,869). These provisions are calculated on the basis of employees receiving 13 weeks long service leave after 10 years continual service in line with Association policy. Accrual for 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	6	5
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NOTE 9 - OTHER LIABILITIES - CURRENT

Grants in advance	-	-
Credit card expenses	2,164	3,039
Accruals	8,667	6,536
	<u>10,831</u>	<u>9,574</u>

NOTE 10 - OPERATING GRANTS

Grant income recognised	845,700	821,700
NSW Department of Health	8,745	-
Other Grants	854,445	821,700

NOTE 11 - FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Income from Fundraising Activities

Miscellaneous Donations	74,692	71,850
	<u>74,692</u>	<u>71,850</u>

Less: Expenses of Fundraising Activities

Fundraising expense	-	-
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Surplus/(Loss) on Fundraising Activities

Miscellaneous Donations	74,692	71,850
NET SURPLUS ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES	<u>74,692</u>	<u>71,850</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%.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

NOTE 12 - MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Board Meeting, Annual Reports & Annual General Meeting Costs	13,090	13,270
	<u>13,090</u>	<u>13,270</u>

NOTE 13 - CORE ACTIVITY EXPENSES

Positive Speakers' Bureau	44,204	48,843
Community Development & Health Promotion	214,796	184,769
Policy	27,459	16,160
Governance	1,128	86
Administration Services	142,324	222,478
	<u>429,911</u>	<u>472,336</u>

NOTE 14 - AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

Audit services - ESV	5,000	4,600
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NOTE 15 - EMPLOYEE RELATED COSTS

Salaries & wages	457,908	359,260
Employee leave entitlements	(22,166)	3,675
Superannuation	37,014	32,631
Workers' compensation insurance	2,634	2,903
Staff recruitment costs	2,437	-
	<u>477,827</u>	<u>398,470</u>

NOTE 16 - INSURANCE

The following insurance policies which were in place and current as at 30 June 2015.

- Workers' Compensation insurance (disclosed at Note 15).
- Specific & General Property, Crime, Primary Liability, Protector Liability, Non-Owned Motor
- Vehicles and Personal Accidents, Directors and Officers Insurance

Premium paid:	5,070	5,073
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NOTE 17 - MEMBERS' LIABILITY

Under normal circumstances, members of an Association have no liability to contribute towards the payments of debts, liabilities or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of an Association, except to the amount of any membership fees remaining unpaid. As there are no fees payable for membership with Positive Life NSW Inc, members' liability equates to zero.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

NOTE 18 - ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The Association was incorporated in Australia on 21 July 1989.

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

The following short-term employee benefits were paid to key management personnel:

Craig Cooper
Appointed: 17/03/2014
Short term employee benefits:
Salaries & wages \$110,740.41
Superannuation \$10,450.04

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

Being for rent of premises & office equipment

Payable:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
- not later than 1 year	6,241	6,250
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	8,551	14,792
- later than 5 years	-	-
	<u>14,792</u>	<u>21,042</u>

The Association has a Memorandum of Understanding 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) Other than those disclosed at Note 21(a) above, there are no other material commitments which require disclosure. (2014: Nil)

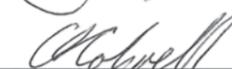
Declaration by the Board of Directors

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 2015 and its results, changes in equity and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended 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 

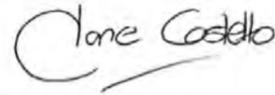
Treasurer 

Dated this 30th day of September, 2015

Declaration by the President

I, Jane Costello, President of Positive Life NSW Inc. (the "Association") declare that in respect of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (the "Act") and, in particular, disclosure of fundraising appeals, 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;
- (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;
- (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 30th day of September, 2015

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



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 2015, 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 2015, 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 19th day of October 2015.



ESV Accounting and Business Advisors



Tim Valtwies
Partner

The image features a blue-tinted landscape with a sunburst effect over a body of water. The sun is positioned in the center of the horizon, creating a bright glow that radiates outwards, breaking through a layer of clouds. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the water below reflects the light. The overall color palette is various shades of blue, from deep navy to bright cyan. The text is located in the lower-left corner, set against the darker blue background of the sky and water.

PositiveLifeNSW
the voice of people with HIV since 1988