

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



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CONTENTS

2

President's
Report

4

CEO's
Report

8

Treasurer's
Report

10

Policy &
Advocacy

12

Communications

17

Positive Speakers'
Bureau

18

HIV Work Ready
Project

20

Health Promotion
& Community
Development

22

Community
Events

24

Community
Engagement &
Regional Outreach
Programs

25

Representation

27

Administration

28

Board Members
& Staff

30

Board Statement
of Interest

32

Financial
Statements

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**JANE COSTELLO,
PRESIDENT**

In many ways this has been a watershed year for Positive Life NSW, its Board and membership. We are in a new and changed era of life with HIV, and arguably nearer to the goal of ending the transmission of HIV. We know what we have to do and have the tools to do so, but what does this mean for those of us living with HIV?

This year the significant piece of work for the Board has been the development of our new Strategic Plan to encapsulate the vision of Positive Life NSW and its membership for the four years until 2020. The Board and CEO conducted a systematic community and sector engagement and consultation evaluation with our members and HIV response partners as part of this development. These responses informed the content of the new Plan, and this was then sent out for peer review and that feedback

The building and maintenance of personal and community resilience must continue.

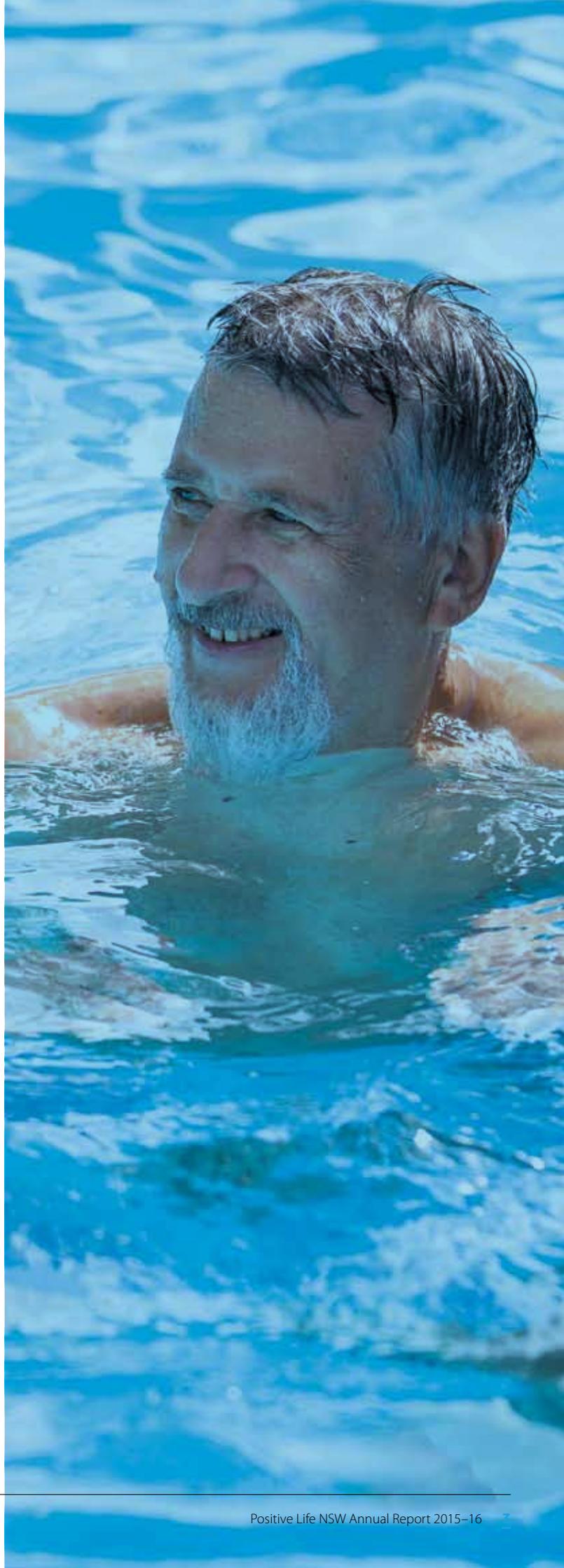
incorporated into the final draft of the Strategic Plan. This draft is now before the Board who are making some concluding edits, and it will then be approved and published. A number of emerging strategic priorities have been identified and a series of performance indicators and outcomes considered against which the Plan can be monitored and evaluated. The Plan itself has been divided into four key areas of work: HIV health policy; health promotion and education; peer support and capacity building. Our vision for all people living with HIV (PLHIV) is that they are empowered agents attaining optimal health, quality of life and free from the impacts of stigma and discrimination, and for people in NSW to be free of HIV infection acquisition.

What the consultation process revealed is that we must continue to address how living with HIV can be experienced differently because of gender, sexuality, age or geographical location. About half of all people in NSW with diagnosed HIV will be older than 55 by 2020. More than half of all people with HIV in NSW will live not only with HIV, but with one or more serious and debilitating chronic health conditions. We must also confront the relationship between HIV and poverty, and HIV and our mental health. Increasingly, we need to address the emerging problems of age (and premature ageing), of multi-morbidity, of poverty

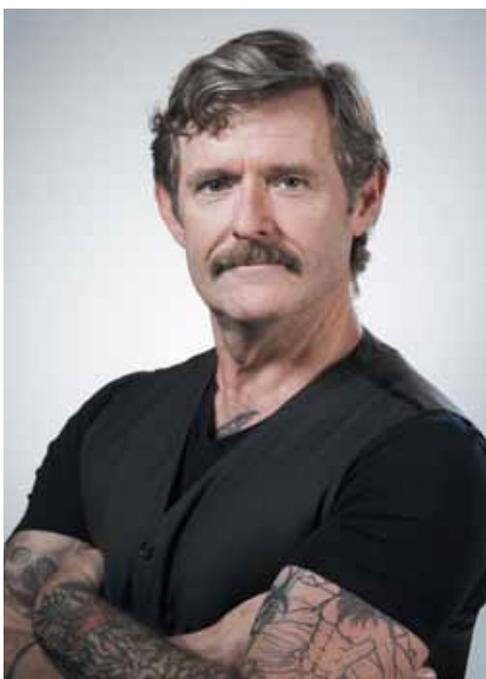
and loneliness, and ensure that those who haven't benefited fully from medical and economic progress, get at least some acknowledgment and support to live out their lives in the community in a meaningful, connected and inclusive way. We must also continue to confront the challenges of HIV related stigma and discrimination, as we remain a small and marginalised population within the community. The building and maintenance of personal and community resilience must continue. The valuing of our peers and the strength of our lived and shared experience is critical in us remaining healthy and strong. And we need to ensure that whether diagnosed 35 years ago or diagnosed today, young or older, that nobody living with HIV is forgotten or left behind. As positive people, we have achieved much, however, there continues to be much more work for us to do on behalf of all PLHIV in NSW to ensure we remain connected and resilient. This includes finding new ways to engage with our increasingly diverse and remote community.

The Board's key priorities for the coming year is to implement the Strategic Plan, and looking forward, prepare for Positive Life NSW's 30th anniversary. We will continue to partner with other peer-based state and territory organisations, and support agencies such as Positive Life South Australia in retaining their independence and self-determination.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their continued commitment and dedication; the Positive Life NSW staff and volunteers who have worked long and tirelessly in what has been an incredibly busy and demanding year; our funders, whose support is critical to enhancing the health and wellbeing of our community; and our HIV agency partners and allies for their collaboration and encouragement.



CEO'S REPORT



**CRAIG COOPER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

PLHIV in NSW are mobilising on mass and embracing treatment as prevention.

Yahoo! The resonant and hypnotic lyrics from Kool and the Gang in their song Celebration, 'It's time to celebrate, come on'. Why, rejoice and celebrate? When we consider the targets in the *NSW HIV Strategy 2012–2015*, people living with HIV (PLHIV) in NSW, along with our doctors, have achieved the 90% target of PLHIV being on treatments. What this means for us as the body positive in NSW is that we are looking after ourselves to slow, if not stop, disease progression and improve our health. So, achieve viral suppression and an undetectable viral load, where possible. Furthermore, with more and more scientific and clinical evidence coming to the fore, we are confident by remaining on treatments and virally suppressed there is zero chance of passing on the virus to sexual and drug using partners. This year the *NSW HIV Strategy 2016–2020* was launched by the honourable Minister Skinner on World AIDS Day at Customs House and in this strategy, because we (PLHIV) are doing so well, the target of PLHIV on treatments has been increased to 95%. Positive Life NSW has confidently agreed to this target, with the caveat that the decision to start and remain on treatments for PLHIV needs to be an empowered and self-determined one, free from coercion and pressure.

We are in a significant moment of change, with the introduction of PrEP into our HIV prevention tool-kit. PLHIV in NSW are mobilising on mass and embracing treatment as prevention (TasP) to ensure we end HIV transmission in NSW. With the mass roll-out of the new hepatitis C (HCV) treatments to eliminate HCV from Australia and cure PLHIV who are co-infected with HCV, unfortunately, even with all the change that is afoot and the massive achievements for us, we cannot take our eyes off the end game. More specifically: remaining motivated regarding our HIV treatment and engaged in care; dealing with ageing and diagnosis and treatment of related

infection/conditions (hypertension, cardiovascular disease, cancer etc.); and supporting our friends and loved ones that are doing it tough and experiencing treatment failure (drug resistance, an ongoing or intermittent detectable viral load).

Our Ministry of Health contract has been confirmed for a three year term, with the funding agreement and key performance indicators secured for the 2016–2017 financial year. Our respected partnership and fundraising arrangement with M·A·C AIDS Fund continues and supplemented activities such as the peer support activities and the agency's social inclusion programs. In particular strengthening and broadening our work with PLHIV populations, such as, heterosexuals living with HIV, CALD PLHIV and younger PLHIV. With the launch of the *NSW HIV Strategy 2016–2020*, the priorities for PLHIV and the funders remain consistent, notably: immediate treatment commencement; targeting and diagnosing late presenters; and the needs of PLHIV as they access health care.

The evaluation and writing of the agency's Strategic Plan was prioritised during the year. The agency engaged Berino Projects to evaluate our 2013–15 Strategic Plan. Thereafter, the Board chaired a Strategic Planning Working Group to coordinate the engagement and consultation process needed to write the next strategic plan. We undertook to consult extensively, both PLHIV and HIV service partners were surveyed ([click here to view report](#)). This provided extensive inputs for the writing of the Positive Life NSW 2016–2020 Strategic Plan, which is being drafted and progressed.

Positive Life communications continued to raise the profile of the agency supporting health education and community engagement projects through a range of publications, online channels and strategies. The Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB)

continued to bring to life the reality of living with HIV in today's world throughout the year. The PSB team presented their personal experience to a range of audiences and participated in a range of training to maintain and upgrade their speaking practice.

Peer support programs, such as Peer2Peer and Genesis continue to run and evaluate well. Peer2Peer has over 20 peers attend each group and the guys who attend are socialising and getting together outside of the bi-monthly groups. Positive Life continues our long standing partnership by co-facilitating Genesis with ACON and there were 59 newly diagnosed gay men attending the group this year. Typically there are 8 to 12 participants at each Genesis workshop and they self-report a dynamic peer interaction during the workshop. The workshop provides a safe space where they develop skills on: disclosure; managing personal relationships; maximising their health; and building and maintaining resilience in the face of stigma and discrimination.

This year we have run community events for Fair Day and the Mardi Gras parade; the Candlelight Vigil; HIV Testing Week; and World AIDS Day. +Connect (formerly known as The Quarterly) is a inclusive social event for all PLHIV, their family and significant others. It was held seven times during this financial year and attracted approximately 300 attendees. To reflect the increased scheduling of this event, a naming competition was held in August 2015. Members of the community put forward a number of names and Positive Life member Shane Meers won a mini ipad for his suggestion of [+Connect].

We regularly outreach to regional and rural areas throughout NSW as a way of maintaining engagement and relationships with PLHIV and health service providers. There were six regional

outreach sessions conducted in 2015–2016 at: Albury; Dubbo; Tweed Heads; Lismore; Tamworth and Newcastle. The main themes for PLHIV during these consultations related to HIV disclosure, isolation, stigma, access to health care, transport costs, waiting lists, discrimination and the impacts of chronic and complex health conditions on the health of PLHIV.

PLHIV representation during this time included presenting the issues of PLHIV to a range of forums and panels including government agencies, research bodies, community organisations, healthcare service providers and research bodies. Positive Life continues to represent the interests of PLHIV and the issues impacting our lives.

All these achievements have been made possible because of the ongoing investment in the agency by our passionate Board and team; members; and sector partners and allies. I was seconded to AIVL from February to June 2016 as the interim CEO and Lance Feeney acted as the Positive Life CEO during this time. I'd personally like to thank Lance, the Board and the rest of the team for stepping

up and keeping the agency productive, engaged and viable for PLHIV in NSW. 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. As mentioned, we need to keep our eye on the end game.

The year ahead is shaping up to be full of challenges and opportunities for PLHIV in NSW and Positive Life. Finally, I cannot understate the importance and dedication of my Board and staff. Our service partners and funders include the Ministry of Health; ViiV Healthcare and M·A·C AIDS Fund. Their ongoing contribution and continued support of PLHIV in NSW is inspired and heartening.

Our community engagement and consultation work has been critical in us being able to speak with confidence on behalf of PLHIV in NSW.

1. PLHIV & HIV Response Partner Consultation Survey. 2. Mardi Gras Parade march community members, March 2016. 3. Positive Life NSW at Fair Day, February 2016. 4. Board members, volunteers and community members at Positive Life NSW AGM, December 2015.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Positive Life NSW is operating strongly and we are well placed to weather any future unexpected financial circumstance.



**CAMERON COLWELL,
TREASURER**

On behalf of the Board I present to you the Positive Life NSW Inc. audited financial statements for the year ending 30th of June 2016. I am delighted to report that we have continued to maintain a robust financial position having secured a surplus of \$56,340 for this financial year.

It was a progressive year which saw the Board bring the management of the accounts and finance in house in order to increase efficiencies in our financial procedures. We engaged ESV Chartered Accountants to perform a review of administration and finance systems and we are in the process of implementing their recommendations; primarily the use of cloud accounting software Xero, rejuvenation of the Chart of Accounts and the engagement of a new accountant to help with this process and our ongoing financial needs.

Revenue for the year was \$995,246 reflecting the expanded diversification in our income base, which further secures our future in an ever changing funding environment. Highlighting this diversity is:

- Core Operating Grant from Ministry of Health \$872,500;
- MAC AIDS Fund Affiliate Community Grant \$70,000;
- Positive Speakers Bureau \$21,955;
- ViiV Grant for Work Ready Program \$30,000 (for the 2016 calendar year); and
- Training Services \$5,645.

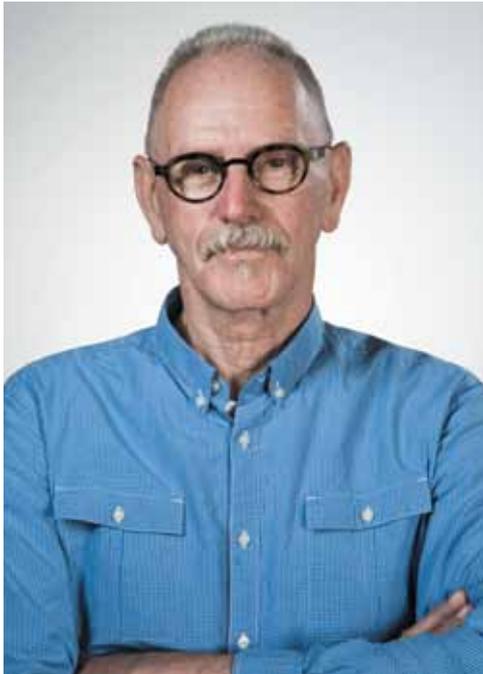
Operating Expenditure for the year was \$938,905, this is down on last financial year and expresses increased efficiencies in our core activity expenses. Employee related costs are up slightly in-line with an expansion to the staff profile. We have also invested in updating software and computer equipment, which has helped modernise our work practises and which has already contributed to savings in printing and distribution now and into the future.

Equity has now increased to \$226,607 representing the total accumulated funds from over 28 years of operations as an incorporated association.

Positive Life NSW is operating strongly as a going concern with sufficient cash to pay all debts as and when they become payable indicated by a working capital ratio of 3:1. We also ended the year with a reserve to expenditure ratio of 24%. Liquidity has been maintained ending the year with a cash reserve of 15 weeks.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Ken Lancero for preparing the financial statements and ESV Chartered Accountants, who have provided a comprehensive and professional audit. I would also like to thank the Positive Life Board for their continued due diligence of the finances during the last financial year.

POLICY & ADVOCACY



**LANCE FEENEY,
SENIOR POLICY OFFICER**

Accurately representing the contemporary interest of PLHIV requires an ongoing process of consultation and engagement.

The 2015–2016 financial year was a particularly busy year for policy and advocacy work at Positive Life with a range of important issues both arising and being addressed. In addition to the need to respond to emerging policy and advocacy priorities, I acted as CEO for a four month period when the CEO was seconded to the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Using League (AIVL). Nevertheless, Positive Life exceeded NSW Ministry of Health Funding and Performance targets in policy responses developed, in meetings where we provided advice and represented PLHIV in NSW.

PLHIV needs as they access healthcare

In 2015 the NSW Ministry of Health commissioned us to investigate and report on the needs of PLHIV as they access HIV specialist and mainstream services. We conducted a consultation with PLHIV in metro and regional NSW to develop a discussion paper. The discussion paper which is published on our website highlighted the increasing health care and other support needs of PLHIV.

Our report highlighted a small but growing proportion of PLHIV who are fatigued by living with HIV, the impacts of chronic multi-morbidity, poverty and social isolation. The cumulative impacts of these varied circumstances present in combinations of depression, anxiety, emotional numbness, anger, survivor guilt, insomnia, hypervigilance, hopelessness, substance abuse, sexual-risk-taking, low self-esteem, avoidance and social withdrawal. These important finds provides evidence of vulnerable PLHIV disengaged from healthcare, non-adherence to HIV medicines, disease progression, hospitalisation and death. We will work with stakeholders to provide advice on addressing gaps in accessible service delivery.

We also provided a submission to the Commonwealth on better outcomes for PLHIV with chronic and complex health conditions

through primary health care. Our submission informed the Commonwealth on aspects of the current primary health care system that works well for PLHIV with chronic and complex health conditions.

NSW Public Health Act 2010 statutory review

In 2015, the NSW Ministry of Health began a process to review the *NSW Public Health Act 2010*. After a staged consultation process with stakeholders, NSW Ministry of Health sought feedback on a series of proposed amendments to the Act.

We provided submissions to represent the needs of PLHIV in this review process. We partnered with ACON to convene a community engagement and consultation which fed into our deliberations and submission.

Policy and Research

We provided advice and representation to:

- the Commonwealth on community pharmacy supply and implementation;
- NCOSS on issues associated with poverty and disadvantage for PLHIV;
- the NSW Ministry of Health on the draft *NSW HIV Strategy 2016–2020*;
- the HIV Support Program five key support services and information for clinicians who care for PLHIV; and
- the proposal to evaluate the impact of nine valent HPV vaccination and incident HPV infection in gay and bisexual men aged 27–55 years.

PLHIV emerging issues

Accurately representing the contemporary interest of PLHIV requires an ongoing process of consultation and engagement. Consultation surveys implemented in 2015/16 included: the support needs of PLHIV when notifying a partner about a recent HIV or STI diagnosis; the awareness, and concerns of PLHIV with HIV Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND); evaluating the take up of community dispensing and awareness of HPV and anal cancer in people at increased risk (PLHIV and HIV negative gay men). The findings are published on our website.

Representations on the needs of PLHIV

During the 2015/16 year we presented to:

- HIV researchers on the progress and reaching the NSW HIV Strategy targets;
- the Australasian HIV Conference on advocacy for anal cancer diagnostic services;
- community pharmacists;
- NAPWHA delegates on the needs of PLHIV as they access HIV medication dispensing services;
- Centre for Social Research on improving treatment uptake for people from marginalised and culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
- the Anal Cancer Advocacy Committee on awareness of HPV and anal cancer; and
- the NAPWHA Treatment Officers Network.

COMMUNICATIONS



**CRAIG ANDREWS,
COMMUNICATIONS & POSITIVE SPEAKERS'
BUREAU COORDINATOR**

Throughout this financial year we served the interests of PLHIV in NSW through the following communications activities.

Website

www.positivelife.org.au has received well over 1,000,000 hits throughout this financial year and continues to be an integral point for members, stakeholders, partners and the public to find information, support and events for PLHIV.

Life.mail

We used our regular monthly ebulletin *Life.mail* to inform subscribers about a range of events, opportunities, surveys and consultations and we ran a *Life.mail* feedback survey throughout March/April 2016 which identified high levels of satisfaction with the style and presentation of *Life.mail*. Most subscribers spent around 10–15 minutes reading the ebulletin to keep up-to-date with our events and activities.

To look back over *Life.mail* ebulletins please visit www.positivelife.org.au/your-voice/life-mail.html

Social media

We makes a significant use of social media as a strategy in reaching out to PLHIV. We are currently active across six out of our seven social media platforms and maintain a regularly updated website.

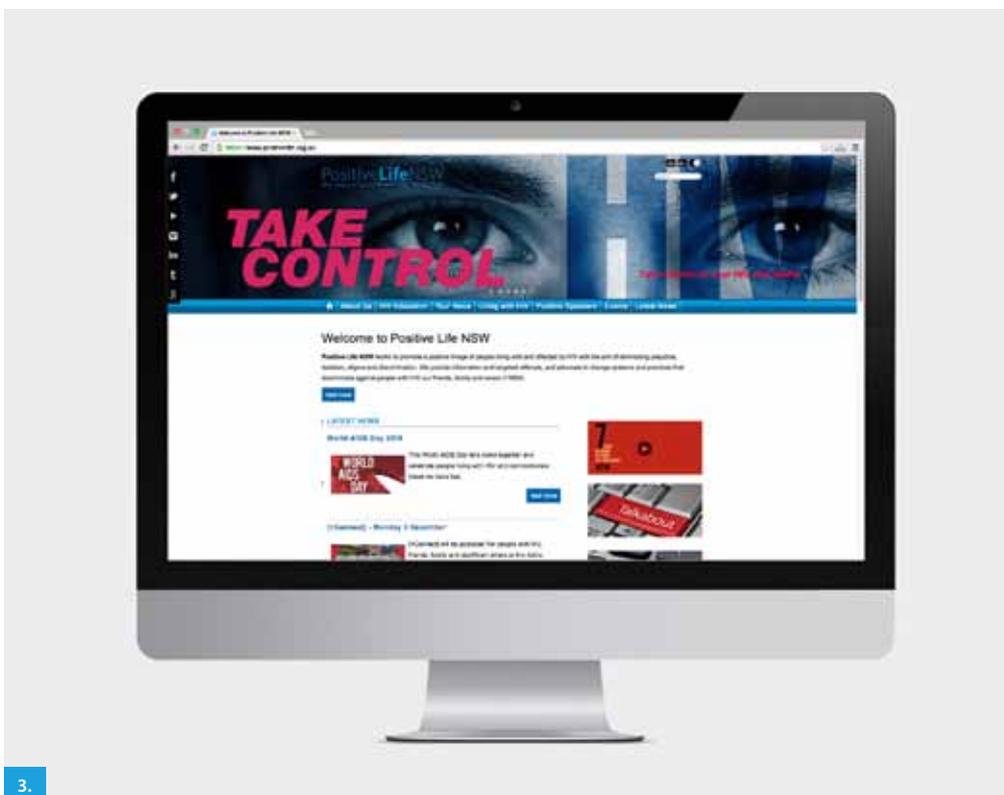
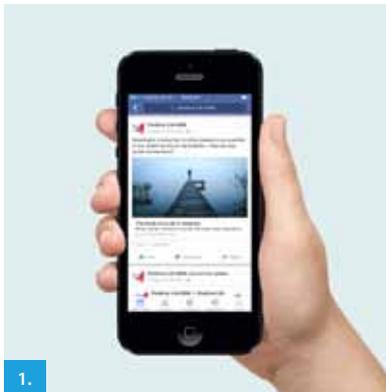
Over this reporting period, total social media followers increased by approx. 39%. Our approximate reach had a 47% increase from last year.

Member communications

85 subscriber and membership electronic communications were sent during this financial year. Communications also invited participants' input into focus groups, roundtables, or other informative groups. An example is changes to NSW HIV medications co-payment waiver in September 2015 and three *Talkabout* editions in this time (August 2015, February and June 2016).

Our members were notified about Positive Life board nominations in October 2015 and NAPWHA in September 2015, invited to the 2015 World AIDS Day in November 2015, the Positive Life AGM and Christmas Party in November 2015 and invited to contribute to the Positive Life Strategic Plan 2016–2020 Consultation in April 2016.

1. The Positive Life Facebook page – making significant use of social media as part of our communications strategy. 2. Our regular monthly ebulletin *Life.mail* informs subscribers about a range of events, opportunities, surveys and consultations. 3. The Positive Life website is our main information channel.



Media releases 2015–16

We welcomed the news of:

- improved access to HIV medication from local chemists and online pharmacies;
- the release of national surveillance data which showed an increase of PLHIV who were starting treatment early;
- the announcement of the implementation of the Baird government's commitment to waive the co-payments for anti-retroviral medications and other highly specialised drugs;
- the announcement by the World Health Organisation (WHO) affirming benefits of immediate treatment for PLHIV;
- NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner's announcement of the expanded access to PrEP and the launch of the NSW HIV Strategy 2016–2020; and
- the launch of the National Day of Women Living with HIV in Australia on 9 March 2016 highlighting particular issues faced by and of concern to women living with HIV.

Publications

Staff and Board members blogged on a range of topics in this reporting timeframe including, 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016:

May 2016

- *Facing an inconvenient truth.*
- *Reactions to working in the HIV sector.*

April 2016

- *Pain from within: Internalised stigma.*
- *Still living with ignorance and invisibility.*

March 2016

- *HIV disclosure in NSW: The problem with Section 79.*
- *Something to celebrate.*

February 2016

- *It's a sex thing: We need to talk about Hep C.*

January 2016

- *A scapegoat called 'stigma'.*
- *HIV law: It's time for change.*

December 2015

- *World AIDS Day 2015 speech.*
- *How has PrEP impacted people living with HIV?*
- *Partner notification: Difficult but critical to end HIV.*

November 2015

- *Starting HIV treatment ... NOW?*
- *A game changer and a good year for PLHIV in NSW.*

October 2015

- *Youth today: Sex, drugs and HIV.*
- *And we're off: Immediate treatment for HIV.*

September 2015

- *Positive Life in Brisbane for the joint world congress and ASHM Conference.*
- *Is HIV in your brain?*

August 2015

- *'He was so fucking hot, he didn't look like he had HIV!'*
- *Tracing sexual contacts.*
- *Challenge HIV stigma and remain connected.*

July 2015

- *NSW Launch of 'Through Our Eyes'.*
- *Looking after each other when fatigued with HIV.*
- *You've got to let them know if you've picked up an STI.*

We published two editions of our online publication *Talkabout* under themes of Treatment as Prevention (TASP) in October 2015 and Staying Healthy and Looking after Yourself in March 2016.

Media

June 2016

- *Leading NSW HIV researcher to develop clinical trial to prevent and treat HIV-associated cancers (SX/GNN, 15 June).*
- *EPIC trial hailed as landmark moment in ending HIV (SX/GNN, 15 June).*
- *Newly diagnosed? Who can I talk to? (SX/GNN #803, 13 June).*
- *New-age cancer treatment offering hope to thousands (7News, 7 June).*

May 2016

- *'PrEP trial my proudest moment': Health Minister* (Star Observer, 24 May).
- *Facing an inconvenient truth* (SX/GNN #800, 23 May).
- *Changes to the NSW Public Health Act 2010. What will it mean for you?* (SX/GNN #799, 16 May).
- *Reactions to working in the HIV Sector* (SX/GNN #798, 9 May).

April 2016

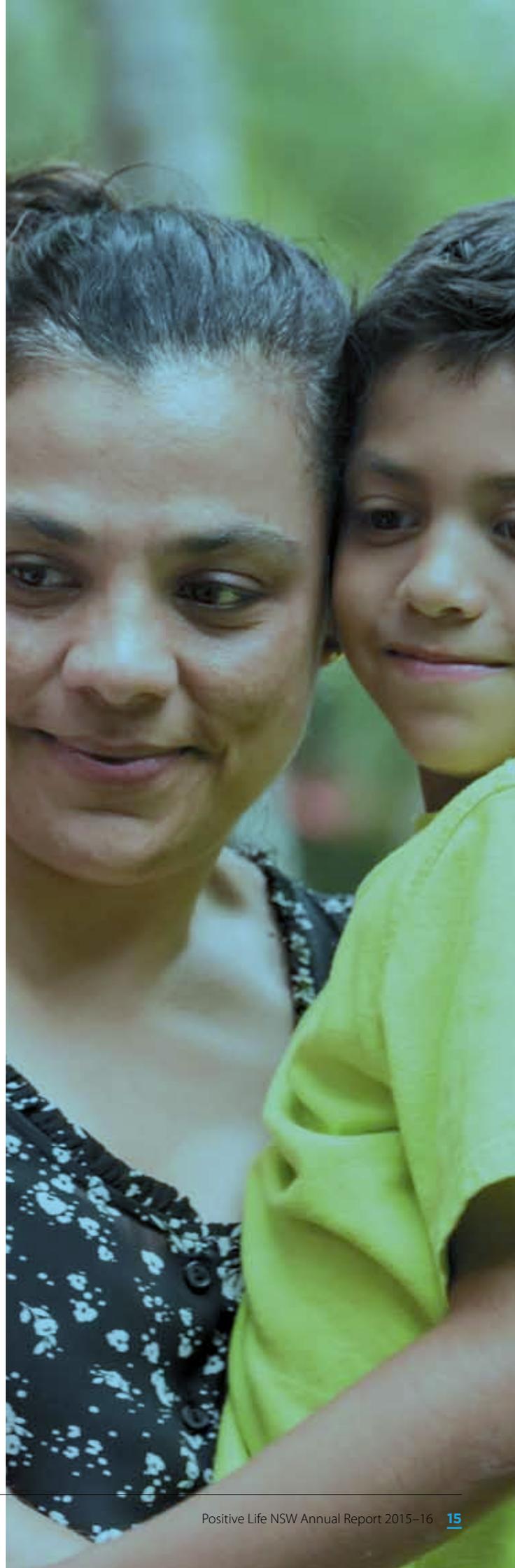
- *ACON and Positive Life host candlelight memorial to remember lives lost to HIV/AIDS* (SX/GNN, 13 April).
- *Pain from within: Internalised Stigma* (SX/GNN #794, 11 April).
- *A new HIV treatment which boasts fewer long-term side effects has been added to the PBS* (Star Observer, 8 April).
- *Hero Condoms apologises for STI campaign on Tinder amid calls to remove it online completely* (SX/GNN, 6 April).
- *Highlights from CROI 2016* (SX/GNN #793, 4 April).

March 2016

- *Still living with ignorance and invisibility* (SX/GNN #792, 28 March).
- *Something to celebrate: The role of people living with HIV in the effort to end HIV transmissions* (SX/GNN #790, 14 March).
- *Shining a light on women living with HIV* (SX/GNN, 10 March).
- *First Australian day for women Living with HIV to highlight issues facing women* (Star Observer, 9 March).
- *Craig Cooper appointed interim CEO of Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League* (SX/GNN #789, 9 March).
- *We must address gender difference in HIV in Australia* (SX/GNN #789, 9 March).

February 2016

- *HIV disclosure in NSW: The problem with Section 79* (SX/GNN #787, 22 February).
- *It's a sex thing: We need to talk about Hep C* (SX/GNN #785, 12 February).
- *HIV-positive man mistakenly denied tourist visa to Australia* (Star Observer, 2 February).



January 2016

- *A scapegoat called 'stigma'* (SX/GNN #783, 25 January).
- *HIV law: It's time for change* (SX/GNN #782, 18 January).
- *Starting HIV Treatment ... NOW?* (SX/GNN #780, 2 January).

December 2015

- *How has PrEP impacted people living with HIV?* (GNN, 15 December).
- *Partner notification': Difficult but critical to end HIV* (GNN, 6 December).
- *Medical breakthroughs loosen the grip of HIV* (Daily Liberal, 2 December).
- *The innovative ways Australians are finding to access drugs stuck in federal red tape* (news.com.au, 2 December).
- *The Albion Centre: 30 years of supporting people living with HIV in NSW* (GNN, 1 December).
- *World AIDS Day: NSW's PrEP expansion an example for the rest of Australia* (Star Observer, 1 December).

November 2015

- *The two Coopers: 'It's important to have a good relationship with your doctor'* (GNN, 30 November).
- *2015: A game changer and a good year for PLHIV in NSW* (GNN, 29 November).
- *Advocates commend Charlie Sheen for coming out as HIV-positive* (GNN, 18 November).

October 2015

- *New survey on access to HIV medications in NSW* (GNN, 21 October).
- *And we're off: Immediate treatment for HIV* (GNN, 14 October).
- *Youth today: Sex, drugs and HIV* (GNN, 6 October).

September 2015

- *Scrapping of medications co-payment will improve lives of people with HIV, says Positive Life NSW* (GNN, 29 September).
- *AIDS battle: HIV testing rate soars in NSW as notifications trend downwards* (SMH, 21 September).
- *Data from annual HIV report card "encouraging" for HIV prevention, advocates say* (GNN, 15 September).
- *Is HIV in your brain?* (GNN, 11 September).
- *HIV and the man: Full list of speakers announced* (GNN, 1 September).

August 2015

- *Challenging HIV stigma and remain connected* (GNN, 30 August).
- *'He was so fucking hot, he didn't look like he had HIV!'* (GNN, 24 August).
- *Alan Brotherton's HIV diagnosis spurred 30 years of effective advocacy* (SMH, 7 August).

July 2015

- *HIV and the man: Community forum* (GNN, 31 July).
- *Wagga not immune from HIV stigma: Positive Life NSW* (Daily Advertiser, 27 July).
- *Looking after each other when fatigued with HIV* (GNN, 27 July).
- *One third of gay men think PrEP is easily available – but it hasn't even been approved* (Star Observer, 22 July).
- *You've got to let them know if you've picked up an STI* (GNN, 15 July).

POSITIVE SPEAKERS' BUREAU

In this financial year the Positive Speakers' Bureau (PSB) team conducted 110 speaking engagements.

In response to requests after the advanced media training in the previous financial year, Rob Giltinan returned with an Advanced Presentation workshop which was well attended by fourteen attendees in September 2015. This session refined the earlier strategies using a focus on video self-evaluation. In early May 2016, a workshop titled From Me to We, focused on building speakers' co-presenting skills and techniques. Participants responded well to these sessions: "I am very grateful (sic) for being here and learn more things for my personal gain"; "Loved the interview conversational style of co-presentation" and stated "This was effective and well targeted."

A current treatments workshop in late May 2016 was attended by eight participants and focused on emerging notions of HIV cure along with the status of HIV trials and current HIV demographics in the community. This session was facilitated by the our Treatments Officer David Crawford, with input from Dr Catriona Ooi Senior Staff Specialist from Parramatta Sexual Health Clinic and Bill Paterson Operations Manager of NAPWHA. Participants' feedback expressed a better understanding of the global scientific work to "create a vaccine. I knew it was happening but was not aware of the level of co-collaboration" and a request to "continue these sessions."

Improved clarity and articulated expectations to PSB speakers about the content and quality of their presentations has resulted in an increase in the confidence of PSB clients and speakers in the program. Feedback received from a high school in October 2015 commends the speakers "based on the success of your presentation this year, we would like to involve you/your organisation in future programs." This is representative of anecdotal verbal comments received from teachers and program coordinators on the phone with the Coordinator.

"It was a privilege and a pleasure to have you speak to us last night. Today I had eight or nine students approach me and tell me how much your talk meant to them, that they learnt so much and that they were so grateful for the experience. I have to say – I was also so impressed with the engagement of the students and with the dialogue at question time. It was wonderful to have you and Dr [on the panel] as you both worked so well together to answer all our questions. Thank you again for sharing your story with us. It is a remarkable thing to do and I believe everyone there was moved by your talk and full of gratitude." (University Program Coordinator, May 2016).

"It was a privilege and a pleasure to have you speak to us last night. Today I had eight or nine students approach me and tell me how much your talk meant to them."

HIV WORK READY PROJECT



NEIL FRASER,
HIV WORK READY PROGRAM OFFICER

HIV Work Ready is a multi-component peer led pilot project that has been initiated by Positive Life NSW and sponsored by ViiV Healthcare to deliver outcomes for PLHIV and other chronic health conditions to engage and prepare themselves for returning to work.

An implementation of a three month pilot of the HIV Work Ready project began in June 2016. The pilot project was setup to test the feasibility of the new model in a live and dynamic environment, as well as the impact of variations to processes. A further review yet to be conducted in November 2016 to validate the service model and incorporate feedback captured from consumers and staff members involved in the development and operation of the pilot project.

Delivering outcomes for PLHIV to engage and prepare themselves for returning to work.

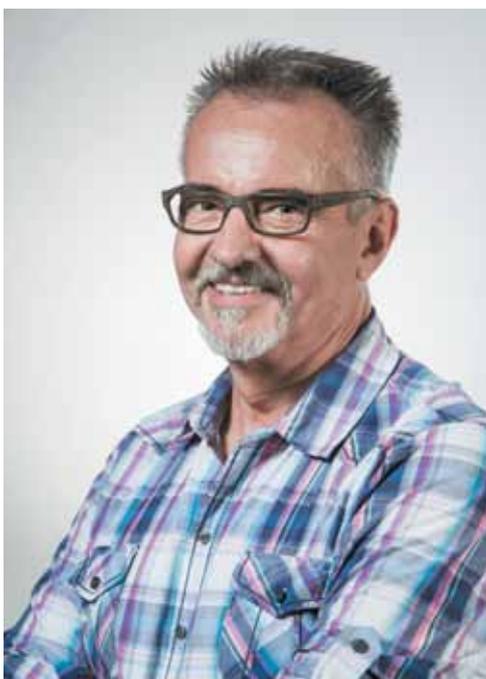
The program is structured on a partnership with other community organisations such as the HIV Outreach Team, BGF, Positive Central, Wise Employment and ACON as central to delivering this program as the core services. Each of these services provides a coordination and/or care support role in terms of enrolling potential consumers and managing their complex health and social needs in partnership with the consumer and their significant others.

To date the pilot project has had a number of successful achievements for PLHIV. The model has been tested and we are already seeing promising outcomes with a number of participants being placed into meaningful paid roles, as well as others engaging in a volunteer capacity. The program has also highlighted a number of challenges people face when looking at returning to work, especially when they are required to deal with government organisations to negotiate their capacity to work.

As a part of our role in identifying issues of importance that PLHIV face when they are looking to return to work, we will continue to report back into our community consultation and engagement framework specific problems members of our constituency face when navigating the maze of social and economic support mechanisms that either fail to meet their needs or serve as more of a hindrance rather than support their attempts to build a more equitable life for themselves.



HEALTH PROMOTION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**DAVID CRAWFORD,
TREATMENTS OFFICER**

The Treatments Officer role is responsible for the peer support programs of the agency offering a peer-based perspective underpinned by a clinical basis. This unique activity supports the knowledge, capacity and competency of PLHIV across metropolitan and regional NSW. During this financial year, I have advocated for PLHIV access to services, informing treatment options after diagnosis as well as informing qualified commencement and adherence options within peer support settings.

Peer2Peer

Throughout this financial year, Peer2Peer attracted on average of 20 guys ranging from 20–60 years of age who travel from as far away as the Blue

By standing together and supporting one another, this validates our lived experiences and we learn and grow together.

Mountains and Gosford. Total attendance during this reporting period was 131 attendees which is a 44% increase from last financial year which was in line with the plan to increase attendance and reach of the group. This group has also increased their engagement with self-directed activities that included a tour of Tempe House, a home used to provide respite care during the mid-80s for those dying of HIV/AIDs and attended a Queerscreen event using tickets that had been donated to the group.

Discussion topics, presentations and activities included:

- An informative presentation on the Musculoskeletal System and HIV by physiotherapist Tim Ellis.
- Developments in treatment as prevention (TasP), the Swiss Statement.
- The power of the Partner Study and the importance of the START Study.

Peer2Peer continues to be a valuable space for gay men living with HIV to socialise in a safe respectful environment and gain relevant and important information about living with HIV. The depth and breadth of the conversations are a valuable point of connection to the community for those who attend: "Thanks for the Peer group and great food!" "I enjoyed the meeting on Thursday, thanks." "It's good to see things are happening so well in Sydney".

Genesis

Genesis is a weekend workshop co-facilitated with ACON. This workshop provides a highly effective platform for gay men living with HIV and provides an opportunity to introduce participants to the work and programs. Total attendance during this reporting period was 59 attendees. The release of the START Study findings – which reflected the immediate commencement of antiretroviral treatments within two weeks of diagnosis – were incorporated into the program.

Typically in groups of 8 to 12, participants at each Genesis workshop are encouraged to find skills on disclosure, managing their personal relationships, maximising their health, and developing resilience in the face of stigma and discrimination.

Participant quotes: "I would highly recommend the Genesis workshop no matter how early your diagnosis. The Genesis team provided relaxed, informative and supportive environment where I gained a significant boost of confidence to move forward" and "It took me a while to pluck up the courage to attend this workshop. I wish I had done it sooner, it has made such a difference in my life."

The Quarterly [+ Connect]

This inclusive social event for all people with HIV, their family and significant others was held seven times during this financial year, and attracted approximately 300 attendees in total.

In May 2016, this event was held in the western suburbs in an effort to attract more heterosexual PLHIV and families as a collaboration between Positive Life and western suburbs sexual health services and HIV clinics. This Sunday lunch attracted approx. 40 attendees to very positive reviews. M·A·C Cosmetics was also a hit providing facial make-overs for adults and face-painting for younger guests.

"Thanks for the event last night. They are a wonderful thing. Much appreciated." (Community Member, November 2015).

The Social

The Social Club is a peer support group for heterosexual PLHIV. The membership recognised that there is a need within our diverse community for peer connectedness in a friendly and accepting

social environment that is completely confidential. We provide a valuable space for a group of peers who are often not prioritised and marginalised by the current Australian government HIV policy response.

We have established an empowering social network that allows members to meet other PLHIV, foster support and mutual understanding, reduce social isolation, and support them to thrive with HIV. We provide a dedicated, regular, secure, non-public space for peers to meet at a monthly dinner where they are able to discuss matters around HIV with someone who understands and is often going through a similar experience, without worrying about issues of disclosure and privacy. In response to our members' requests for an activity coupled with the dinner we recently instituted the first such event. Prior to the dinner, we ran an outdoor breath meditation group run by a relaxation expert, and a neck and shoulder massage for each Social Club member from a qualified masseuse. This was accompanied by a tutorial about the health and wellbeing benefits of breathing and meditation.

We also started running youth-specific events for heterosexual PLHIV under 35 years of age. The idea was conceived and group established by a current Social Club member who approached the Social Club facilitator and Positive Life NSW with an offer to assist in the facilitation of the youth group himself – an example of PLHIV empowerment at work. Because of the previously identified need to provide youth-specific activities and connectedness programs appropriate to the needs of young people, the Social Club supported and mentored this member in setting this up. This has resulted in the engagement of a number of new members from various cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds as well as other young existing Social Club members with this new group. It has also allowed us to reach out to a number of PLHIV whom because of their age and/or CALD background had not felt comfortable or able to engage previously, and who were socially isolated as a result.

The Social and Under 35's peer support and social inclusion programs are examples of empowerment in action. By us standing together and supporting one another, this validates our lived experiences and we learn and grow together.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2016 Candlelight Vigil

On Sunday 15 May, approximately 70 guests participated in this annual event to honour and acknowledge those we have lost to HIV/AIDS at the Eternity Playhouse in Darlinghurst Sydney in collaboration with ACON. Celebrated vocalist, Catherine Alcorn closed proceedings before guests, staff and board members reminisced together of past friendships and shared memories of loved ones, over refreshments in the foyer.

2016 Public Health Forum

Positive Life held a community forum on Tuesday 24 May to discuss the review and possible changes to the Public Health Act which will impact the HIV community. This event, co-hosted by ACON, was well attended by people living with HIV and community members. A speaker's panel including representatives from NSW Ministry of Health attended this evening's forum to provide details about the proposed amendments and respond to community questions.

2016 Fair Day and Mardi Gras

Positive Life was well represented this year at Fair Day and in the 2016 Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras with the involvement of the whole staff team, board, PSB speakers team and volunteers.

Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB) speakers showcased the work of the PSB during Fair Day in the 'Beyond Undetectable' photographic exhibition by GILEAD which aimed to describe what being undetectable means to people living with HIV (PLHIV) now and into the future and the important role of research in this area of medicine. PSB speakers responded to members of the public as they viewed the photographs and answered questions about their work. Staff and Board members responded to well over 500 supportive and curious members of the community through the Positive Life agency stall.

Staff, board and an enthusiastic band of HIV positive and negative supporters put a very public face to people living with HIV in the annual Mardi Gras parade in distinctive blue and white t-shirts under the Positive Life banner on 5 March 2016.

Staff, board and an enthusiastic band of HIV positive and negative supporters continue to partner effectively.



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CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT >

COMMUNITY FORUM

Date & Time
Tuesday 24 May, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Location
NSW Teachers Federation, 23-33 Mary St, Surry Hills

RSVP
by 23/5/16 | www.acon.org.au/pha-forum | 02 9206 2179

The Public Health Act is under review and there are a range of issues under consideration that impact on HIV in our community, including changes to disclosure provisions and the named notification of HIV diagnoses.

For detailed info on the review of the Public Health Act, the full discussion paper is available at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/legislation/Pages/acts-under-review.aspx

If you would like to hear more about the issues under consideration and their potential implications, a community forum is being held with a panel of experts, including representatives from the NSW Ministry of Health.

PositiveLifeNSW
 the voice of people with HIV since 1988



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1. Candlelight Vigil, May 2016 2. Mardi Gras parade, March 2015. 3. Changes to the Public Health Act community forum, May 2016. 4. GILEAD HIV IS: photographic exhibition at Fair Day, 2016. 5. Volunteers at the Mardi Gras parade, March 2015. 6. Staff and volunteer at Candlelight Vigil, May 2016.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & REGIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

We conducted Community Engagement and Regional Outreach programs throughout NSW.

The following community consultations were conducted in 2015–2016:

- Albury, Tuesday 1 September 2015.
- Dubbo, Tuesday 10 November 2015.
- Tweed Heads, Monday 11 April 2016.
- Lismore, Pharmacy Dispensing Community Update Forum, Tuesday 12 April 2016.
- Lismore, Tuesday 12 April 2016.
- Tamworth, Tuesday 10 May 2016.
- Karumah, HIV and the Brain Workshop, Saturday 11 July 2015.
- PrEP and Treatment as Prevention at Chinwag Stonewall, Wednesday 2 March 2016.

Emerging identified themes and concerns

The following themes, challenges and issues were reported from PLHIV living in these rural and remote areas:

Issues relating to HIV disclosure, isolation, loneliness and stigma, discrimination and the impacts of chronic and complex health conditions impacted on the health and wellbeing of PLHIV. This was countered by those PLHIV who had made good connections into the community through pursuing personal interests and joined specialist interest clubs e.g. photography or gardening clubs or specialist interest classes such as art.

While the uptake of community dispensing of antiretroviral medications has been lower in rural settings, those who use this option reported on their relationship with the local community pharmacist noting that when this option was accessed PLHIV were treated with confidentiality, respect and pharmacists going above and beyond expectations. A high level of satisfaction was expressed on the no cost dispensing of HIV medications.

A high level of satisfaction was expressed across all areas with the support and care provided by the local services for HIV care through sexual health clinics with a visiting medical officer (VMO) or where there is the presence of a local s100 Prescribing general practitioner (GP). Distance and cost of travel to access specialist services was proving to be a challenge and a barrier for some. This showed the importance to be aware of the Isolated Patients Assistance Scheme (IPTAS) that subsidises travel and accommodation for this purpose for the patient and their carer. Most people identified a slower pace of life and appreciated the relaxed lifestyle that was afforded living in a rural setting.

REPRESENTATION

Positive Life staff represents PLHIV via relevant government, non-government, research and service delivery committees including networking and liaison with services to articulate the needs of people living with HIV in NSW. These include:

Government

- NSW HIV & STI Strategies Implementation Committee.
- NSW HIV Data Expert Working Group.
- NHMRC Partnership HIV Prevention Project Steering Committee.
- Ending HIV Communications Working Group.
- Centralised Contact Tracing Working Group.
- HIV and Related Programs Units.
- Yaralla House, Concord Hospital Management Committee.
- HIV & HCV Co-infection Forum.
- NDIS Framework Forum.
- NSW Expert Panel HIV Point of Care Testing.
- Sydney LHD Sexual Health Advisory Group.
- South Western Sydney LHD Sexual Health Implementation Committee.
- ADAHPS, Consumer Consultation Committee and HIV Supported Accommodation Advisory Panel Meeting.
- PozHet, Advisory Group.
- STIGMA, STIs in Gay Men Action Group.

Non-government

- BGF Client Service Advisory Committee.
- PrEP Advisory Working Group.
- NAPWHA members forum.
- PozAction Leaders Group.
- AFAO members meeting.
- Health NSW Consumers Board.
- NCOSS, NSW Disability Network Forum.
- Access to HIV Treatments Advisory Group.

Research

- Kirby Institute (SPANC, Anal Cancer Advocacy Committee, DARE Working Group, eTest, PRELUDE Steering Committee, CEASE Protocol Steering Committee, BRISE Study in collaboration with CSRH and the Kirby Institute, HIV Prevention Revolution Pillar Working Groups, HIV Phylogenetic Clustering Sub Study, Taipan Steering Committee).
- Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society (What Works and Why Project, Futures, Quality of Life measuring instrument).
- Centre for Social Research in Health (Sydney Gay Periodic Survey, Opposites Attract Study).

Clinical services

- St Vincents Hospital, HIV Consultative Committee.
- Albion Centre, Consumer representative committee.
- Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, HIV and Sexual Health Committee.

Positive Life staff network and liaise with services to articulate the needs of people living with HIV in NSW.



ADMINISTRATION

2015–16 was a year of change and revitalisation within Positive Life's administrative and finance services. Administration Officer, Liz Sutherland finalised the agency's accreditation and provided outstanding administrative service with the organisation. Bianca Dalmore filled in momentarily as a Temporary Administration Officer toward the end of the financial year. The Administration Officer oversaw the implementation and monitoring of an auspice agreement between Positive Life and PLHIV stakeholders within business operations. The year was about developing, reviewing and negotiating contracts; programs; policies and procedures; and services. Responding to day to day PLHIV and supplier's inquiries, and resolving issues concerning office operations ensuring everything ran smoothly throughout the year.

This year administration instigated changes to the accounting and payroll processes as financial services ceased being outsourced and the contract work was bought onsite. Administration was involved in recruitment and coordinating with Lola as the newly appointed bookkeeper. This put the agency in a better position to manage and respond to issues around the invoicing and payroll.

Liz Sutherland wrote and published two articles during the year which brought a fresh perspective on current gap on the level of knowledge within the younger population in the community. She stressed the importance of the education system educating younger people about HIV, STIs and the associated stigma.

Liz also worked with the volunteers throughout the year to improve on and expand the agency's volunteer program. Volunteers have been an important part of our peer led agency, with an ability to willingly work together for the

Volunteers have been an important part of our peer led agency, with an ability to willingly work together for the betterment of our community and themselves.

betterment of our community and themselves. This is extremely important and very valuable for us. The notable difference and contribution has been that they bought public opinion on emerging and current issues; new ideas to existing projects; and a refreshed energy to the team.

Both Liz and Bianca worked on development of the agency policies and procedures, under the direction of the CEO and Board. The agency quality improvement program and accreditation was finalised and submitted to the Quality Improvement Council gaining certification and with a three year implementation program ensuring we comply with the quality improvement cycle.

The Administration Officer continues to coordinate Positive Life events and support project work including regional outreach forums. Some of the highlights throughout the year were meaningfully connecting Positive Life with people living with HIV in NSW; at Peer 2 Peer, Social Cub, Under 35s, Genesis, and the Annual General meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

Staff



Craig Cooper
Chief Executive
Officer



Alex Galeazzi
Deputy Chief
Executive Officer



Lance Feeney
Senior Policy
Advisor



Craig Andrews
Communications &
Positive Speakers' Bureau
Coordinator



David Crawford
Treatments
Officer



Neil Fraser
HIV Work Ready
Program Officer



Cameron Darling
Housing Support
Officer



Daniel Mills
Volunteer

Board



Jane Costello
President



Robert Agati
Vice President



Cameron Colwell
Treasurer



Campbell Boag
Secretary



Peter Schlosser
Director



Garth Boulton
Director



David Pieper
Director



Paul Caleo
Director



Craig Cooper
CEO, Ex officio



Craig Andrews
Staff Representative,
Ex officio

BOARD STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Jane Costello

President

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 a positive speaker, then in 2009 as a member, Ordinary Director and Vice President 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 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) Editorial Committee.

Robert Agati

Vice President

Robert Agati joined Positive Life in late 2013 in a volunteer capacity providing governance advice to the Constitutional Working Group. He was seconded onto the Positive Life NSW Board in May 2014 before being appointed a full Director and elected to its executive as Vice President in December that year.

With significant experience with board and stakeholder governance, at grass-roots Robert believes in the importance of changing systems and practices that discriminate against PLHIV, their partners, family members and significant others.

Robert is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a member-subscriber of the Governance Institute of Australia. Robert is the Company Secretary and Head of Corporate Governance at HSBC Bank Australia.

Cameron Colwell

Treasurer

Currently Treasurer of the Board, Cameron joined the Positive Life NSW Board in 2011 as an Ordinary Director 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.

Cameron is continuing studying for his Advanced Diploma of Accounting and is a member of the Positive Speakers Bureau.

Campbell Boag

Secretary

Campbell Boag was seconded onto the Positive Life NSW Board in 2014 before being appointed a full Director to the Board at the 2015 AGM and elected to its executive as Secretary and a member of the Finance and Governance Committee.

With expertise in finance and corporate governance as an academic doing post-graduate research, Campbell has 30 years' experience in Funds Management, including as a Director of Rothschild Australia Asset Management Ltd and Principal of Confluence Asset Management Ltd. As well as analytical skills, Campbell brings strong business experience and contacts to PLNSW.

Peter Schlosser

Director

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.

Peter is a retired Secondary Teacher, Artist and Designer. He is passionate about advocacy and improving the lives of PLWHA. Peter is currently an Ordinary Board Member of Positive Life.

Garth Boulton

Director

Garth Boulton became a Positive Life NSW member, volunteer and Positive Speaker in 2006 and joined the Positive Life NSW Board in 2015 as an Ordinary Director.

Garth has a focus on regional outreach and youth peer support and enjoys singing, restoration projects and is a coffee nazi.

David Pieper

Director

David Pieper joined the Positive Life NSW Board in 2015 as an Ordinary Director with a focus on community engagement and HIV/hep C co-infection. With experience as the Campaigns Coordinator for Hepatitis NSW he has led community based campaigning for access to Direct Acting Antiviral treatments for hep C.

Paul Caleo

Director

Paul Caleo joined the Positive Life NSW Board in 2014 as an Ordinary Director with a desire to help eliminate stigma surrounding HIV. He previously held a number of field and management positions in the Home and Community Care sector with the former Home Care Service of NSW.

Paul has been involved with the promotion of health literacy and self-management, and is a consumer advocate and the Positive Life NSW nominated representative with Health Consumers NSW where he has been a director for three years. Paul is passionate about a proactive approach to health and wellbeing and in particular ageing with HIV and is a speaker with the Positive Speakers Bureau.



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue from grants	10	881,601	854,445
Other revenue		106,220	90,903
Interest income		7,424	8,920
Employee benefits expenses	15	(496,913)	(477,827)
Depreciation expense		(6,728)	(10,685)
Occupancy expenses		(26,761)	(26,499)
Bad debts expense		(4,359)	(570)
Finance costs		(4,297)	(6,924)
Core activity expenses	13	(399,847)	(429,911)
Surplus before income tax		56,340	1,852
Income tax expense	1(c)	-	-
Surplus after income tax		56,340	1,852
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		56,340	1,852

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	293,490	212,194
Trade and other receivables	3	4,999	7,543
Other	4	25,129	15,623
Total current assets		323,617	235,360
Non current assets			
Property plant & equipment	5	21,973	5,171
Total non current assets		21,973	5,171
Total assets		345,591	240,531
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	10,056	14,685
Provision - Annual Leave	7	37,552	32,122
Other	9	55,166	10,831
Long Service Leave Provision	7	16,210	12,626
Total current liabilities		118,984	70,264
Non current liabilities			
Total non current liabilities		-	-
Total liabilities		118,984	70,264
Net assets		226,607	170,266
Accumulated funds			
Accumulated surplus at beginning of the year		170,267	168,415
Current Year surplus		56,340	1,852
Total accumulated funds		226,607	170,267

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total \$
At 1 July 2014	168,415	168,415
Surplus, after income tax	1,852	1,852
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,852	1,852
At 30 June 2015	170,267	170,267
At 1 July 2015	170,267	170,267
Surplus, after income tax	56,340	56,340
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year	56,340	56,340
At 30 June 2016	226,607	226,607

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from donors & granting bodies	1,016,814	936,641
Payments to suppliers & employees	(919,412)	(971,105)
Interest received	7,424	8,920
Interest and other costs of finance paid	-	-
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	104,826	(25,544)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Payments for furniture & fittings and plant & equipment acquired	(23,530)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(23,530)	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	81,296	(25,544)
Cash at the beginning of the year	212,194	237,738
Cash at the end of the year	293,490	212,194

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

These RDR financial report have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements and interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB); the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012 and the New South Wales Associations Incorporation Act 2009, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and associated regulations, as appropriate for not-for-profit entities.

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.

New, revised or amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted.

Positive Life Inc has adopted all of the new, revised or amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new, revised or amending accounting standards or interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on the 28th of September 2016.

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

(a) Grant Income

Grants are recognised at their fair value where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attached conditions will be complied with.

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.

(b) 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.

Donations are recognised at the time the pledge is made. Events, fundraising and raffles are recognised when received or receivable.

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

(c) Income Tax

Positive Life NSW Inc. is a recognised public benevolent institution under the subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, and is exempt from paying income tax.

(d) Cash

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(e) Trade and other receivables

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any provision for impairment.

(f) Property, Plant & Equipment

Plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land) over their expected useful lives as follows:

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

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the incorporated association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

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.

(g) Impairment of non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

(h) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the incorporated association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(i) 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.

(j) Employee Entitlements

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Other long-term employee benefits

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

(k) Fair value measurement

When an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date; and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principal market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming they act in their economic best interests. For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement is based on its highest and best use. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, are used, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

(l) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

(m) Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The incorporated association determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets

The incorporated association assesses impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the incorporated association and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions. At the balance sheet date, no such impairment indicators exist.

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 1(j), the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

(n) 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.

(o) 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.

(p) Presentation and Functional Currency

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

(q) 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.

(r) Financial Liabilities

At balance sheet date the Association has access to a business credit card facility totalling \$7,000 of which none has been utilised (2015 \$2,164). Funding to the Association is provided by Community Sector Banking, Bendigo Bank.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash at Bank:		
Operating Bank Account	85,465	37,345
Debit Card	-	43
Term Deposits	207,916	174,283
	293,382	211,671
Cash on Hand:		
Petty Cash	109	523
	293,490	212,194

(a) Reconciliation of cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at banks and investments in money market instruments. Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash	293,490	212,194
Bank overdraft	-	-
	293,490	212,194

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

Profit for the year	56,340	1,852
Non-cash flows in profit		
Depreciation	6,728	10,685
Increase/(decrease) in assets		
Trade and other receivables	2,544	(1,997)
Other current assets	(9,505)	(2,804)
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities		
Trade and other payables	(4,630)	(12,373)
Other liabilities	44,335	1,257
Provision - Annual leave	5,430	(3,921)
Provision - Long service leave	3,584	(18,243)
Net cash provided by operating activities	104,827	(25,545)

NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables	4,999	7,543
	4,999	7,543

NOTE 4: OTHER ASSETS

Current

Prepayments	8,970	1,760
GST receivable	16,159	13,861
	25,129	15,623

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

NOTE 5: PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Furniture & Fittings - At Cost	3,233	3,233
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(3,233)	(3,233)
	-	-
Office Equipment - At Cost	70,768	47,239
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(48,795)	(42,740)
	21,973	4,500
Software - At Cost	7,340	7,340
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(7,340)	(6,670)
	-	671
	21,973	5,171

(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
	\$	\$	\$	\$
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	-	4,498	673	5,171
2016				
Balance at the beginning of year	-	4,498	673	5,171
Additions		23,530		23,530
Depreciation expense	-	(6,055)	(673)	(6,728)
Write off		-	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of the year	-	21,973	-	21,973

NOTE 6: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade Creditors	4,406	8,707
PAYG Withholding	5,650	5,017
Other Payables	-	961
	10,056	14,685

NOTE 7: PROVISIONS	2016	2015
Annual Leave (including loading) - Current	37,552	32,122
Long Service Leave - Current	-	-
Long Service Leave - Non-current	16,210	12,626
	53,762	44,748

In the Statement of Financial Position a statutory provision of accrued annual leave is made of \$37,552 (2015: \$32,122) and long service leave of \$16,210 (2015: \$12,626). 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.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

NOTE 8: NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

	2016	2015
Number of employees at year end	6	6

NOTE 9: OTHER LIABILITIES

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Current		
Grants in advance	26,449	-
Credit card expenses	-	2,164
Accruals	28,717	8,667
	55,166	10,831

NOTE 10: OPERATING GRANTS

Grant income recognised

NSW Department of Health	872,500	845,700
Other Grants	9,101	8,745
	881,601	854,445

NOTE 11: FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Income from Fundraising Activities

Miscellaneous Donations	76,093	74,692
	76,093	74,692

Less: Expenses of Fundraising Activities

Fundraising expense	-	-
	-	-

Surplus/(Loss) on Fundraising Activities

Miscellaneous Donations	76,093	74,692
Net surplus on fundraising activities	76,093	74,692

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

NOTE 12: MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Board Meeting, Annual Reports & Annual General Meeting Costs	15,410	13,090
	15,410	13,090

NOTE 13: CORE ACTIVITY EXPENSES

Positive Speakers' Bureau	33,683	44,204
Community Development & Health Promotion	148,489	214,796
Policy	43,994	27,459
Governance	382	1,128
Administration Services	152,212	142,324
Communications, Auspice and Work Ready Program	21,086	-
	399,847	429,911

NOTE 14: AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

Audit services - ESV	7,000	5,000
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

NOTE 15: EMPLOYEE RELATED COSTS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Salaries & wages	434,853	457,908
Employee leave entitlements	9,014	(22,166)
Superannuation	40,454	37,014
Workers' compensation insurance	9,654	2,634
Staff recruitment costs	1,756	2,437
Others	1,183	-
	496,913	477,827

NOTE 16: INSURANCE

The Association has the following insurance policies which were in place and current as at 30 June 2016.

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:	5,269	5,073
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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.

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 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.

NOTE 19: RELATED PARTIES

Key management personnel:

The following remuneration rates were paid to key management personnel

1. Craig Cooper

Appointed: 17/03/2014

Short term employee benefits: Salaries and wages \$82,923, Superannuation \$7,878

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:

- not later than 1 year	6,241	6,241
- later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	4,154	8,551
- later than 5 years	-	-
	10,394	14,792

(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 (2015: 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:

- (a) Complies with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012 and New South Wales Legislation the Associations Incorporations Act 2009, the Charitable Fundraisings Act 1991 and associated regulations.
- (b) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Positive Life NSW Inc. as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and
- (c) 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:



Jane Costello

President



Cameron Colwell

Treasurer

Dated this 28th day of September 2016

Statement by the President

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.



Jane Costello

President

Dated this 28th day of September 2016

Independent audit report to the members of Positive Life NSW Incorporated

ACCOUNTING AND
BUSINESS ADVISORS



Independent Audit Report to the Members of Positive Life NSW Incorporated

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Positive Life NSW Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, 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 – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012, Charitable Fundraising Act 2012 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 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other mandatory professional and statutory reporting requirements in Australia including section 24 of the *Charitable Fundraising Act (NSW) 1991* and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Dated at Sydney on the 29th day of September 2016.

ESV Accounting and Business Advisors

Tim Valtwies
Partner

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13

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