



Annual report

2019–20

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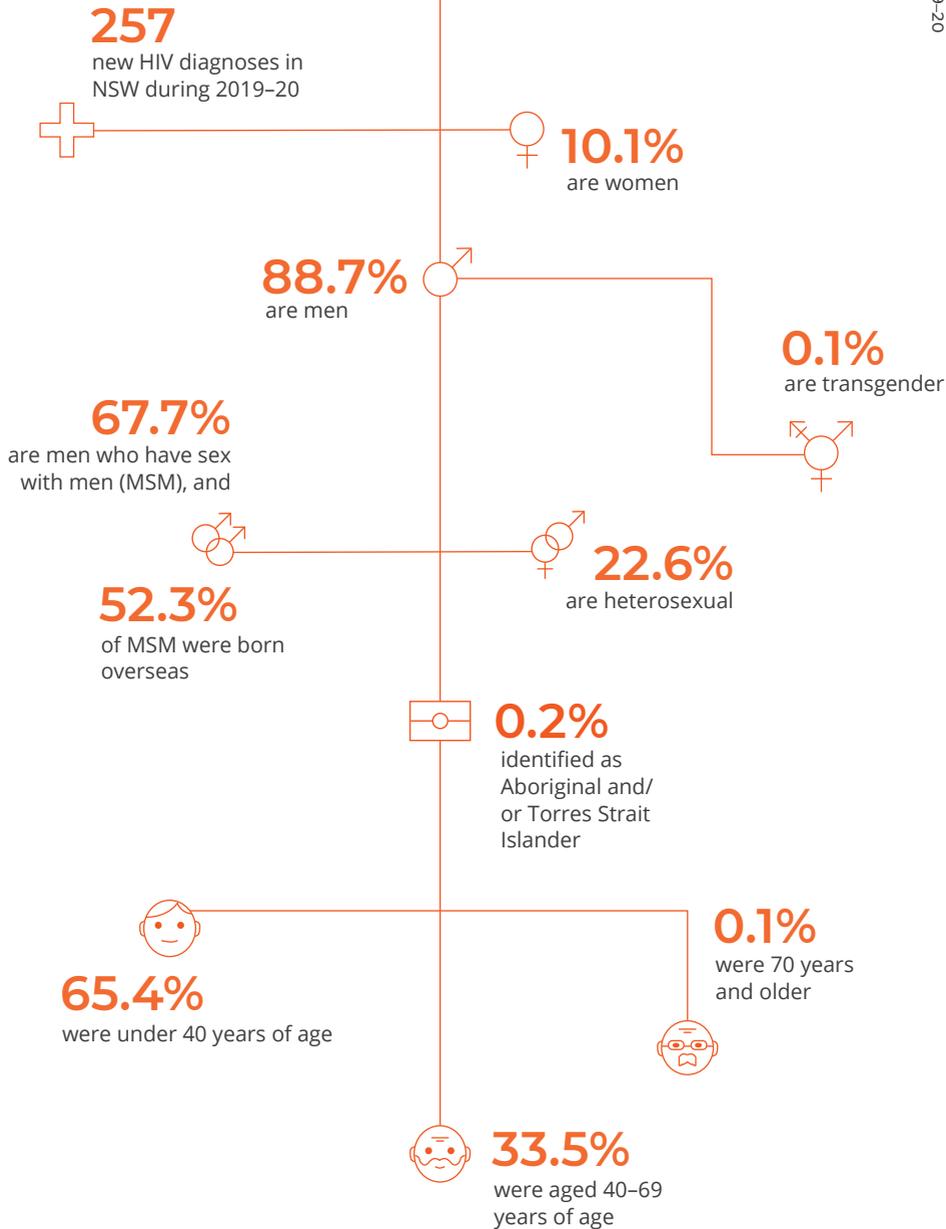
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HIV in NSW





Speaking up

Joint CEO's report

Over the past twelve months, Positive Life has continued to remain vital and central to the HIV response thanks to the combined efforts of staff, Board Directors, Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB) speakers, volunteers, our funders, members and allies.

This financial year we've continued our representation of people living with HIV (PLHIV) across the NSW HIV sector voicing your interests and needs against emerging themes and other issues of importance to all of us living with HIV in NSW. On World AIDS Day we held a thoughtful 2019 World AIDS Day event at the Chinese Gardens of Friendship where we celebrated the International 2019 theme 'Communities make the Difference', with a range of speakers from diverse communities and peers living with and affected by HIV. Here we shared stories and remembered those we've lost to HIV/AIDS alongside our partners and allies. During 2019/20 we had a brand refresh, which many of you emailed or rang the office with positive feedback, and in May 2020 we also welcomed a new program with the Aboriginal co-design project.

In the midst of this financial year, the unexpected arrival of COVID-19 in late January 2020 forced significant changes on our community. It affected how we meet, where we socialised and how Positive Life

continued to do business. Our year-long messaging 'Hidden in plain sight', was impacted. Plans, events, consultations and projects became hidden in plain sight due to the impact of COVID-19 and the effects of physical distancing.

This financial year has also been the closing twelve months for the NSW HIV Strategy 2016–2020 as well as our current Positive Life NSW Strategic Plan 2016–2020. One of the main impacts of COVID-19, was on our consultation plans to bring the NSW PLHIV community together to discuss these plans and set the strategic direction for the next five years (#Beyond2020). These consultations pivoted swiftly to a focused online consultation process, so we could ensure the voice of NSW members and community were still heard. From March to June we used a number of different methods to ensure your voice was included in these consultations. As we look forward to the launch of the new NSW HIV Strategy, we will delay the publication of our own Positive Life Strategic Plan to align our approaches with the state plan. We anticipate this will occur in the early weeks of 2021.

Despite a full year now of living and working under the COVID-19 pandemic, Positive Life has managed to maintain a vibrant response and focus on the NSW HIV agenda in the

interests of PLHIV, including people at-risk of HIV and people closest to us who are also affected by HIV in NSW.

If there's anything we can take from the colliding pandemics of HIV and COVID-19 throughout the past financial year, together we've experienced a number of stark reminders that no 'one system fits all'. Now more than ever, we need tailored approaches to address the needs of all PLHIV.

We were reminded of the importance of engaging as a community to support each other and share our experiences and stories. For those of us who have the privilege to engage online, our adoption of technology has advanced at least five years in a matter of months. Our community, especially PLHIV from rural and regional NSW have explored the benefits of fortnightly social events on Zoom meetings and webinars for over nine months now. At the same time, we recognise there will always be members of our community who are on the opposite side of the digital divide, and who need a more individual, nuanced approach.

In turn, this has highlighted the divide of digital literacy hidden in plain sight and expanded our capacity as we quickly responded to offer ways to raise digital competency through our new Digital Mentors program. In the New Year this program will move into a new phase of enrolling Positive Life members with a number of benefits that target members. In

this way, we seek to engage with even more people living with HIV across NSW and continue to ground our responses by putting people at the centre of finding local solutions.

Whether you're living with HIV in a rural or regional area or reside in a densely populated yet physically distanced metropolitan area of NSW, we know there no single tried-and-true approach to ensure people remain free of HIV. HIV testing, treatment and care must remain accessible to everyone across NSW regardless of Medicare eligibility, and health or digital literacy levels, and all PLHIV are linked in with appropriate models of healthcare. Leaving people behind is not an option. No one is safe, until everyone is safe.

As you read this 2020–21 report, we hope you enjoy another chapter in the story of Positive Life NSW. Disease will always remain the embodiment of inequality in our society. By sustaining our social connectedness, and recognising the collective aspects of transmission and prevention, we continue to search for effective tools that preserve our solidarity and celebrate our shared responsibility in ending HIV transmission.

Neil Fraser & Craig Andrews

Co-CEOs, 1 July 2019 – 11 November 2019

Jane Costello

CEO, 11 November 2019 – current



World AIDS Day Celebration, December 2019 at the Chinese Garden of Friendship



Positive Life CEO, Jane Costello at the World AIDS Day Parliamentary Breakfast November 2019



2020 messaging: Hidden in Plain Sight

Positive Life NSW | Digital Mentors

Supporting people living with HIV to build confidence and digital skills using computers, mobile devices and the internet, in a supportive, safe and friendly space across NSW metropolitan and regional areas.

Contact Positive Life NSW for dates and venue details on (02) 9206 2177 or 1800 245 677 (freecall)

Digital Mentors promotion

President's report

The last twelve months have been unprecedented. As an agency, our mission to eliminate HIV prejudice has been highlighted alongside the COVID-19 epidemic. Like HIV, COVID-19 doesn't discriminate, and although there continues to be HIV stigma and discrimination, the fear and discrimination caused by COVID-19 harkens me to reflect on my own experiences of HIV stigma.

My report last year reported on the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Office (CEO). After a thorough and competitive selection process, we announced the appointment of Jane Costello as incoming CEO. Jane is thoroughly passionate about ensuring better health outcomes for PLHIV and deeply committed to the agency. In the intervening period leading to her appointment, Positive Life operated under the stewardship of Neil Fraser and Craig Andrews as acting CEOs. My sincere thanks go to both Neil and Craig for doing such an amazing job.

As the year draws to a close, so does the Positive Life Strategy and the NSW HIV Strategy 2016–2020. Positive Life's community consultations ahead of the publication of our new Strategy will outline our commitment to its targets and activities and help us track impacts on PLHIV. At the time of writing, with our new Strategy in

progress and the NSW Health HIV Strategy yet to be released, Positive Life remains committed to ensuring the voices of so-called 'hidden' or 'hard-to-reach' groups of people are represented, including heterosexual PLHIV, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PLHIV, women living with HIV, refugees, alongside men who have sex with men (MSM).

As the leading peer-led and run HIV community organisation in NSW, our ability to connect and engage with the largest group of PLHIV in Australia, must remain firm. We strive to remain focused and respond to the emerging needs of all PLHIV. This is due to the commitment and dedication of our Board, staff and volunteers, including the participation of our members and collaboration with our agency partners and HIV sector allies.

Overarching this is the critical funding support we receive from NSW Health, the MAC AIDS Fund and ViiV Healthcare. I cannot thank you enough for all that you do for PLNSW.

Robert Agati

President

Treasurer's report

I'm pleased to present my report and the financial statements of Positive Life NSW for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

During this financial year the Agency has adopted all of the new, revised or amended accounting standards and interpretations issued by the AASB (Australian Accounting Standards Board) that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

The 2020 financial year saw income totalling \$1.141m, slightly down on the previous year. This slightly lower amount was a result of the Agency adopting the Australian Accounting Standard AASB 15 – Revenue from contracts with customer. This is the first year the Agency has adopted this accounting standard and as explained in more detail in Note 1, as a result \$12,760 of income needed to be deferred to the future year. Otherwise revenue would have increased based on the prior year. Expenses overall were slightly lower than the previous year which has resulted in the Agency making a small profit of \$7,721.

Grants received this year are from the NSW Ministry of Health being our core grant; MAC Cosmetics for health and housing, ViiV Healthcare for Ageing Support and Peer Navigators, the Australian Digital Health Agency for My Health Record, Department of Infrastructure for Stronger

Communities and the City of Sydney for living with anxiety and depression.

Net Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB) income and expenses were below budget and that of the previous year due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is ongoing, and the assistance of the government during the period has seen an increase in cash flow and income for the Association. While it has been financially positive for the Agency up to 30 June 2020, it is not practicable to estimate the potential impact, positive or negative, after the reporting date.

Positive Life maintained a sound balance sheet position throughout the year. Assets were predominantly cash at bank and on deposit, whilst total liabilities included grants in advance. Cash, reserves and financial ratios remained healthy throughout the period, which ensured that we were able to meet our financial obligations as and when they fall due. At the end of the financial year, Positive Life retained earnings of \$208k which provided a buffer in case of any unforeseen expenses, or interruption or delays in relation to our sources of funding.

Cameron Clark
Treasurer

Policy & research

Throughout the 2019–20 financial year, Positive Life was once again extremely active in representing the interests of all PL HIV across NSW, and advocating on the behalf of our community. Positive Life is a valued partner in health research that affects all of our communities, supporting relevant and effective research that embodies the principle of ‘nothing about us without us.’ Our research partnerships include the Kirby Institute and the Centre for Social Research, UNSW; the University of Western Sydney; St Vincent’s Hospital; and the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS), La Trobe University.

The NSW Body Positive is represented by Positive Life NSW on advisory groups including Adahps, Albion Street, Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine, Australian Digital Health Agency, Health Consumers NSW, HIV Interagency, HIV Outreach Team, NSW Ministry of Health, South East Sydney Local Health District, South West Sydney Local Health

District, Sydney Local Health District, Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service/Pozhet, 414 Close The Gap Group, Treatments Officers Network, Stanford House, and Yaralla House.

Additionally, we also chair a number of working or advocacy groups around areas such as ageing and aged care, HIV complex and coordinated care, anal cancer and HPV.

Of the ten submissions representing the interests of PLHIV, eight were made at the federal level on issues which stand to significantly impact the largest group of PLHIV in Australia. These were matters that impinged upon our human rights, law reform, income support, national census data, the retirement income system, homelessness, ageing and the Aged Care system.



“I’m blown away by not only the quality of the submission, but also the recommendations, which I feel are very politically sound and importantly, evidence based. Congratulations to all those who were involved in its creation. It makes me feel proud to be a member of Positive Life NSW.”

– Joel, PLNSW Member



“Thanks, delighted to learn of this submission; it affects all people with health-related impacts on working capacity so any gains in the outcomes will be magnified in effect across the disability sector.”

– Dr Roger Garcia



10

submissions to government were made during this financial year



121

meetings, symposiums, committees and working groups were attended across NSW to represent PLHIV

Reaching out



Consultation & engagement

In this financial year, Positive Life continued to consult broadly with our members, stakeholders and community. Consultations during this time focused on the direction of the agency's strategic focus to ensure we are accurately representing the needs and voice of PLHIV in NSW with confidence.

Positive Life conducted four community surveys during this financial year:

- October 2019: The Trans and Gender Diverse (TGD) Needs Assessment Survey in partnership with the Gender Centre which received 788 respondents.
- March 2020: Mardi Gras Parade Participant Feedback.
- March 2020: After the unexpected turn of events with COVID-19, we consulted broadly with community members through the 'Communicating with you in a time of COVID-19' survey to find out the best ways we could continue to maintain communication pathways with PLHIV in NSW
- April 2020: With the ending of our previous five-year Strategic Plan 2015–2020, we invited members and HIV sector stakeholders to participate in feedback on the Positive Life NSW Strategic Plan over the past five years and guidance on what was important to focus on for the next five years 2021–25.

Positive Life participated in six partnership events with HIV sector stakeholders during this financial year:

- August 2019: HIV and Immigration Information Session with HALC and ACON
- October 2019: 2019 Honour Awards in partnership with ACON
- November 2019: Ending HIV discussion with ACON
- November 2019: HIV Treatments By the Sea with ACON Northern Rivers
- March 2020: Update on Treatments and COVID-19 with Tree of Hope
- May 2020: HIV Treatments Forum presented with ACON.



Promotion of the Trans and Gender Diverse (TG) Needs Assessment survey

Positive Life conducted three consultation forums with community during this financial year:

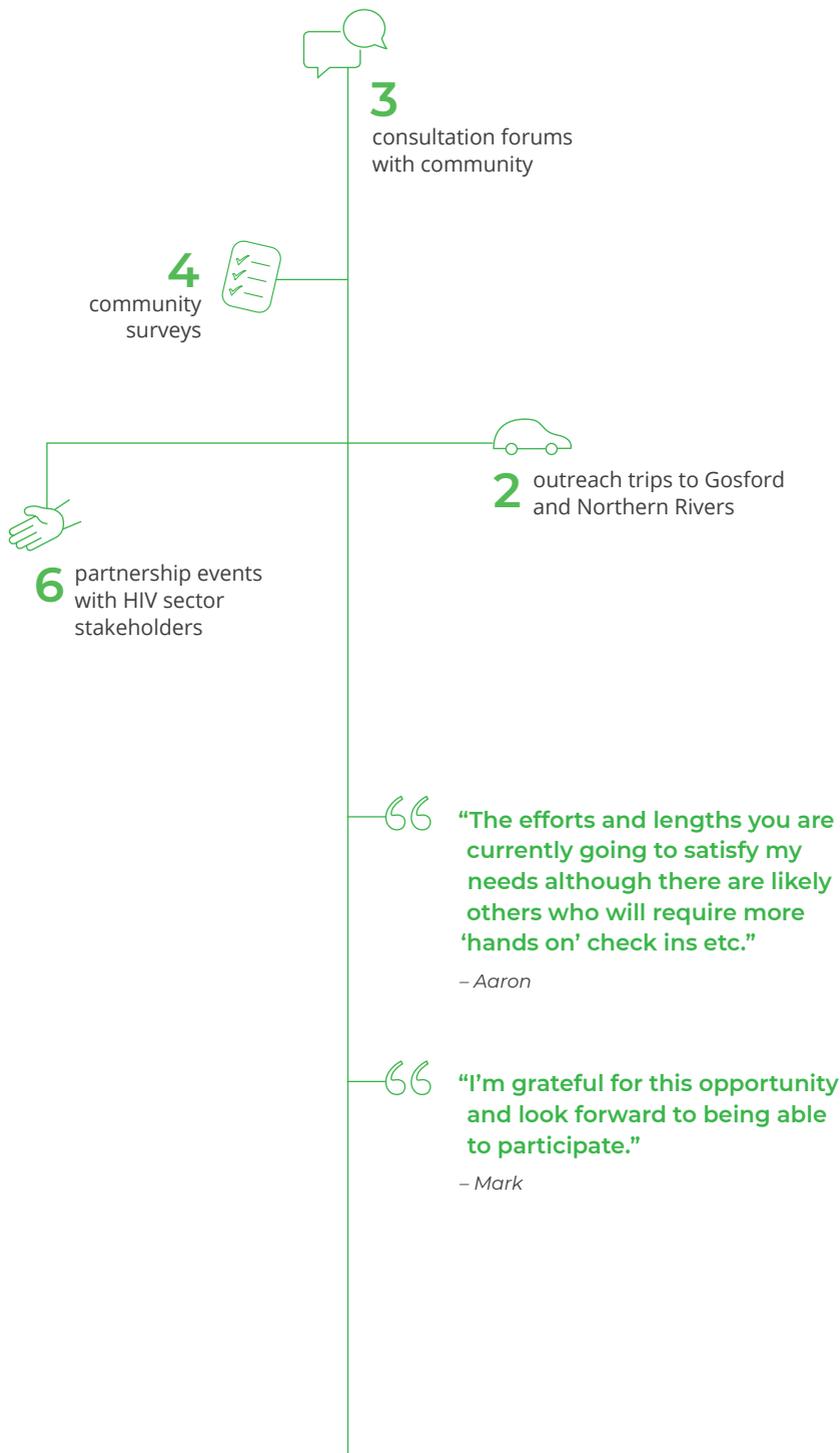
- July 2019: Community consultation in Gosford
- October 2019: HIV and the Brain, Now and the Future in Sydney
- June 2020: Strategic Plan Consultation #Beyond2020 (online).



Positive Life participants in our 2020 Mardi Gras Parade entry



Promotion for the COVID-19 toolkit newsletter



“The efforts and lengths you are currently going to satisfy my needs although there are likely others who will require more ‘hands on’ check ins etc.”
– Aaron

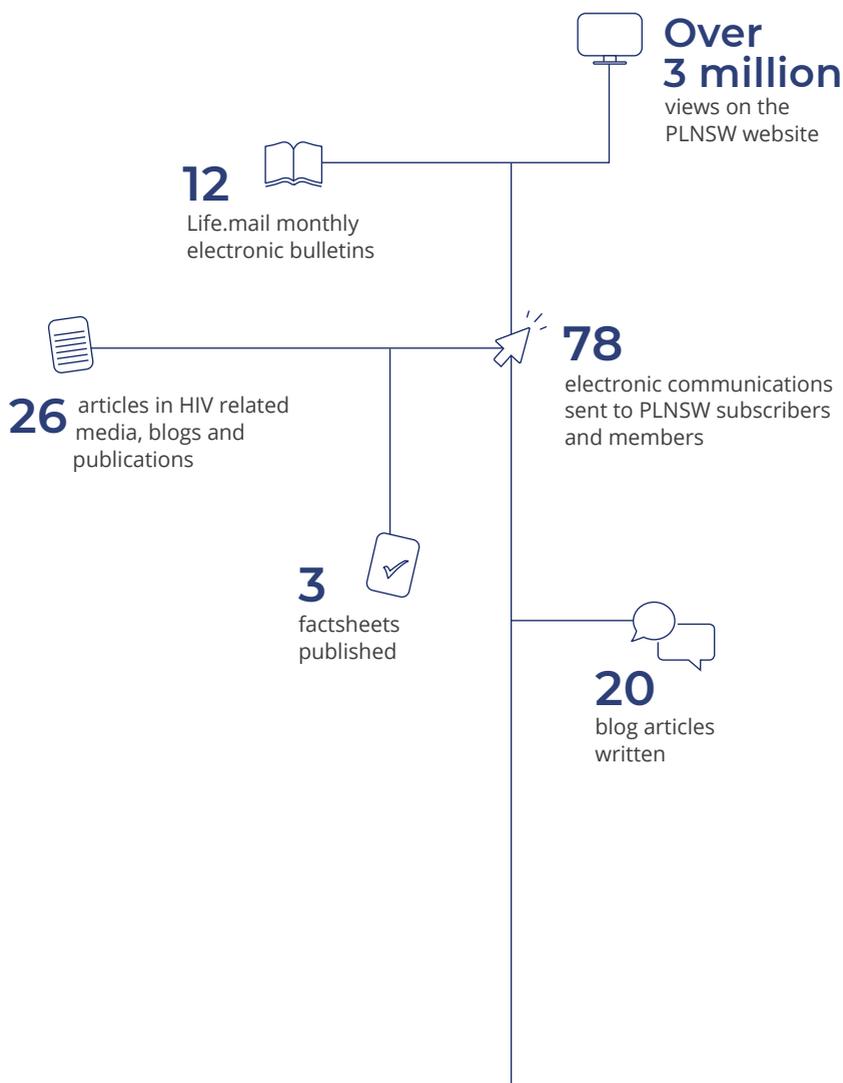
“I’m grateful for this opportunity and look forward to being able to participate.”
– Mark



Our voice

Communications

In this financial year, the voices of PLHIV have continued to be heard across NSW throughout a range of strategies, platforms both online and in print.

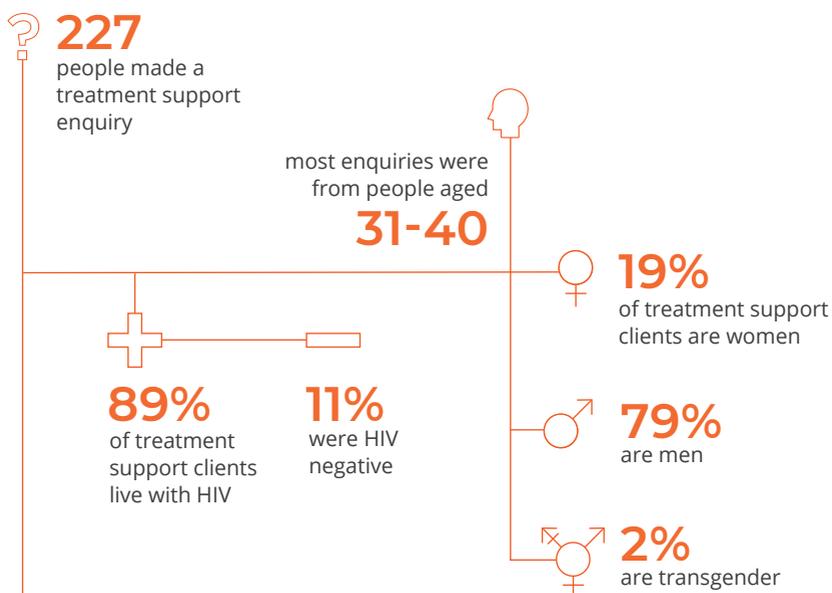


Making it happen

Treatments support

Positive Life Treatments Officer offers support, information and advocacy to PLHIV and their partners, family and friends who are affected by HIV across metropolitan and regional NSW. PLHIV are supported to build their knowledge, capabilities and capacity about HIV and treatments to live well with HIV.

Throughout this annual reporting time period:

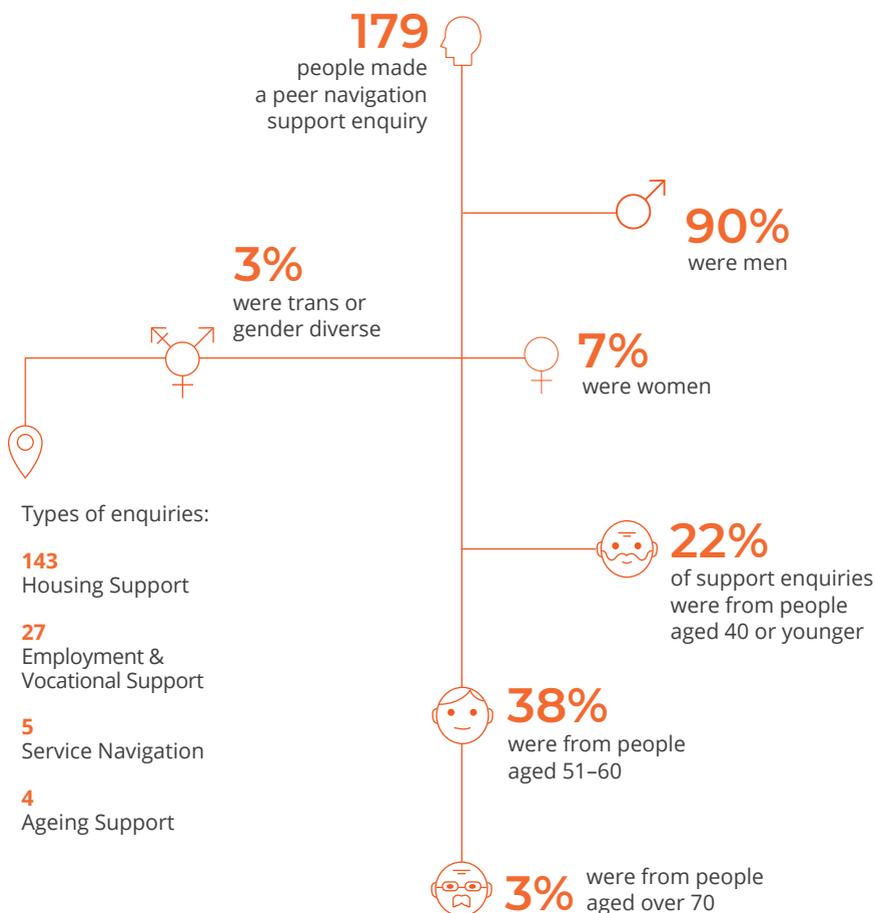


“I am living with HIV, also stage 3 anal cancer. I take Biktarvy and am medication compliant. Sources say HIV medication may help the spread of the virus. I have been tested for COVID-19 and am clear. I do not feel any symptoms. Thanks for what you do.”

– Positive Life Community Member?

Peer navigation

Positive Life's Peer Navigation program brings together our housing, employment and ageing support service delivery that empower PLHIV to obtain timely, essential and appropriate HIV-related medical and social services to optimise their health and wellbeing.



Housing support

Positive Life's Housing Support Officer is responsible for support and advocacy to PLHIV in metropolitan and regional NSW to access, achieve and maintain stable accommodation, including those at risk of homelessness.

Housing case study

Barry* has been living with HIV for many years. He also lives with a number of comorbidities including restrictions to his mobility. He has been residing in his public housing unit without issue until new tenants moved in next door. Barry experienced a high degree of anti-social behavior from the new tenants including excessive noise at all hours and property damage to the common areas. When he approached the neighbours to address his concerns, he was verbally threatened and abused. Barry made formal complaints to his local housing office but felt unsupported.

The Positive Life Housing Support Officer validated Barry's concerns and supported him at a meeting at his local housing office to seek a resolution. They advised that this matter was proceeding to the tribunal to seek an eviction. Unfortunately, the tribunal ruled that the neighbours would retain their tenancy. This was particularly distressing for Barry as he was overwhelmed at the idea of having to continue living in this distressing environment.

Positive Life assisted Barry in making an application for a transfer which included copies of his witness statements and police event numbers. His application for a transfer was approved and Barry accepted an offer of a unit in another area where he lives safely with less anxiety in his new home.

**Real names have not been used.*



“Thank you very much John. Appreciate your untiring support and kindness.”

– Fred

Housing case study

Sharon* is an elderly woman residing in regional NSW. She had been renting privately which was becoming increasingly difficult to manage on the aged care pension. She also had additional debts left for her to pay from her husband before he died. Her nearest HIV services were in a town over an hour's drive from where she was living. Sharon relied on public transport which was time consuming and aggravated her other medical conditions. With her health in decline, her property needed modifications which her landlord was unwilling to carry out.

The Positive Life Housing Support Officer supported Sharon in making an application for social housing including collating all the complex evidence requirements. She wanted to live closer to her daughter who would be able to provide ongoing support. Unfortunately, the Department of Communities and Justice rejected her application for priority housing.

With support from Positive Life, Sharon navigated two appeals to the Housing Appeals Committee. They agreed that the original assessor did not take all the evidence provided into consideration and overturned their previous decision.

Sharon recently accepted an offer of social housing in her desired area. This property is close to her daughter and has the necessary modifications such as access ramps and handrails in the bathroom. She is now successfully managing her tenancy without the stress of unrealistic rent increases and threat of eviction.

**Real names have not been used.*



**“Thank you so so much John for everything.
I am so happy finally have a home to stay
with my daughter.”**

– Mary



**“I want to say thank you for assisting me on
where to get help for the rent. I am getting
Rent Choice Assist now for 12 months at \$560
a week. A big help, thank you”**

– Peter

Employment & vocational support

The 'Work Ready' Officer supports PLHIV to build their capacity, skills and qualifications through paid or voluntary work, study, training, (casual, part-time or full-time) in their community.

Employment case study

Jerry* is a man who lives with HIV who lived alone with his rescue dog 'Laser' in the inner Sydney area. Jerry has been out of employment for several years due to ongoing physical and mental health challenges. He had experienced stigma and discrimination from a previous employer who terminated Jerry's contract under the guise that they can no longer afford to keep him on. They offered him an unflattering severance package which he accepted yet Jerry felt his dismissal was based on him disclosing his HIV status. Without evidence backing that claim, he chose not to legally pursue compensation.

Jerry fell into a depressed state of mind after losing his job. His health took a backward slide and he ended up in hospital for several weeks with respiratory complications. After he was discharged from hospital, he concentrated on getting his health back on track. After rescuing 'Laser' from a kennel, Jerry found the company gave him motivation to refocus on life in a positive way.

Once Jerry felt he was recovered and ready to reengage with society, he visited Positive Life to enquire about the HIV Work Ready Program. He met with the Peer Support Officer (PSO) and together, they mapped out a plan that would see Jerry gain meaningful employment. Jerry had an old CV that needed updating which the PSO was able to do, as well as create a cover letter template for Jerry to use when applying for work. Jerry and the PSO collaborated weekly until Jerry was offered a casual position in the Hospitality Retail Sector.

After a few months of steady shifts, Jerry was able to renew his drivers' license and register his car. And in that same week, he drove 'Laser' to the beach for the first time.

**Real names have not been used.*

Employment case study

Sasha* is a woman living with HIV from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background. She lives in a two-bedroom apartment with three other people in the South Western suburbs of Sydney. Her 'bedroom' was a sectioned-off part of the living room. Sasha's goal was to gain employment so she could secure private rental accommodation in order to bring her partner and two children from overseas.

Sasha was referred to Positive Life by her case manager for the HIV Work Ready Program. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all communication was via telephone and email. The Positive Life Peer Support Officer (PSO) assisted Sasha in applying for work in the Food and Beverage sector.

Sasha found a vacancy in the kitchen of a local hospital and completed much of the application herself with the exception of a couple of questions. The PSO and Sasha discussed the questions together, and the PSO offered some suggestions to complete her application. Later that month, Sasha secured employment at the hospital.

Sasha is focused on saving money and looking forward to reuniting with her family in the coming months.

**Real names have not been used.*

Ageing support

Positive Life's Ageing Support program offers people over 45 years living with HIV across metropolitan and regional NSW, an advocate to explore and navigate the maze of aged care, disability and/or healthcare and find appropriate services to maintain personal independence for as long as possible.

Since its launch in 2019, the Ageing Support Program (previously Silver Warriors) has provided varying levels of support to PLHIV who are 45 years of age or older. This support was given via in-person appointments either in their homes, a place of their choosing or in the Positive Life office. From March 2020 with the risk of COVID-19, support was provided via telephone, skype or Zoom and documents were sent through email and postal services. More in-depth, one-on-one support also varied with many of the participants presenting with a range of complex needs.

The range of supports is vast, with one of the main goals of the program being to improve health literacy and numeracy for our older people living with HIV, information and navigation of the aged care, health and disability service system proved to be the top theme of support given. The barriers of complexity and bureaucracy of the

My Aged Care, Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and the NDIS can reduced with the support of the Ageing Support peer.

The Ageing Support Peer has identified numerous service access barriers faced by older PLHIV in NSW. These include online awareness, use and connectivity including access to equipment. Discussions with the Ageing Support Peer eases their anxiety and ensures they are aware of the care options they are entitled to.

Many enquiries and discussions took place with PLHIV who are not yet eligible for My Aged Care (under 65) and who wish to understand what is available when the time comes. Positive Life Ageing Support aims to address the needs of PLHIV to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible.

Ageing support case study

Gary*, a 55 year old man who lives alone in the inner west suburbs of Sydney is NDIS approved but has some negative experiences with several NDIS service providers, The Ageing Support Peer discussed options for transferring between providers and discussed his options in detail with him including, how to become a self-managed recipient of NDIS funding. Gary is currently working with his NDIS Care Coordinator to reach his goals of self-management.

Ageing support case study

Rhys* is a 60-year-old man who lives alone in his mother's house in the South West of Sydney. Rhys lives with HIV and other comorbidities. He has found living alone more difficult. He has decided he would like to move into a retirement home with nursing staff available on call. The Ageing Support Peer presented Rhys with in-depth assessment of various retirement homes which match his need requirements. Once the COVID restrictions have eased, the Ageing Support Peer will also support Rhys in attending and viewing the vacancies on offer.

**Real names have not been used.*



"I appreciate your understanding and resolve in detailing my concerns, it is much appreciated and gives me cause for optimism."

– Peter



HIV Work Ready Program

Supporting people living with HIV to engage in training and mentoring to prepare for paid or voluntary work roles

To find out how you can get involved contact Positive Life NSW
Phone 02 9206 2177 Freecall 1800 245 677 Email workready@positivelife.org.au

PositiveLifeNSW
the voice of people with HIV since 1988

Promotion for HIV Employment and Vocational Support

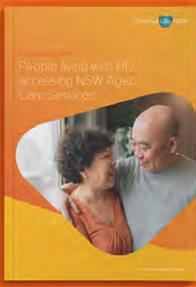


Positive Life NSW | Housing Support

Support and advocacy for people living with HIV across NSW to access, achieve and maintain stable accommodation, including those at risk of homelessness

Contact Positive Life NSW on (02) 9206 2177 or 1800 245 677 (freecall)

Promotion for Positive Life Housing Support



Positive Life NSW

Community Report:
People living with HIV
accessing NSW Aged
Care Services

People living with HIV access NSW Aged Care Services
Community Report

Getting together

Social inclusion

A number of our social inclusion and peer support events were impacted by the threat of COVID-19 and physical distancing requirements to protect the health of our community this financial year.

[+Connect] events

[+Connect] is our signature inclusive event for all PLHIV including our partners, friends and families, to get together and expand our friendship networks in a safe, accessible and friendly environment. This financial year [+Connect] was significantly impacted by the threat of COVID19. We were able to hold five events from July 2019 to March 2020 before suspending this popular social get together, in line with physical distancing requirements.

Peer2Peer meetings

Peer2Peer is a support and discussion group which meets every two months over a light evening meal for all gay and bisexual men living with HIV. The Peer2Peer group met a total of six times throughout this financial year and socialised with the Social Club (heterosexual identified PLHIV) group on two occasions. In the light of the COVID19 threat, the Peer2Peer group quickly pivoted to an online group meeting together twice.



“Thank you for inviting me to the very well organised [+Connect] Social last night. Congratulations to all the staff at Positive Life who kept the whole evening running smoothly. The atmosphere and nibbles certainly added to what was a very successful and friendly evening.”

– Ian



“Hello, I just want to express my gratitude for a lovely and relaxed night last night at Andiamo Trattoria. It was my first social involvement and I thoroughly enjoyed it.”

– William

Social Club Meetings

The Social Club is a support and discussion group which meets every month over a light shared evening meal for all PLHIV who identify as heterosexual, to get together and expand our friendship networks in a safe, accessible and friendly environment. Six social club events were held throughout this time period and facilitated by peers for peers, two of which were held in connection with the Peer2Peer group, and three of which were held online.

Peers Connect Online!

Peers Connect Online! is a new inclusive support and discussion group borne out of the COVID19 threat to mediate the impacts of physical distancing on our social and mental health and offered a more regular opportunity for peers to get together. Peers Connect Online! meets every fortnight online for all PLHIV regardless of sexuality or gender. Five online events were held throughout this time period and facilitated by peers for peers.

@[STARTx] Workshops

The @[STARTx] (previously Genesis) is a collaboration between ACON and Positive Life as a weekend workshop for gay men who have been recently diagnosed with HIV. From 2019-2020 the workshop ran three times as a peer-based workshop, run by gay men living with HIV who can relate to the experience of a new diagnosis.

Annual events

Positive Life celebrated nine annual events over this financial year which included participating in the Yabun Festival in January 2019 in partnership with ACON, HepNSW, NUAA and SWOP; the Newcastle Pride Picnic (August), the Parramatta Pride Picnic (November) and the Yaralla House social community BBQ with PLHIV residents.

Board, staff and PSB speakers joined community, HIV sector partners at the Darling Harbour Chinese Gardens of Friendship, in celebration of the 2019 World AIDS Day under the 2019 international theme 'Communities make the difference'. This morning event was supported by proud Wiradjuri woman, Yvonne Weldon, who delivered the Welcome to Country; Michelle Tobin, proud Aboriginal woman of the Yorta Yorta Nation and PSB speaker, Positive Life Board Director Andrew Heslop, and PSB speaker Mark Villar.

The 2020 Mardi Gras season in February was well attended by the Positive Life team and community members living with HIV along with our partners, friends and family. Our staff, board directors, PSB speakers and volunteers teamed up to represent Positive Life at the 2019 Fair Day. Our popular 'Poz Lounge' attracted many of our associates and friends as well as passing Fair Day attendees, alongside promotion and health information promoting DARE packs and demonstrations from a health promotion perspective.

Positive Life was well represented in the 2020 Mardi Gras Parade by PLHIV and supporters wearing black t-shirts bearing the phrase 'HIV – Hidden in Plain Sight™'. This highlighted the reality that more people than ever are living with HIV 'hidden in plain sight', and challenge the narrative around 'emerging' or 'hard-to-reach' groups of people who have been here all along since the beginning of the HIV epidemic.

In March 2020, community members, HIV sector colleagues, staff, board directors, PSB speakers and volunteers came together on the fifth National Day of Women Living with HIV at a High Tea in central Sydney to celebrate the lives of women living with HIV. In partnership with Femfatales which is the national network of women living with HIV, Positive Life, the Femfatales Chair, Katherine Leane and Professor Rebecca Guy, Professor in Epidemiology and the Program Head of the Surveillance Evaluation and Research Program, from the Kirby Institute, UNSW spoke about the importance of breaking the silence about women living with HIV in Australia today.

The Annual Sydney Candlelight Memorial in May, was held virtually with a recorded speech from Professor Anthony Kelleher, Director of the Kirby Institute and Program Head of the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program. In keeping with physical distancing guidelines, Positive Life members received a postcard with the phrase "I'm commemorating the 2020 Candlelight Memorial at home this year" to incorporate in their personal vigil commemorations, and invited to mark the commemoration on their social media as a virtual event.



“Super pleased with how the staff from Positive Life handled everything and helped to organise such an awesome night to remember”

– (Mardi Gras), anonymous survey response



“It was a fantastic event and organised perfectly. Everyone was welcoming and friendly and the parade itself was a once in a lifetime experience!”

– (Mardi Gras), anonymous survey response



333

people living with HIV and their friends attended the five [+Connect] social events



131

people attended the six Peer2Peer meetings



23

men attended the three @[STARTx] workshops



9

community annual events were celebrated



706

people viewed the 2020 Candlelight Vigil Memorial

60

people attended the National Day of Women Living with HIV event





Positive Life walking group in the 2020 Mardi Gras Parade



Promotion for our virtual 2019 Candlelight Memorial commemoration



National Day of Women living with HIV promotion on 9 March 2019



Phone 02 9206 2177 or 1800 245 677 (freecall)

Office Suite 5.2, Level 5, 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Mail PO Box 831, Darlinghurst NSW 1300

www.positivelife.org.au