

The Hon. Trevor Khan MLC  
Deputy President and Chair of Committees  
Member, NSW Parliamentary Working Group on Assisted Dying  
Parliament of NSW  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
[voluntaryassisteddying@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:voluntaryassisteddying@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**RE: Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 (NSW)**

Dear Minister Khan,

Positive Life NSW<sup>1</sup> firmly supports the NSW Parliamentary Working Group on Assisted Dying's draft Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 (NSW) (the "Bill"). We commend the NSW Parliament for considering the Bill to provide a person who has a terminal illness and who is experiencing unacceptable pain, suffering and distress to request assistance from a medical practitioner to end their life. We believe that the Bill provides adequate and acceptable conditions in relation to the operation, monitoring and safe-guarding of people's rights and self-agency in the procedure of the assisted dying process.

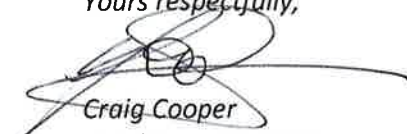
The course of HIV infection has changed significantly since the introduction of highly effective antiretroviral therapy in 1996. This has resulted in a significant decline in the annual number of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) related deaths in NSW. HIV infection is increasingly now regarded as a chronic manageable disease, however a minority of people with HIV will experience extreme pain, suffering and distress before they die from complications associated with AIDS and from other health conditions such as cancer, renal and cardiovascular disease.

The right to live with dignity has been a central tenet of the way people with HIV/AIDS have positioned ourselves as we fought for the right to engage with health professionals and to self-determine the way we live our lives. The logical corollary of this approach to life is that in the case where an individual believes their pain and loss of dignity is too great to bear, that they have the right to seek some control over the time and means of their death, we refer to this as self-delivery.

Positive Life NSW believes that when no other options are acceptable to a person to relieve their pain and suffering, that their rational requests to a medical practitioner to assist in the ending of their pain and distress should be respected, granted and facilitated.

If this submission requires additional information and clarification I can be contacted on 02 9206 2175 or alternately at [craigc@positivelife.org.au](mailto:craigc@positivelife.org.au).

Yours respectfully,



Craig Cooper  
Chief Executive Officer

14 July 2017

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<sup>1</sup> Positive Life NSW is the public face and voice of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) in NSW. We're a state-wide peer-based agency that makes a significant contribution to and positive impact across the spectrum of health and social issues on behalf of PLHIV. Positive Life collaborates with HIV specialist and mainstream organisations to improve the health and quality of life of PLHIV. We do this through evidence based health promotion, policy advice and peer support.