

The voice of all people  
living with HIV



# Annual Report 2021/22



Positive Life NSW

# The voice of all people living with HIV

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As the peer-led and run representative body of all people living with HIV in NSW since 1988, Positive Life NSW is the voice of the largest number of people living with HIV in any other state or jurisdiction in Australia.

We work to promote a positive image of people living with and affected by HIV, with the aim of eliminating prejudice, isolation, stigma, and discrimination so that all people living with HIV can achieve optimum health and wellbeing, support, connection, and quality of life.

## **Acknowledgments**

Positive Life NSW would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from NSW Health and all of our partners, contributors, and peers from all facets of the HIV sector. Positive Life NSW also wants to acknowledge the continued and tireless contribution and engagement made by people living with HIV, without whom none of the vital sector work, or advances are possible.

## **Acknowledgment of country**

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which Positive Life NSW operates from, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, and the traditional owners of all of the lands across NSW, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the ongoing connection that Aboriginal people have to land, water, culture and heritage, and recognise Aboriginal people as the original custodians of this land.

We recognise and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded, and always was, and always will be Aboriginal Land.

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# About Positive Life NSW

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Positive Life NSW is NSW's peer-led and run representative body of all people living with and affected by HIV, and the voice of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) since 1988. We empower all PLHIV in NSW with health promotion information, peer support, referrals and advice with the aim of ensuring optimum well-being, care and support.

- Our Board of Directors are elected community members all of whom live with HIV.
- We have over 33 years community experience advocating for all people living with HIV with the aim of eliminating prejudice, isolation, stigma and discrimination.
- We empower and support all people living with HIV to live their best lives by providing information, targeted referrals, and policy advice through a range of peer support and community engagement activities.
- We advocate and represent on behalf of PLNSW and lobby government, researchers and all relevant bodies about issues of concern for all people living with HIV in NSW and those affected by HIV.
- We collaborate with HIV specialists and mainstream services to improve the health and quality of life of all people living with HIV.

Positive Life NSW as a membership-based organisation is here for all people living with HIV. This includes:

- Gay and bisexual men living with HIV
- Heterosexual people living with HIV
- Women living with HIV
- Aboriginal people living with HIV
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- Migrants and refugees living with HIV
- People who use drugs
- Our family, friends and partners who are affected by HIV.

We carry out our work with people living with or affected by HIV through both our Peer Navigation and Social Inclusion Programs.



# President's Report



This year marks the ninth year that I have served on the Positive Life NSW Board, the last four of which have been as its President. While I am constantly in awe of the commitment and dedication of our staff and volunteers, it's the engagement we have with our members and the collective contribution from our Board that allows Positive Life to remain connected and engaged, focused and responsive to the emerging needs of all people living with HIV in NSW.

From time to time, Positive Life invites its members to express their interest in joining our Board. While the main role of the Board is to be responsible for the overall governance of the agency, I think it's important to clarify that board governance is more than just the systems that direct and control our organisation. It's about relationships. It concerns the relationships of the people involved with Positive Life, both between each other and with the agency itself, and the ways that the expectations of these relationships are understood and met. Governance allows the Board to exercise authority and for the people who exercise this authority to be held to account. As President, not only is it important to ensure that the overall governance of Positive Life is effective and remains fit for purpose, but also to guide the wider board's understanding of what good governance 'looks like'. While governance principles and guidance tends to focus on the role of board, it rarely looks at the governance systems in place. Earlier this year, Positive Life underwent an independent audit assessment of its governance and operational performance against sector specific standards as a minimum benchmark for quality.

I am pleased to report that the assessors found that Positive Life had met all benchmark standards. Not only were we considered well-managed, but the assessors were also impressed by our level of community engagement. We worked closely with members which fostered a consultative approach to our program development and evaluation. We showed strengths in systemic advocacy, making a number of submissions to government on topical and relevant issues; this work was enhanced by our collaboration with sector partners and presence in interagency networks and advisory groups

who viewed Positive Life as a reliable partner and voice for all people living with HIV in NSW. Our peer-led support model was respectful of people's individual circumstances. Most importantly, the assessors found that our members were provided with the support as and when they were ready, in a form that they needed, by people who like themselves were living with HIV.

As President, I'm incredibly proud of the incredible work we do, including that which goes on behind the scenes and is often unrecognised. If, like me, you want to help ensure the optimum well-being, care and support for the NSW Body Positive, I encourage you to consider joining the Positive Life Board.

As the leading peer-based HIV community organisation in NSW, our ability to connect, engage with, remain focused and respond to the emerging needs of all people living with HIV remains possible because of the commitment and dedication of our board, staff and volunteers, our members' contributions and our collaboration with agency partners and sector allies. Overarching this is the critical funding we receive from NSW Health, the MAC AIDS Fund, Gilead Sciences, City of Sydney and many others. I cannot thank you enough for all that you do for all people living with HIV in NSW.

**Robert Agati**  
President of Positive Life NSW

# Treasurer's Report



I have pleasure in providing you with this report as Treasurer of Positive Life NSW. The 2022 financial year saw total income of \$1.3m which was approximately \$111k lower than the prior year due to lower donations, revenue and Covid-related subsidies.

Grants received this year are from the NSW Ministry of Health being our core grant for the majority of our program work; Department of Communities & Justice; the Australian Government; the City of Sydney; the Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies; Aboriginal Affairs NSW; Gilead Sciences, and the MAC AIDS Fund.

Positive Life NSW ended the year with a total expenditure of \$1.3m which was \$57k higher than 2021 due to increased rent, investment in office-related infrastructure and the depreciation of office improvements completed in 2021. While this resulted in a deficit of \$29,932, the deficit was expected, as the additional expenses had come from untied funds and were still below the budgeted deficit by approximately \$9k. The overall deficit was also brought about by the Ministry of Health funding, which unfortunately is not enough to meet the cost of all the services we provide to community. We always seek to complement our core funding grant with other available sources of external funding and raise our own revenue (via untied funds) to cover the rising cost of inflation, talent shortages, etc. in order to provide the critical services that we offer.

The deficit resulted in a small drop in retained earnings year on year, to \$316,670, the majority of which was tied to term deposits, which not only earns income from interest, but provides Positive Life NSW with a safety net in case of any unforeseen major expense, or from an interruption or delay to our funding.

Overall, Positive Life NSW maintained a sound balance sheet position throughout the year. Assets were predominantly cash at bank and on term deposit, whilst total liabilities included grants in advance. Cash, reserves and financial ratios remained healthy throughout the period, which ensured that Positive Life NSW continued to be able to meet its financial obligations as and when they became due and payable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Fraser', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Neil Fraser**  
Treasurer of Positive Life NSW

# CEO Report



I'm pleased to share Positive Life NSW's Annual Report 2021–22 with you. This has been a year of challenges, change and consolidation for the organisation and our community of people living with HIV.

For the first half of the year, COVID wrought havoc on our lives, with our personal and public spheres contracting sharply against the mandated backdrop of enforced lockdowns, public health orders, and reduced health services encompassing the isolating experience of every person living with HIV in NSW throughout 2021–22. The COVID lockdowns affected our health promotion and peer support program responses in profound and unforgiving ways. Even now as I write this some four months following the end of the financial year, we are still facing the continuing uncertainty and spectre of the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to poignantly remind many of us of the early HIV/AIDS epidemic. Collectively we have lost a great deal, and we haven't yet been able to wholly grieve for our past lives and selves.

And yet it was a tale of two halves with the second half of the year heralding the spring of renewal – in the summer and autumn in fact, that saw Positive Life grow from strength to strength. We pivoted, augmented and diversified our models of service delivery to effectively counter the challenges imposed on us and our community by an inanimate, uncharitable virus thoroughly encapsulating our 2022 messaging of 'let's leave no-one behind.' With the resumption of our face-to-face services following the COVID lockdown, we have seen demand for our peer support work increase exponentially between February and June 2022. To those of us around during those early HIV/AIDS years, the sense of déjà vu throughout 2021–22 has been palpable; yet as a community who better to steer our way through such uncertainty than an organisation and community that has already been there, done that. In that respect, we've got this.

This annual report marks and celebrates those challenges and achievements. Our Peer Navigation Support Programs such as Digital Mentors responded to these challenges by increasing the digital literacy of our community to face head-on the new paradigms of primary care delivery models such as telehealth, and equipped our community members with the skills, tools and information needed to navigate the increasingly complex digital realm.

**We pivoted, augmented and diversified our models of service delivery to effectively counter the challenges imposed on us and our community by an inanimate, uncharitable virus thoroughly encapsulating our 2022 messaging of 'let's leave no-one behind.'**

While Positive Life NSW has broadened our vision and acknowledged the need to expand our work and representation for the broader community of all people living with HIV that we represent, our support for gay and bisexual men has remained as strong as ever, with over 80% of our one-on-one support delivered throughout our Peer Navigation Support Programs being directed towards gay and bisexual men. This includes ageing, housing and vocational support programs, as well as treatments advice, health promotion education and peer navigation. We have continued to run social inclusion groups such as Peer2Peer and added groups such as Hunter New England Peer2Peer for this community, and it has been invigorating to see our community move from isolation to

inclusion as our collective worlds have reopened again. One of the highlights of the year in our efforts toward achieving greater diversity, equity, and inclusion has been seeing the willingness and generosity of spirit of our community of gay and bisexual men to onwardly support, encourage and assist those from often underserved communities in the HIV response; migrants, heterosexuals, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with HIV. This has been most notable in our inclusive peer education and social support events such as [+Connect], In The Know Treatments and Research evenings, and Community Consultation and Engagement Forums where we have seen increasing representation and engagement from a diverse range of communities. Our programs for heterosexual people living with HIV have been extended to include online support groups, workshops and social inclusion events, and our organisation's quest to build strong, resilient communities has shown remarkable growth this year. For Women, The Women's Room, The Men's Room, The Social Club and heterosexual workshops have increased throughout the year, with suggestions for health education topics sought from the community as part of a co-designed model that aims to build the health literacy of these communities of people living with HIV. As the assessors in this year's successful continuous quality improvement accreditation noted, "Positive Life NSW... does significant work representing and advocating for all people living with HIV in NSW. It has undertaken a substantial shift in focus and culture over the last few years and maintains a community-led approach to work in the sector".

Positive Life NSW's systemic advocacy in 2021-22 included a range of submissions to governments, parliamentary inquiries and other agencies about issues of importance to our community members including the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill, the Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis-Exemptions from Offences) Bill, Homelessness amongst older people aged over 55 in NSW inquiry, the Mandatory Disease Testing Guidelines, and the NSW Equality Bill. We also provided advocacy and representation on numerous government, non-government, peak body, networks, community sector, clinical, social and academic research studies and advisory groups including NSW Health, LHDs, ASHM, HIV national and jurisdictional sector partners, ADHA, ACI, HCNSW, mental health, AOD, ageing, housing, LGBTQIA+, and disability organisations, UNSW, University of Sydney, UTS, University of Western Sydney, and La Trobe University.

Positive Life NSW's systemic advocacy in 2021-22 included a range of submissions to governments, parliamentary inquiries and other agencies about issues of importance to our community members.

Communicating with our members was never more important than during the COVID lockdown period, and in this time we produced a fortnightly COVID-19 Toolkit communique with updated COVID health information including public health messaging, vaccine updates, online activities and general community information. This was supplemented by a dedicated page on Positive Life's website which became the 'go to' source for information and received in excess of two million hits over a three-month period. Our regular bi-monthly edition of the electronic bulletin Life.Mail kept members informed about upcoming events, the latest campaigns and projects, and news and programs relevant to all people living with HIV across NSW, and we produced four printed copies of Talkabout magazine which were posted out to Full members free of charge. These were supplemented by blog posts and two community reports including one from the community consultation about emerging issues and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on people living with HIV's lives and experiences.

In addition to all of Positive Life's social inclusion events many of which pivoted online in 2021-22, there were a number of community events that we were able to hold back in person. World AIDS Day 2021 marked our emergence from strict lockdowns, and Positive Life NSW was privileged to be able to host a COVID-aware and safe community event at the Chinese Gardens of Friendship, coming together under the prescient theme of 'End Inequalities, End AIDS. End Pandemics'. Positive Life's Aboriginal cooking class which was due to be held as part of the 2021 NAIDOC Week events was also impacted by the COVID lockdown, but we were able to reschedule this to February 2022 to the delight of all the participants. We were also able to participate in the events surrounding Mardi Gras in February and March 2022, most notably Fair Day and the Mardi Gras Parade. It was wonderful to be back in Victoria Park providing health promotion, advice, referral and community support at Victoria Park in Camperdown once again. This year's Mardi Gras Parade was held at the Sydney Cricket Ground, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. Positive Life also held another successful high tea to commemorate the Australian National Day of Women Living with

HIV in partnership with Femfatales in March, and the annual Sydney Candlelight Memorial on the third Sunday of May in partnership with ACON in remembrance of those we have lost throughout the history of the HIV epidemic. Positive Life was privileged to have Julie Bates OAM hosting the event and welcomed Professor Basil Donovan as a keynote speaker.

The American Associate Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is famously quoted as saying that 'there are uses to adversity, and they don't reveal themselves until tested... Difficulty can tap unexpected strengths'. It would therefore not be possible to reflect on the year that was without acknowledging the incredible determination, strength and agility that has embodied the community spirit of all people living with HIV in NSW, and in none more so than our staff, Board, volunteers, and community members who have risen to the challenge of this demanding year and delivered truly exceptional results that have seen

Heading into 2022-23, our key strategies focus on continuing to grow community engagement, representation, systemic advocacy, collaboration and capacity building.

our organisation 'hit it out of the park'. I would like to extend my congratulations to all on a stellar year despite such significant challenges, and from the bottom of my heart, express my thanks and appreciation. Positive Life NSW is forever enriched by your lived experience, shared voices and indomitable spirit. I would also like to acknowledge the NSW Ministry of Health, the City of Sydney, the Department of Communities and Justice, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, the Australian Government, MAC AIDS Fund, NADA, and Gilead Sciences for their continuing partnership and support for the work that we do.

Heading into 2022-23, our key strategies focus on continuing to grow community engagement, representation, systemic advocacy, collaboration and capacity building. Prioritising these will ensure Positive Life NSW's effectiveness, success and sustainability and allow us to continue to lead, advance and celebrate the communities of all people living with HIV in NSW. We will continue to build organisational capacity and increase our capabilities to better support our community members to achieve optimal health and wellbeing outcomes and quality of life as we all respond to ongoing and new challenges.



**Jane Costello**  
CEO of Positive Life NSW





# 2021–22 Snapshot



There were **178 new HIV diagnoses** in NSW in 2021

## Exposure



**135 are men who have sex with men (MSM)**, and of these 57% were born overseas



**35 were heterosexual** and of these 54% were born overseas



**8 occurred via injecting drug use** or via another exposure

## Demographics



**6.7%** were women



**12.9%** were heterosexual men



**0.6%** were transgender



**1.2%** were from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Background



**60.7%** were under the age of 40



**48.6%** were aged between 40–69



**1.7%** were over the age of 70



## Treatment



**46%** presented as a late diagnosis



**47%** initiated treatment within 2 weeks of diagnosis and **95%** initiated treatment within 6 weeks of diagnosis



**86%** reported viral suppression at 6 months after diagnosis

## NSW HIV Strategy 2021-2025 Targets



**99%** of PLHIV were in care and on treatment



**96%** of PLHIV in NSW have an undetectable viral load



**61%** of people living with HIV report a good quality of life (2019)

# Positive Life NSW

Positive Life NSW offers peer support for all people living with HIV across NSW to navigate and access medical, clinical, employment or vocational pathways to improve our health and quality of life, as well as a range of peer support groups and social inclusion events to maintain mental health and wellbeing.



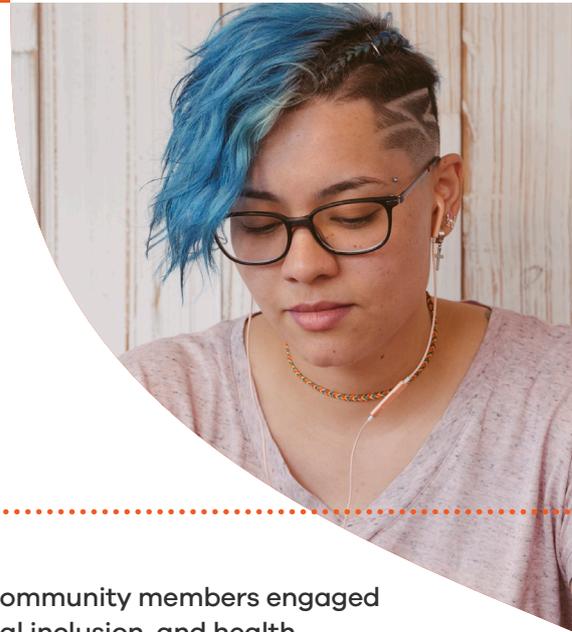
There were **248 new enrolments** into Positive Life Peer Navigation and Support Programs

**197** of new enrolments were for Housing Support

**32%** of Housing Support community members are homeless or at risk of being homeless

**63** unique community members are supported, on average, month by month

**358** support outcomes and occasions of service are offered, on average, every month



June 2022 was our busiest month for the FY 2021/2022. 199 unique community members engaged with Positive Life NSW support and peer navigation programs, social inclusion, and health promotion events in June, totaling 510 individual occasions of service. Positive Life NSW staff engaged in 20.4 community interactions every working day in June.



**892 enquiries** were received from community members living with or affected by HIV in NSW

In June 2022 there was a **35%** increase in the number of unique community members accessing services.

**59** peer inclusion events were hosted by Positive Life, such as [+Connect], Peer2Peer, Positive Conversations, Digital Mentors, The Women's Room, For Women, The Men's Room, and The Social Club.

# Our Programs

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“At Positive Life NSW we consider peer work to be an honour; and the opportunity to engage with, serve, and support the diversity of people living with HIV in NSW is a core part of our values and the work we do. Peer Navigators fully commit to encouraging innovative solutions, and promoting trauma informed, person led responses to community member needs, values and aspirations. Positive Life NSW Peer Navigation staff deliver individually tailored, expert programs support, social inclusion, advocacy, advice, referral, community development and health promotion. We bridge the gap between our own experience and the living experience of our communities by seeing the whole person and meeting people where they are at.”

— Andrew Heslop, Senior Health Promotion & Peer Navigation Manager

## Aboriginal Health Program

The Positive Life NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Living with HIV Health Co-Design project is a needs assessment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) community of NSW. It aims to co-design a culturally sensitive program/service model which achieves higher health and social determinants of health outcomes for Indigenous people in NSW, including those living with HIV and those at risk of acquiring HIV.

“Positive Life is here to support and empower all members of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community living with HIV in NSW. We can help you to access services and information that improve our health outcomes. As the Aboriginal Peer Support worker, I am available to assist you in navigating the healthcare system, connect you into the programs and events that Positive Life offer, provide health promotion information and onward referrals.”

— Michelle Tobin, Aboriginal Health Project Officer

## Ageing Support

The Positive NSW Ageing Support program offers one-on-one support for anyone living with HIV over 45 years across NSW (metropolitan, rural or regional) to navigate and access the aged care, disability and/or healthcare maze and find the services you need to live life your way. Together we can talk about what you want, what works for you, and how you can keep your independence for as long as possible. Most of our friendly and knowledgeable staff live with HIV ourselves, are non-judgemental and understand how important it is to live life your way!

## Digital Mentors

The Positive Life NSW Digital Mentors program is a peer-led program that offers support to all people living with HIV across the NSW metropolitan and regional areas to build the digital skills, digital literacy and confidence using computers, mobile devices and the internet (digital technology) in a supportive, safe and friendly space. Digital Mentors are people living with HIV who support others living with HIV to use digital technology through their first steps using computers, mobile devices and the internet. Digital Mentors will be at the forefront of efforts to improve the digital skills, literacy and social inclusion of all people living with HIV across NSW.

## Employment & Vocational Support

The Positive Life NSW Employment and Vocational support program offers practical support and advice to all people living with HIV across the NSW metropolitan and regional areas to explore your study, training, paid (casual, part-time or full-time) or voluntary work options.



## Housing Support

The Positive Life NSW Housing Support program offers support and advocacy to all people living with HIV across the NSW metropolitan and regional areas to access, achieve and maintain stable accommodation, including those at risk of homelessness.

The housing market is becoming increasingly complex. Fatigue, various trauma, COVID, and anxiety places additional barriers on our ability to perform everyday tasks such as communicating with government and social support systems, our landlords and leasing agents. Being in housing distress compounds our ability to participate fully in the world around us, leads to greatly increased mental health issues and can lead us to socially isolate from those we care about. Our housing program continues to work with our large and diverse community base, helping to navigate systems, providing referrals, and assisting a broad community of people discover and achieve their aspirational goals of living their best life with greater agency and achieving enhanced health and wellbeing outcomes.

- Housing Team

“I really appreciate the help from the Housing Program, and for linking me in with other services. I have been getting lots of job offers, and have been grateful for the time to rest and focus on my health, and build myself up so that I can get back to work. I am not used to asking for help, usually I just work hard and pay what I need to look after myself, so I wanted to thank the team at Positive Life NSW.”

- Community voice

## Partner Notification

The Positive Life NSW Partner Notification program supports people diagnosed with an STI (including HIV), to notify or tell partners with the support of someone else (a peer) who has been through the process of notifying partners (sexual or injecting) themselves. Normally called contact-tracing, this peer-led partner notification is a way for anyone newly diagnosed with an STI (including HIV) to take ownership of a critical diagnosis moment.

## Peer Support

The Positive Life NSW Peer Support program offers a wraparound integrated service to all people living with HIV regardless of gender or sexual orientation a pathway to navigate their HIV journey, get understanding and find solutions to live well with HIV. Whether it's housing needs, treatments questions, ageing, employment or vocational support, the value of speaking with and getting support from someone else with a lived experience of HIV can make all the difference.

## Treatments Support

The Positive Life NSW Treatments Support program offers one-on-one Treatments and Health support for all people living with HIV, including our partners, family and friends affected by HIV across the NSW metropolitan and regional areas.

“Positive Life NSW provides peer-based treatments support, health system navigation, advice, referrals, information, and treatments workshops to diverse communities of all people living with HIV across NSW. We provide this information to women, heterosexuals, gender and sexuality diverse folk, migrants, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and community members from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds through a variety of means, including one-on-one support, email support, and groups. Achieving health promotion messaging and equity within our communities is a key driver of the work we do daily, ensuring that our diverse communities of all people living with HIV in NSW receive accurate, timely, helpful, culturally sensitive, and compassionate treatment outcomes. This is an integral consideration of our continuing work into the future.”

- Andrew Heslop

## Women and HIV

The Positive Life NSW Women's Support program offers all woman living with HIV, peer support from another woman living with HIV, in a safe and friendly environment. We also work alongside other HIV service providers to ensure women living with HIV get the best quality services as a woman living with HIV in NSW.

# Inform & Empower

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Positive Life NSW provides peer-led support and evidence-based health information that empowers people living with HIV to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. We deliver education and services which aim to address the issues and concerns of the Body Positive in NSW and reduce stigma and discrimination.

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We provided over **100 communications** with Positive Life community members

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The Positive Life website received over **3.9 million** hits

.....  
**16** Life.mail bulletins

.....  
**2** factsheets

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**6** Talkabout magazines

.....  
**2** community surveys

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**8** media releases

.....  
**15,950** blog hits across **70** published blog articles

.....  
**5** Positive Speakers Bureau Training Sessions and  
**37** Speaking Engagements



# Connect

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Positive Life NSW understands the critical contribution that peer connection has on a person's ability to navigate their lives with HIV and achieve optimal quality of life. We aim to provide initiatives that acknowledge and utilise the power of lived experience to enhance engagement, access and opportunities for people living with HIV to connect with their peers and their community.

Each month Positive Life NSW held a range of online and in-person social inclusion and community events to help foster those connections, a sense of belonging and reduce social isolation, which was pivotal in addressing the longstanding impacts of the COVID-19 lockdowns. Many events in this 2021–22 year could not be held in-person and had to be rescheduled or cancelled due to COVID, but a significant number were pivoted to or newly created for an online format to counter social isolation.

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## Online and in-person social inclusion and community events in 2021-22:

.....  
**1** In The Know Treatments and Research

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**1** Community Consultation and Engagement Forum

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**2** [+Connect] events

.....  
**1** [+Connect Out West] events

.....  
**9** Positive Conversations

.....  
**9** The Social Club events

.....  
**1** The Men's Room

.....  
**7** The Women's Room

.....  
**4** For Women

.....  
**7** Peer2Peer

.....  
**2** Peers Connect Hunter New England

.....  
**1** a[STARTx]

.....  
**1** Yaralla House Barbeque

# Advocate & Represent

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Positive Life NSW collaborates with our HIV sector and allied health partners and stakeholders to raise, represent and advance the interests of all people living with HIV across NSW.

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## Positive Life collaborations in 2021-22:

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**82** advisory groups and committees in relevant Ministry, NSW Health, research and HIV sector groups to improve the health and quality of life of all people living with HIV.

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**48** stakeholder meetings with HIV sector partners targeting marginalised populations at risk of HIV, and increase their awareness of late HIV diagnosis and benefits of testing and treatment.

.....

**16** training and information sessions in partnership with clinicians and prescribers supporting the needs of all people living with HIV



# We remember

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## World AIDS Day

Positive Life NSW and the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation marked World AIDS Day on December 1st at the Chinese Gardens of Friendship, paying respects to those who have gone before us in the HIV community and response, and reinvigorating our commitment to the work still left to do.

“On World AIDS Day as people living with HIV we give ourselves permission to reflect and also to publicly acknowledge our grief and the losses

we’ve suffered. It is also an opportunity for people to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to provide our communities a chance to acknowledge, remember and commemorate those we have lost to the virus.”

The evening featured powerful words from Jane Costello and Nick Lawson, speaker David Polson, with performances by Aboriginal dance troupe Wagana, and music from Elki and Paul, and Jono Hendl and Steph Zarka.



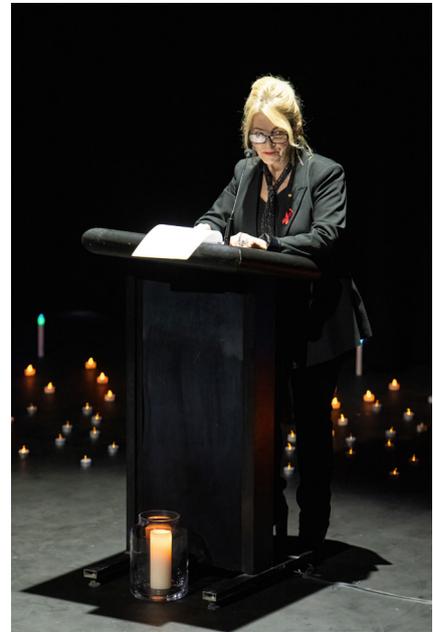


# We remember

## In remembrance

Positive Life NSW wishes to honour and mark the community members who are no longer with us, throughout the long history of HIV in NSW, but especially those we have lost in the past year.

We carry you with us.



## Candlelight Memorial

On Sunday the 15th of May, Positive Life NSW, in partnership with ACON, marked one of the most poignant and deeply powerful events on our calendar, The Candlelight Memorial, held at the Eternity Playhouse.

This event was hosted by the long-time activist and ally Julie Bates AO, with a keynote speech by Professor Basil Donovan who reflected on his three decades of work as a sexual health physician and academic and one of the most highly influential figures in Australia's early response to the HIV epidemic.

# Fair Day



# Mardi Gras Parade



**Positive Life NSW**

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