

THANK-YOU *for* BEING HERE  
*The people Living with AIDS*

# GENERATIONS



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## Living Positive Victoria

Living Positive Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



Living Positive Victoria  
(People Living With HIV/AIDS  
Victoria Incorporated)  
ABN 67 049 438 341  
Registration No. A0039027B

Coventry House  
Suite 1, 111 Coventry Street  
Southbank Victoria 3006

T: 03 9863 8733  
F: 03 9863 8734  
E: [info@livingpositivevictoria.org.au](mailto:info@livingpositivevictoria.org.au)  
[livingpositivevictoria.org.au](http://livingpositivevictoria.org.au)

### PHOTOGRAPHY

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## Who we are

Living Positive Victoria is a community-based organisation that works to advance the human rights and wellbeing of people living with HIV.

### Vision

Living Positive Victoria shares the vision of the National Association of People with HIV Australia of a world where people living with HIV live their lives to their full potential, in good health and free from discrimination.

### Mission

To enable and empower all people affected by and living with HIV in Victoria to be part of the response that seeks an end to the HIV epidemic.



# President's Report

I cannot quite begin to impress upon you how much Living Positive Victoria's success today is exactly thirty years in the making and is owed to the phenomenal foresight of our founders. The HIV legends who created the foundations of Living Positive Victoria provided us with a lighthouse to steer ourselves to when our community had no support and no safe spaces. These individuals had the vision to create a strong governance model that could and would survive beyond their own lives. They led the way by insisting on nothing about us without us and created a governance structure that would always allow People Living with AIDS (as we were first known) to advocate for ourselves and each other, to speak out about our own lived experiences to help others, build resilience, remain connected and put the real faces and human beings to the front of the epidemic. The impact of that sits with me every day that I have the privilege to help govern this organisation.

The past will always be an inextricable part of living with HIV and AIDS. It fills all of us with equal parts horror and reverence at what our community had to endure. It informs every moment of Living Positive Victoria's approach and guides the members of our Board to keep advocating for increased rights for all people living with HIV and AIDS and ensure we provide services that acknowledge every part of our population at all times. Our Board continues to take a long term and strategic view of the future directions of the organisation with our diverse membership at the core of our thinking. Governance is a long process and it will often be months or years before a Board sees their decisions come to fruition.

The most exciting and life-changing example of this is our complete merger with Straight Arrows. It is the biggest strategic and representational shift in the organisation's history. A process that took two years of intensive consultation with the members of

both organisations, a re-write of our Rules of Incorporation, the opportunity to demonstrate the current Six-Three Board model which allows us to annually co-opt three individuals with specific skills and also welcome full members from Tasmania.

Nearly two years on from this we have seen so many things flourish from this governance decision. Not only has the engagement increased from vital communities who were not previously represented in our membership, but we have also been able to provide consistent support to people whose intersections are multiple and varied from one another; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, families, HIV positive parents, culturally and linguistically diverse people, young people, seniors, gender non-conforming and non-binary people, transgender people, women, queer people and heterosexual people. For those who do not identify as cisgender, gay or male in our community, when it comes to care and support for living with HIV, the changing structure of this organisation has also changed the quality of their lives.

This is how our Board has been building and expanding the whole of population philosophy that you will be hearing much about over the months and years ahead. "Hidden populations" should never have been hidden in our community and so they now draw our focus and resourcing in order to give them greater visibility. Living Positive Victoria believes in true diversity and how social connectedness and personal resilience building of all people living with HIV/AIDS is as vital now as it was the day this organisation began.

The recruitment of Richard Keane - one of the most dedicated and unwavering HIV champions in our community - as the new CEO in our 30th year, is an unimagined gain for Living Positive Victoria and an extraordinary reflection of how self-sought resilience and activism can

have the most affirmative impact on one's life. Our Board ensured the most rigorous of processes was undertaken to appoint the person who will help guide us into a new era living with HIV and AIDS. Who could imagine our 30th year to herald the era of Undetectable = Untransmittable? The endorsement of the scientific world as being unable to pass on the virus in any circumstance while we have access to treatment and are able to achieve an undetectable viral load is the key to unlocking the door of the HIV negative world and ensuring this message resonates loud and clear. Living Positive Victoria is energised and primed to reinforce U=U and to prioritise our communications to find new ways to reach the general public and challenge the outdated myths and disease stigma that continues to impact on our quality of life.

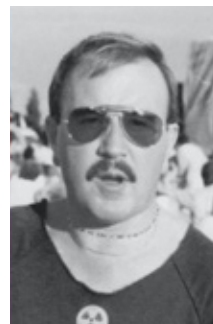
I would like to acknowledge Suzy Malhotra who acted as CEO during much of my Presidency. Her involvement in establishing our Peer Navigator Program was unparalleled and she did this while also maintaining all our external and stakeholder relationships, supporting all staff and Board Directors and still excelling in her own role. It was an honour to work alongside her and I cannot thank her enough for the support she gave me. I'd also like to thank my fellow Board members and each and every one of our incredible staff and volunteers who keep contributing to help Living Positive Victoria set the gold standard for service provision and advocacy for people living with HIV and AIDS. Finally, to our members - without whom we would not be here - and to those who have gone before us and lost their precious lives and loved ones to HIV and AIDS, we promise to live with courage at every moment and go loudly in to the future bringing everyone with us.

**Christabel Millar**  
President

“If we have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” – Isaac Newton



**Christabel Millar**  
President



*Pictured left to right:*

Chris Carter, First Convenor, Les Taylor, Convenor, David Menadue, Convenor  
Gary Glare, Convenor, John Daye, First President, Greg Iverson  
Brett Hayhoe, David Wain, Paul Kidd,  
Sam Venning, Ian Muchamore, Richard Keane

*Not pictured:*

Ian Cameron, Convenor, James Nagle, Convenor, Joe McCluskey, Convenor

# Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am delighted and humbled to be the new CEO of Living Positive Victoria as we begin to celebrate our 30th year.

I honour and stand on the shoulders of some very exceptional HIV positive leaders, activist and allies who have given their time, skills and passionate commitment to support the peer voice of people living with HIV in remaining central to an effective community led HIV partnership response in the state of Victoria.

We have lived through three decades of challenges and victories, helping each other build resilience to navigate the complexities toward a future many of us thought we'd never have. A future where we don't simply live with HIV, but one where we can thrive.

Living Positive Victoria's advocacy and empowerment model has long had its foundation in peer based methodologies and the new Peer Navigation program, originally developed through a seeding grant from ViiV Healthcare, has been extended and funded by the Department of Health and Human Services over the next three years.

Our professional Peer Navigators are now working in partnership with GPs and clinicians in high caseload clinics to engage with those recently diagnosed or individuals who have had issues with being retained in care over time.

Peers offer unique insights and understanding around issues of adherence to treatment, disclosure, self-stigma and a range of other intersectional issues that impact the quality of life outcomes of PLHIV.

Anecdotal and testimonial references from individual personal narratives remain powerful, but these programs require strong and consistent evidence and data to support them if they are to remain viable in future years. We remain fortunate to have Researcher in Residence Dr. Graham Brown from ARSHCS continuing to implement the W3 (What Works

and Why?) evaluation framework to produce evidence based practice across peer support and health promotion activities.

The continued impact of biomedical interventions for HIV is one of the most significant developments we have seen in the last 30 years. Its significance sits alongside the availability of effective treatments first realised in 1996/7.

The announcement made on World AIDS Day last year by Health Minister Jill Hennessey MP supporting the science behind Treatment as Prevention and endorsing the U=U (Undetectable=Untransmittable) campaign was a pivotal moment on the HIV historical timeline. Along with the Centre for Disease Control, World Health Organisation, International AIDS Society and now ASHM, there is consensus around the facts. People living with HIV who adhere to effective treatments and achieve an undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV to their sexual partners.

PLHIV finally have the ability to participate in healthy sexual and reproductive lives without the vector of transmission stigma and fear we have carried over the last three decades. It is life affirming and life changing.

My forward vision for Living Positive Victoria is to embody a whole of population philosophy when it comes to people living with and affected by HIV in our state. There has been a significant shift in the notifications data this year with numbers of people born overseas outnumbering those born here in new diagnoses of HIV across populations. This requires new partnerships and new ways of working with a diverse range of communities, which includes us supporting and even auspicing smaller community grants for migrant populations to engage at the grass roots and lead the conversations around what are appropriate and effective interventions that resonate with their communities.

This lies at the very core of GIPA and MIPA principles (greater and meaningful involvement of PLHIV and affected communities). It encourages influence and resource sharing to find locally driven and targeted responses that empower individuals and communities to lead.

We were a proud to support the AGMC (Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council) for their first national conference in Melbourne. I chaired the HIV stream which discussed a range of emerging issues including the rising notifications among international students with poor sexual health literacy and treatment and service access, as well as the growing number of PLHIV in Victoria who are Medicare ineligible. This sits alongside a rise in heterosexual transmissions and further increases in late notifications among this population.

The foresight of the merger with Straight Arrows means diverse peer support and social connection programs continue to thrive and expand. Our monthly Cook 'n' Chat program for heterosexual men continues to provide an invaluable space to come together over a meal and engage in peer driven discussions building friendships and resilience via shared lived experiences.

We will also continue to value the primacy of the Coventry House partnership with Positive Women Victoria (also in their 30th year) by renewing our MOU, providing financial support to extend the reach of peer support for women and by investing in the Phoenix for Women workshops to build a greater sense of population-wide resilience and equity.

If we are to meet the bold targets that we set for ourselves for this fourth decade in reducing transmissions of HIV, we must tackle HIV stigma and build community resilience and knowledge of the facts about living with HIV in 2018 and beyond. Positive voice organisations like ours must lead in this space.

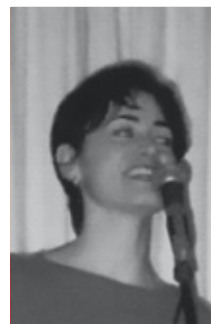
**‘Our end game is a cure. We won’t rest until that happens and we have a responsibility to everyone - whoever you are. Our bodies are still on the line until that happens.’ – Richard Keane**

Finally I would like to acknowledge our amazing staff at Living Positive Victoria. This year we said farewell to our Senior Policy Officer Joel Murray, Communications Officer Randelle Anderson and Peer Support Officer Matt Powell, but welcomed both Sarah Feagan and Aashvin Jeevan. I acknowledge and thank our Director of Programs and People, Suzy Malhotra for her extended time as Interim CEO, not only holding things together, but actually growing the organisation’s peer led programs and reach into a diverse range of potential new community engagement opportunities.

**Richard Keane**  
Chief Executive Officer



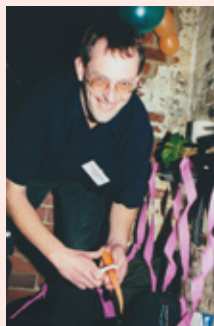
**Richard Keane**  
Chief Executive Officer



*Pictured left to right:*  
Bridget Haire, First EO, David McCarthy,  
Max Niggl (acting), Mark Thompson,  
Alan Strum (acting), Sonny Williams,  
Suzy Malhotra (acting), Brent Allan

*Not pictured:*  
Mark Boyd and Jane Hughes

# 30 years of Living Positive Victoria A History of Connection





## Treatment Interactive Events

For nearly a decade these super important and fun forums combined clinicians, researchers, positive people and HIV positive support organisations to provide what I affectionately refer to as 'edutainment'. As a colourful out HIV positive glamour puss it was a privilege and joy to host these innovative and crucial events, supporting the health and wellbeing of those living with HIV as they negotiated an ever changing and often scary world. These events covered issues from HIV drug side effects, smoking, social connection, mental health, financial stress, sexuality, stigma and lifestyle – always with respect and pizzazz!

The events ensured positive people were at the centre of discussions around contemporary issues affecting their lives. From quiz formats to game show style and never short of yummy food and prizes these events provided critical information and support to poz people in a warm, compassionate, interactive and joyous social environment.

I reflect and pay my respects to those we lost along the way and I salute the resilience and fabulousness of positive people who still endure many hurdles in the ever changing landscape of HIV. We share our stories and support each other to ensure our resilience and respect is maintained and our lives honoured and validated.

Congratulations to all involved in these amazing events. Events that had such a profound and long lasting impact on HIV positive people in Victoria... and beyond. Happy 30th Living Positive Victoria.

Vanessa Wagner XX



# 30 years of Living Positive Victoria A History of Connection

## 1988-1997



Peter Charlton and his partner Andrew Foster coordinate a meeting at St Martins Theatre to discuss advocacy group. Chris Carter suggests the term 'living with AIDS' to counter the view that everybody was 'dying with AIDS'.

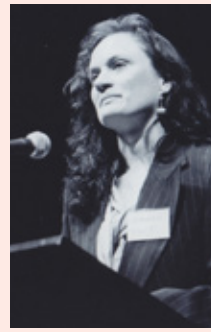
People Living With AIDS Victoria (PLWA) becomes an independent organisation with Chris Carter as the first Convenor. Peter Charlton is the first employee.

PLWA shares its first office with Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (VAC/GMHC) in Johnson Street, Collingwood.

Peter Charlton helps establish Program Management Committee (PMC).

Deborah Gillies is employed by VAC/GMHC to do a feasibility study of the proposed Positive Living Centre. The site chosen in Dandenong Road, Caulfield, causes conflict with local residents.

David Menadue's first public statement as the newly appointed Convenor, was a press conference with Joan Golding to try and put pressure on Council to agree to planning application and try to de-bunk myths and fears around the gay community and people living with HIV/AIDS.



Positive Speakers Bureau begins to operate informally.

Launch of HIV Education poster at Hilton, Melbourne.

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

A group of HIV+ people walk up on stage at closing plenary of National AIDS Conference to announce their status.

Les Taylor, spokesman for access to AZT, appears on *Good Morning Australia*.

Les Taylor and Keith Harbour are instrumental in getting the AIDS branch within Department of Health to agree to a community centre for people living with HIV.

Positive Women established.

First *Living Well* conference held at Fairfield Hospital.

National People Living with AIDS Coalition (NPLWAC) was formed. Affectionately called 'nipple wack'. This then became NAPWHA in the 1990s.

Dean Michael commences as Coordinator and David Stephens as Information Officer. They develop *Positive Life* magazine and *Speakers Bureau*.

Board members PLWA Victoria: Bev Greet, Lloyd James, Yvonne Gardner.

*Candlelight March Against AIDS* in Melbourne.

Message for 90s: *Viruses don't discriminate - people do.*





NAPHWA receives \$10,000 grant.

Recording of Joan Golding Story.

David Menadue steps down as Convenor, Ian Cameron takes over, followed by James Nagle and later Joe McCluskey.

Sharp division between VAC/GMHC board over future direction of PLWA Victoria.

Fairfield Hospital closure. Transfer to The Alfred.

First public meeting, new Constitution and Rules adopted (held at Royal Women's Hospital). Budget and responsibilities cut from split with VAC/GMHC and tensions caused. Effectively PLWA is left with one staff member.

Paul Natoli provides free legal advice when drawing up organisational rules.

Works with PLWHA NSW to get access to new drug for the treatment of KS.

Collaboration with evaluation team who are accessing services transfer from Fairfield to The Alfred.

Increase of people being charged with *Reckless Endangerment* for exposing others to risk of infection.

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

Large number of fatalities (no effective drug regimes available).

Jim Hyde is the Manager of the PLWHA program within VAC/GMHC. Program managers include Chris Gill, Bill le Neuf, Kirk Peterson, Barry Horwood.

The Positive Living Centre (PLC) opened by Major John Spierings at 46 Acland Street, St Kilda.

The Elton John Fund provides funding for the centre's furniture and Julian Clary visits the centre to fundraise. The PLC is the hub for positive people, their friends and family during this time.

Acknowledgment: Bradley Engelmann (elected to AIDS Council Board) and becomes President, Nagle Vice – Pres of VAC/GMHC. A number of PLWHA Victoria board members on both boards.

Tensions in the VAC/GMHC board becomes the catalyst for PLWHA Victoria becoming independent.

New appointment of Joseph O'Reilly factionalises the board, subsequently board resigns in protest over St Vincent's of The Alfred carry over from Fairfield Hospital.

Joseph O'Reilly replaces Bradley Engelmann as President of VAC/GMHC.

First public meeting held at Royal Women's Hospital and new constitution rules adopted.

First EO Bridget Haire works to establish Memorandum of Understanding and a Funding of Services Agreement with VAC/GMHC.

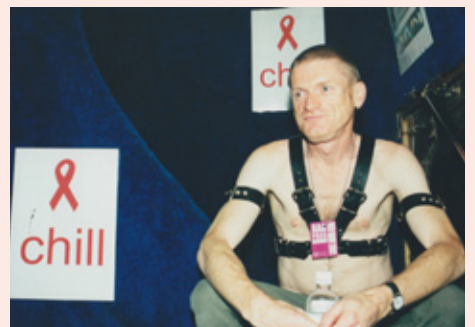
Mike Kennedy becomes new EO of VAC/GMHC.

Independence from VAC/GMHC

Gary Glare acts as Convenor for a short period during the transition to a newly constituted PLWHA Victoria in 1997.

First President John Daye appointed. Office-bearers Kevin Guiney and David Menadue appointed.

Provision of chill out spaces at major dance parties.



**30 years of Living Positive Victoria  
A History of Connection**



# Positive Plots

Positive Plots was a unique program run by PLWHA Victoria over 15 years ago to create a shared space for people who had a love of gardening. For me it was all about bringing together people who were HIV positive, but who through sickness had become really socially isolated and lost many opportunities to meet other people.

Gardening is so good for everyone and it was a great excuse to bring people together. For many, it was one of their first social interactions and while it may have been scary at first to come along on their own, you saw such a change in just a few months. I saw amazing growth in the people who used to come to get their hands dirty at the Pirate Ship – in six months they were starting to feel more confident to go out to clubs, bars and other social occasions, and after 12 months, many of them had boyfriends and friends. They were beginning to have a life.

Positive Plots was a road to getting there. When I made the Pirate Ship, I wanted it to be something fun and rewarding to go to – and it was.

Becoming a board member was also a great experience for me as I was given an opportunity to do something meaningful rather than being on the outside. I gained amazing personal growth and was grateful to have met so many committed and incredible people.

Happy 30th Birthday Living Positive Victoria! I'm proud to have been part of your history and I'm thrilled that you've grown and merged with Straight Arrows to be an even more diverse and inclusive organisation.

I hope you continue to carry on the fantastic job of helping all people living with HIV. xxx

Guy Kharn

Positive Plots Coordinator 2003 - 2006

Board Member – 2003 to 2005

# 30 years of Living Positive Victoria A History of Connection

## 1998-2007



HIV/AIDS epidemic at a crossroads - new treatments provide renewed hope but further challenges created.

President John Daye works with Health Minister John Thwaites to recommend that Melbourne Sexual Health Centre introduces co-payment for medications.

John Daye and Bridget Haire advocate to keep Dental Plus, along with building of Fairfield House.

*Legends: Positive and Proud* launched at Midsumma Carnival, and exhibited at Counihan Gallery, Moreland City Council.

Strategic Directions of Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC) prepared.

*Futures II Report* released and *Treat yourself right* (for Positive Women)

*Poslink* receives an unrestricted educational grant from pharmaceutical consortium.

PLWHA Victoria *Bushwalking Project* funded by State Government.

National AIDS Strategy, *Changes and Challenges* released.

Issues facing PLHIV - poverty and discrimination; treatment side effects; Centrelink refusing to refer people for Disability Support Pension (DSP).

Increased rate of health promotion messages delivered on high rate of heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other co-morbidities associated with HIV treatments.

President John Daye advocates strongly for subsidy on Polylactoc Acid (later known as Sculptura) which assisted PLHIV who had disfiguring effects of facial lipoatrophy caused by treatments and the virus.

Reports of harassment of positive people in housing commission estate in November 2000 leads to review of housing for PLHIV in the State HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan.



Quote from Annual Report 1998 (actions and objectives)

*'The primary purpose of People Living with HIV/AIDS is to assist people living with HIV/AIDS and to improve their quality of life through information, advice, advocacy, support and representation, in a manner which is non judgemental, and respects the each person's right to independence, dignity and privacy.'*



1998

Establishment of AIDS Action Housing Group (AHAG) and Ministerial Advisory Committee for HIV/AIDS and related diseases.

Radio Project with *HIV Plus* on 3CR commences.

Treatments Action Group deals with access to efavirenz (DMP 266) and adefovir (anti CMV drug). Lobbies for access to Caelyx which had been rejected for funding under PBS.

Side effects to treatments becomes an important issue.

1999

Rachel Berger and John Breheny perform at Treatment Interactive Event.

Volunteer welcome evening - first recruitment.

Straight Arrows launch their first website.

WAD - PLWHA Victoria sell red ribbons to raise money for David Williams Fund. Broadcast a special edition on JOY with Minister for Health John Thwaites announcing construction of Continuing Care Unit would commence.

PLWHA Victoria volunteers join AIDS Walk and lunch with Pos Women triathlon team.

2000

PLWHA Victoria and VAC/GMHC release response to the Pennington Review.

*Connect* funded by AIDS Trust grant.

*Surviving Our Side Effects (SOS)* guide launched.

Launch of *Food for Thought*, a CD about nutrition for PLHIV by Jenny McDonald, in association with Merck Sharpe and Dohme.

Susan Paxton runs with Olympic flame through Collingwood.

Establishment of Youth Empowerment Against AIDS (YEAH).

PLWHA Victoria and VAC/GMHC hold joint meeting to discuss Memorandum of Understanding.

Fairfield House at The Alfred opened by Deputy Leader, John Thwaites.

2001

Positive Voices Conference held at Melbourne Uni.

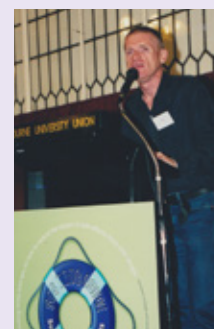
Meetings with politicians to improve relationships between GLBTI community.

Car Rally for Midwinta event assisted by Ford Australia raising money for PLWHA Victoria Emergency and Distress Fund.

6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia Pacific begins at Melbourne Convention Centre.

2002

New HIV Strategy launched by State Gov responding to increase in infections since early 1990s.





Government review to provide further public housing for PLHIV is rejected.

Advocacy with NAPWHA to stop Fed Gov changing the DSP so PLHIV are able to remain working for up to 30hrs per week and still retain DSP.

Positive Plots established by Guy Kharn. A social space for PLHIV with an interest in gardening at St Kilda Community Gardens.

Planet Positive social night set up by David Menadue and Daniel Donnelly.



*'The primary purpose of People Living with HIV/AIDS Victoria is to provide services and relief from suffering, alleviating poverty, distress and financial hardship for people living with HIV/AIDS, with the aim of improving their life expectancy and also quality of life.'*

New campaigns developed: *The words to say it* and *Are you negative about positives.*

Major concern within the HIV+ community about the potential for a government to over react to the Michael Neal case (accused of intentionally transmitting HIV).

PLWHA Victoria runs a forum on legal issues for people with HIV and transmission of the virus.

PLWHA Victoria partner with VAC/GMHC, NAPWHA and the Vic Gov advocate on public health measures around transmission.

PLWHA Victoria extend their membership base to Tasmania as there is no specific HIV+ organisation in the state.

Brett Hayhoe elected as new President.

David Westlake and Jon Colvin start.

Increased infection rates.

Suzy Malhotra starts as part-time Project Officer.

John Daye receives the Order of Australia medal.

PLWHA Victoria undergoes financial separation from VAC/GMHC.

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007



Launch of book *Positive* by David Menadue.

First Planet Positive, held at Vibe Bar in Collingwood.

Alfred Health funds over 100 PLHIV to receive facial filler (Sculptura) from special technologies grant. Many years later it is accepted for funding from the PBS.

Fifteen years of HIV Activism.

6th International AIDS Impact Conference 2003 held in Milan

PSB speakers Tony King and Deanna Blegg present at Tasmania's AIDS Awareness week.

WAD focus: Stigma and discrimination. Positive Women hold a reading of *Positive Steps* in St Kilda. It is the first edition of Graeme Pitts play about women living with HIV.

Increased funding to develop health promotion programs.

Community Development and Education Officer position created. Speakers Bureau extends to four days a week

John Daye steps down as President. He is the first recipient of the Exemplary Services Award (Lifetime Membership).

Greg Iverson elected as new President.

Rise in HIV infections.

Rise in infection rates prompts rethink on positive education programs.

*Barebacking and Nailbiting Forum* hosted by Vanessa Wagner at St Martins Theatre.

Travel resource *Up, Up and Away* launched at State Library.

Healthy Living Skills national pilot receives funding for three programs: *Quit it!, Eat it!* and *Move it!*

Planet Positive held at Heaven's Door Commercial Road, South Yarra.

Commencement of Straight Arrows Peer Support Program, Outreach and Camp Seaside.

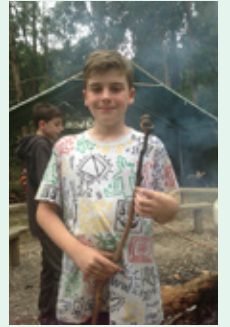
*Clash of the Clubs* fundraiser for PLWHA Victoria Emergency and Distress Fund.

*The HIV and Sexual Health Connect Line* commences operation at PLWHA Victoria after the closure of *AIDSline*.

*Down and Dirty* workshops commence.



# 30 years of Living Positive Victoria A History of Connection





## Reflections on Camp Seaside

I got involved with Straight Arrows about 19 years ago because they catered for families. I had a partner and a child. If I was to go to a function, I wanted my family to come along with me. That was never catered for until Straight Arrows, which originally started out for heterosexual guys, opened their doors to families as well. If I had to weigh up going out with a group of women and going by myself or going to a function with my partner and kids and meeting other people it was a no brainer. When my kids were young and there was something on for the kids, we'd do it. We went to the Christmas parties, Toad of Toad Hall, Circus Oz, Camp Seaside. My kids loved it all.

My kids have great memories of Camp Seaside. They looked forward to it every year. There was always stuff for the kids to do, stuff for the adults to do. Great memories. I think, ultimately, the kids just liked to get together and hang out. My kids were aware of my HIV and sussed out other kids who were aware, and I'm guessing they communicated about it.

Partners of people living with HIV are kind of isolated. For them to be able to talk to other partners of positive people, even the counsellors at the camp, was a great opportunity. I've no idea what they talked about. So, whilst I was comfortable in my own skin it was a good chance for other family members to chat with others. My partner chatted with other people. It was a chance to throw ideas around and just get answers to their questions.

I don't think Camp Seaside has changed much really. The main change is demographic, with people from different backgrounds. And childcare was added, which was good. That could have been handy back in the early days. The organisation grew as the needs grew and changed.

I just think Straight Arrows has been brilliant. It's certainly been fantastic for myself, my children and my partners. I've stepped away now that my kids have grown up but I feel it's vital, especially for the new families coming along, to be part of that. I'm so pleased Camp Seaside is still going, and that it's growing in popularity.

Deanna Blegg



# 30 years of Living Positive Victoria A History of Connection

## 2008-2017



First outreach presence at Lunar Festival in partnership with Multicultural Health and Support Service.

Attendance at first *Big Day Out* festival in partnership with VAC.

Development of *Positively Rural* – new resource by Country Awareness Network (CAN) Victoria.



Paul Kidd becomes President.

HIV entry ban lifted in USA.

Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil visits Australia and PLWHA Victoria.



With some 29 million deaths and a global population of 33 million infected, HIV/AIDS has become one of the biggest epidemics of recent times, and certainly one of the deadliest. In Australia we have experienced close to 7000 deaths and have an estimated 22 000 living with the virus.

– David Menadue

Gabe MacCarthy NAPWHA dies (30 June).

PLWHA Victoria and Straight Arrows moves to Coventry House, Southbank. Official opening by Minister for Health and Ageing David Davis.

New name and new brand for *Living Positive Victoria*.

Guy Hussey and Wolf Graf join the health promotion team. Sonny Williams resigns and is replaced by Jane Hughes (until Dec 2011).

Harry Walford, supporter and dedicated volunteer, dies on 8 March.

New President Sam Venning commences.

New EO, Brent Allan, commences.

Positive Women move to Coventry House.

*Strengthening Positive Voices* is both a call to action as well as a philosophy which underpins a number of collaborative actions between the three partners which form to make Coventry House being PLWHA Victoria, Straight Arrows and Positive Women Victoria.

Midsumma Carnival stall unites organisations of Living Positive Victoria, Straight Arrows and Positive Women.

ENUF campaign launched.

Communications and social media widens reach.

PrEP is approved by US regulators.

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

*Straight Arrows* has struggled as a small organisation committed to the principles of peer based care and support while other organisations and the Department of Health (formerly Department of Human Services) work within the structures of health promotion.

– Rebecca Matherson

Go Test website and various promotions begin – 101 ways to get it and one way to get rid of it, Kiss and tell, Ready for action, and Catch me if you can.

Presentation of inaugural CALD MSM Forum.

*The Pleasure and Sexual Health Study (PASH)* report released.

*Barebacking Forum* held at Sircuit, and broadcast live on JOY Melbourne.

New *Sexual Adventurism Program* commences.

*Protecting Young Australian from HIV (PSB)* book and website developed.

*Holding the Man* MTC fundraiser.

New programs: *Sexual Adventurism*, *Quit Fresh Start*, *Genesis* and *Down and Dirtier*.

PLWHA Victoria 20th birthday dinner.

QUIT Campaign launch.

As a result of enquires made through the Connect Line, a one day workshop entitled *Connected* runs in partnership with the Counselling Services of VAC/GMHC.

NAPHWA celebrates 20 years.

*Adopt a Bear*, Sircuit fundraiser for Emergency and Distress Fund.

PLWHA Victoria and VAC/GMHC jointly hold *Negative Partners Group*.

PSB delivers a record number of talks with 166 individual talks to 5845 people by 81 male speakers and 85 female speakers.

*Phoenix* program starts.

*PSB: A Positive Speakers Rural Road Show* was funded by the Department of Health. Launch of *Closer and Changing voices* DVD. *Papua New Guinea Leadership Development Group Training*.

*HIV & Ageing Forum – Getting on with it* – Tips for living longer with HIV.

Launch of new website.

10th International Ageing conference.

PLWHA Victoria and NAPHWA host the very successful Short Course in HIV Medicine.

2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna Max Niggli's abstract entitled *Scaling up the GIPA Pyramid* attracts attention.

Straight Arrows Camp Seaside held at Wombat Gully Camp, Emerald.

Screening of Sandy Porter's story *A Fairytale Life*.

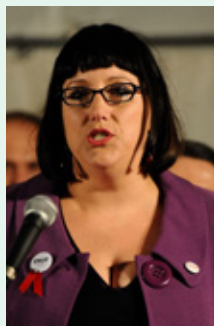
New resource developed: *Your Local: Victorian services for people living with HIV and AIDS for newly diagnosed or PLHIV who have relocated to Victoria*.

New treatment guidelines released from NAPWHA. A major step in revolutionising HIV treatment and prevention in Australia.

Australia hosts 13th International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) World Congress and 24th Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) HIV/AIDS Conference at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Bristol Myers Squibb *Reyataz HIV Positive Campaign* Launch at ASHM.





World Health Organisation (WHO) new guidelines recommends earlier commencement of ART for people living with HIV, improved prevention of transmission from mother to child and 'viral load monitoring' to ensure treatment is working.

Shannen Myers leaves. New staff commence including Cristian Cortez, Dimitri Daskalakis, Simon Bailey and Daniel Brace.

Straight Arrows EO Rebecca Matheson leaves. Sara Graham replaces her.

Living Positive Victoria and Straight Arrows commence merge.

New campaigns, resources and programs developed: Syphilis campaign phase 2; Hep C coinfection factsheets; Community pharmacy dispensing fact sheet; *Tina in Town* resource; Straight Arrows' members' dinners and Family Fun Day.

Repeal of 19a forums held.

Peer support and outreach for positive heterosexuals is initiated.

Vincent Christian dies (16 June).

AIDS 2014 - Living Positive Victoria becomes the local agency representing PLHIV to mobilise local community and participate in being hosts to 14,000 conference delegates.

Six conference delegates die aboard MH17.

Dr Clovis Palmer (Burnet Institute) addresses a crowd of over 500 people at City Square in the heart of Melbourne.

Straight Arrows and Living Positive Victoria merger completed.

Increased focus on programs for women living with HIV: Poslink special Women's edition, *Phoenix* for women program, *ENUF International Women's Day* promotion, *Creative responses to HIV* forum - Discussion for women living with HIV, *Peer Support Partnership* with Positive Women Victoria.

The *Treat HIV Now* campaign grows out of findings from the Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Treatment (START) study.

Living Positive Victoria and Straight Arrows commence the commissioning of *Knowledge to Action (KTA)* reports.

Laurina Fleure's appearance on *I'm a Celebrity, get me out of here* provides \$10,000 from Channel 10 to the FLIP Fund and Living Positive Victoria .

*Men living with Haemophilia and HIV* program begins.

Commencement of *W3 Project Evaluation Framework* applied to programs.

Living Positive Victoria and VAC collaborate to deliver the *Ageing and HIV Support Network and Self-Management Program*.

Commencement of *HIV Peer Education and Support Training*.

*Disclosure Sofa* installation at AIDS 2016.

Brent Allan EO, leaves.

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

>>>  
*Behind the Candelabra* and *Dallas Buyers Club* film screenings held as fundraisers.  
*ENUF Tough Mudder* Team with Deanna Blegg and Ji Wallace.  
*Changing Voices 2* launched.  
*Death of Kings* at MTC fundraiser sponsored by Monash Uni.

*Gen Y Guys* Campaign starts. Founding members Dean and Jostein.  
*Ending HIV* campaign with VAC starts.  
Launch of *Stronger Together* membership campaign.  
Governance working group convened.  
Funding agreement with the Federal Department of Health and Aging signed to implement the *Senior Voices Project*.  
*Your Body Blueprint* nation-wide campaign (SA and LPV) implemented.  
*Poslink* goes online.  
*Finance learning and independence program (FLIP)* launched.  
PSB and Victorian College of the Arts partnership.  
*Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI)* pilot workshop.

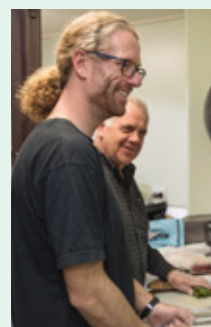
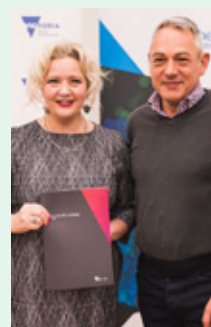
*Senior Voices* campaign commences.  
*In the Loop* program launched.  
Launch of new Syphilis awareness campaign, *Everything Old is New Again*.  
*Repeal 19a* campaign.  
Staging of *Plus Sign Attached*, Vic College of the Arts.  
Premiere of film, *Transmission*, at National Theatre.  
Launch of inaugural *HIV Justice Film Festival*.  
*Beyond Blame: Challenging HIV Criminalisation* event.  
*Status* theatre piece previews.  
*ENUF voices* exhibition held at Federation Square.  
*Positively Fabulous+* bus hosted at City Square.

*Disclosure* campaign launched.  
Development of *Positive Caring* handbook in partnership with RDNS.  
World AIDS Day launch at the Doherty Institute.  
WAD at Federation Square hosts an event with the theme - *Getting to Zero*.



*Double Happiness* campaign developed - Living Positive Victoria partners with PrepAccessNow (PAN); Time 4 PrEP, PrEP'd For Change, Vic PrEP, and VAC in forming the Victorian PrEP Accord in response to a growing groundswell of important and vital community dialogue about PrEP.  
*Gay Community Periodic Survey* - Summary For People Living With HIV released.  
Victorian Health Minister Jill Hennessy launches *Fast-Track City Dashboard*, a collaboration between Viiv Healthcare and International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), was launched by Victorian Minister for Health Jill Hennessey on World AIDS Day.

*Cook 'n' Chat* events begin.  
*Victorian HIV Strategy 2017-2020* launched.  
U=U consensus statement adopted and campaign developed for festival outreach.



**30 years of Living Positive Victoria  
A History of Connection**



## Stronger Together

Living in Tasmania where interaction between heterosexual people living with HIV (PLHIV) is at best infrequent, it has been an important part of my positive life to have been a member of Straight Arrows since my return from living in Thailand in 2004.

Offering full membership for people living outside of Victoria had always been one of Straight Arrows' greatest strengths. To have had members from around Australia who could sit on the Board really showed Straight Arrows' commitment to the Australia-wide heterosexual positive community. Without this provision within its constitution, I would not have had the opportunity to serve as the Vice-Chair and Chair, nor would I have been involved in putting the process of the merger between Straight Arrows and Living Positive Victoria into action.

PLHIV in Tasmania have always had a limited voice due to not having their own state-based positive organisation. Now with the opportunity of full membership of Living Positive Victoria, this gives Tasmanian PLHIV a real opportunity to have a meaningful voice within the positive community.

I recently had the wonderful opportunity of attending the 2018 Adults Retreat held in Lorne for heterosexual men and women. The retreat provided a fantastic opportunity to be part of a diverse group of PLHIV and their partners. It was very rewarding to see this all happening now under the banner of Living Positive Victoria.

From a time just a few years ago when heterosexual men living with HIV didn't even rate a mention, we are now experiencing a community where all PLHIV have a voice and we are finally all being seen as equal. I believe we are now at a good stage in our evolution at Living Positive Victoria and I look forward with great optimism to the next few decades. I am also looking forward to getting my Seniors Card in a few months' time. I made it to 60. Who would have guessed?!

Wayne Hornsby

Chair – Straight Arrows: 2013 - 2015

Vice Chair – Straight Arrows: 2012 - 2013

# 2018

2017-2018 has been a year of operational and strategic milestones that respond and adapt to the changing needs of all Victorians living with HIV. This includes the development of our new Strategic Plan, a pilot program that places HIV positive peers in clinical settings and the development of a robust evaluation framework for measuring the success of all our programs.



## Strategic Plan - 2018 and Beyond

Living Positive Victoria launched its new strategic plan in 2017 after an extensive consultation process with stakeholders and members. The Strategic Plan - 2018 and Beyond is the cornerstone for how Living Positive Victoria will govern itself and contribute to the HIV response in Victoria. The vision of the organisation includes the meaningful involvement of PLHIV, responsiveness to all the needs of PLHIV, using a bipartisan approach and having a gender sensitive approach to all of its work.

## Pilot Project for People Living with HIV

On World AIDS Day 2017, Living Positive Victoria welcomed the Andrews Labour Government's commitment of \$300,000 towards a three year pilot project that places HIV-positive peer workers in high-caseload Melbourne clinics as part of its ongoing commitment to the HIV response in Victoria.

Three new peer navigators joined the peer support team to provide one-on-one support to newly diagnosed people living with HIV (PLHIV). The team encompasses the personal experience of living with HIV through various lenses that cross gender, sexuality and ethnicity. Having access to someone who has the lived experience at such a crucial time in his or her HIV journey is invaluable. This type of support has been proven to improve people's knowledge, skills and confidence to manage their wellbeing and overall quality of life.

2018

## Reflections on ENUF

Over the past six years the ENUF campaign has called upon the community to take action to resist HIV stigma and promote resilience. In 2017, Living Positive Victoria commissioned its first large-scale review to reflect on and learn from the successes and opportunities that have arisen from conducting Australia's first peer-led anti-HIV stigma campaign. The review found that the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV shaped campaign design, messages and community and arts engagements in ways which had a profound influence on individuals. The use of real voices, stories and lived experience allowed ENUF to effectively interrogate HIV stigma, giving people living with HIV a sense of empowerment and control over aspects of living with HIV, such as disclosure of status. ENUF's visibility also enabled people living with HIV to start the conversation about stigma with non-HIV-positive people, especially friends and family.

Key recommendations highlight the need to continue to interrogate HIV stigma at local and national levels using frameworks that promote resilience; to ensure the involvement and engagement of diverse PLHIV in future campaigns and; to promote arts and cultural engagement as tools for health promotion.

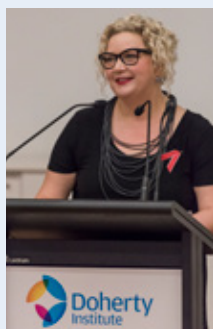




### U=U Community Forum

Bruce Richman encouraged and inspired Melburnians as he shared his journey with transformative knowledge of what the Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) message has done for him and others living with HIV. HIV community members, allies, researchers and activists packed the Treasury Theatre for the third stop on the national U=U speaking tour in April 2018. Bruce is the Executive Director of Prevention Access Campaign in America and the founder of the U=U movement. His message provided powerful scientific evidence that people living with HIV who are on treatment and maintain an undetectable viral load cannot sexually transmit HIV.

Living Positive Victoria was the first Australian organisation to sign the U=U consensus statement in February 2017. The message has implications that can change the entire HIV landscape at a personal, community, policy and clinical level. This includes improving the treatment cascade that in turn can reduce HIV stigma and make people less afraid to get tested and stay in care.



### World AIDS Day

President Christabel Millar presented a sombre reflection of the past and the hope of the future for HIV as each speaker reflected on this year's theme: HIV is still here and still matters. The audience took a minute of silence to honour the recent passing of Levinia Crooks, and keynote speaker Professor Jenny Hoy shared her journey as an HIV practitioner that spans decades. The personal story of board director, Adam Ehm powerfully illustrated the reality of the stigma that people living with HIV continue to face and the personal choices and the right moment to disclose. Victorian Health Minister Jill Hennessy announced the Victorian Government's endorsement of the Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) consensus statement, becoming the first Australian state to endorse the statement. In addition, the Minister also promised improvements and changes to pre and post-test counselling training requirements to facilitate the increased rollout of peer-based HIV testing.



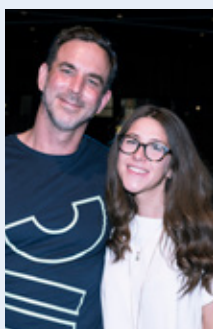
### New Chief Executive Officer

In June 2018, Living Positive Victoria announced the appointment of Richard Keane as Chief Executive Officer. Richard's passion for the HIV community has allowed him to take on a diversity of roles within the HIV response over the last 25 years. Some of his previous engagements include the AIDS Ministerial Advisory Committee, a facilitator of the Positive Leadership Development Institute Australia/New Zealand and the former President of Living Positive Victoria. Richard was selected as the candidate with the passion, vision and leadership needed to lead the organisation and will continue to champion the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV as central to an effective community-led response.



### The What Works and Why Project (W3)

After the first year of the W3 Project at Living Positive Victoria, new tools and methods for data collection and program monitoring have been trialled, adapted and are now in use in a range of program areas. These include the Phoenix workshops for the newly diagnosed, the HIV and Ageing Project and the Positive Leadership Development Institute Australia and New Zealand workshops. Our new tools enable reflective practice, gather critical information on how programs align, adapt, engage and influence, as well as streamline evaluation processes. This has lessened the burden of data collection on peer workers and participants and allowed us to capture more detailed data on changes in resilience, quality of life, and social connection and leadership practice measures. We are currently in the process of developing similar tools to evaluate and monitor one-on-one peer support and navigation, and group peer support activities and social events, such as our family days and adult retreats, the Cook n' Chat nights for heterosexual men and the Gen Next group for youth and young people living with HIV.



### Vale Neil Shepherd

In 2018 we bid a sad farewell to Neil Shepherd, a former board member and friend of the organisation for many years. Neil had a long history with Living Positive Victoria, when he joined our board in 2009 and held the position of Treasurer for three years. A vocal and tireless advocate of all people living with HIV, Neil was particularly committed to assisting older and young people facing social isolation and financial hardship. Neil was a lawyer by profession, and devoted and donated much of his time to providing legal advice to PLHIV in dire need of assistance and representation. He was a generous and highly skilled member of our organisation and contributed greatly to building the professionalism and strength of our board.



## 30 years of Living Positive Victoria A History of Connection



I love being a part of the peer navigator team with Living Positive Victoria. It's amazing to connect with my community offering vital peer support and forming unique connections, reminding people we are beautiful, we are normal, we are worth loving and sharing our love. And there is life after an HIV diagnosis.

– **Sarah**, Peer Navigator

The work I have been doing has been fulfilling; being able to apply my lived experience and offer support to persons newly diagnosed who are facing the same challenges I once myself had to face. Clients who have been newly diagnosed are often unable to recall their consultation with their doctor beyond just hearing that they are now HIV positive. Within the period of a 60 minute long session, when initially engaging with a newly diagnosed client, I have seen them go from feeling lost and stuck to realising that they have the ability to pick themselves up and start taking the steps to managing better.

– **Aashvin**, Peer Navigator



## Peer Navigator Program

Living Positive Victoria introduced our exciting Peer Navigator Program this year. This program extends our ability to work with people who have been newly diagnosed with HIV, supporting them to achieve good health and emotional wellbeing. Our Peer Navigators are trained professionals with a lived experience of HIV. By connecting with people early in their diagnosis, they can reassure their clients that people living with HIV can live healthy and vital lives, continue to pursue their life goals and experience fulfilling and loving relationships.

The program places Peer Navigators in high HIV caseload GP and hospital clinics and at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. We have a team of three Navigators, who are able to support people of diverse ages, gender and sexual identities and with a diversity of lived experiences. As well as supporting newly diagnosed people, Peer Navigators work with people who are at risk of dropping out of treatment and care, supporting them to manage their health. They also work with people who are experiencing life changes such as the breakdown of relationships or wanting to start a family, people facing social isolation, and people dealing with a range of other issues.

Overwhelmingly, Peer Navigators support people to become resilient in the face of stigma; both internalised stigma and external stigma and discrimination. This is key to the work of the Peer Navigators. Many of the difficulties faced by people living with HIV result from stigma. Stigma impacts people's sense of identity and self-worth, their mental health, and their ability to form relationships. Peers have a powerful ability to challenge stigma at a personal level.

Our Peer Navigators understand that each person has their own story and their own needs. Through an individualised approach that addresses stigma and other barriers to retention in clinical care, provides information about HIV and refers clients to other Living Positive Victoria services, Peer Navigators are supporting people living with HIV to manage their health and build a fulfilling future for themselves.



It was such an exciting move for me to join the team at Living Positive Victoria. What could top it? Being asked to join the innovative peer navigation team! From living secretly and fearfully with HIV just a few short years ago, to now having the amazing privilege of working within a team of peers to assist others to thrive. I sometimes have to pinch myself.

– **Anth**, Peer Navigator

# Board profiles

NAME	TERM START	CURRENT/FINISH DATE	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Richard Keane	July 15	Oct 2017	3/3
Christabel Millar	July 15	Current	9/9
Wayne Hornsby	Sept 16	Oct 2017	3/3
Anthony Bendall	May 17	Current	8/9
Rick Fiedler	May 17	Current	9/9
Adam Ehm	May 17	Current	8/9
Peter Collins	Sept 16	Current	7/9
Jeffery Robertson	Sept 16	Current	9/9
Judith Arndt	April 18	Current - Co/opted	2/2



# Staff profiles

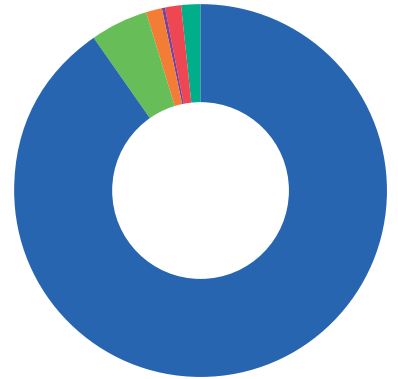
NAME	ROLE AT LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA
Richard Keane	Chief Executive Officer (Commenced July 2018) Senior Project Officer (October 2017 – June 2018)
Suzy Malhotra	Director Programs and People Interim Chief Executive Officer (August 2017 – June 2018)
Sara Graham	Manager Peer Support
David Westlake	Business Support Manager
Max Niggl	Speakers Bureau Coordinator
Cristian Cortez Garzon	Systems Project Officer
Brenton Geyer	Cultural Engagement Officer
Sarah Hocking	Health Promotion Officer
Tim Krulic	Health Promotion Officer
Vic Perri	Health Promotion Officer
Dimitri Daskalakis	Health Promotion Officer
Anthony McCarthy	Peer Navigator
Sarah Feagan	Peer Navigator (from May 2018)
Aashvin Jeevan	Peer Navigator (from May 2018)
Matthew Powell	Peer Support Officer (until February 2018)
Joël Murray	Senior Policy and Research Officer (until July 2018)
Randelle Anderson	Senior Communications Officer (until August 2018)



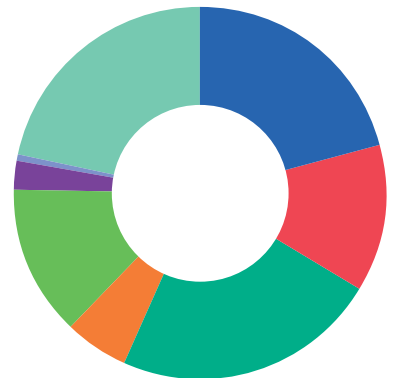
# Making our money count

## Living Positive Victoria Financial Report 2017-2018

Income	\$	%
Government grants	1,780,042	90.5%
Corporate grants	98,761	5%
Donations	27,973	1.4%
Interest received	1,230	0.1%
Speakers Bureau Income	29,877	1.5%
Other income	28,139	1.5%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,966,022</b>	<b>100%</b>



Expenditure	\$	%
Health promotion & positive education expenses	392,422	20.85%
Speakers Bureau & Senior Voices expenses	243,857	13%
Other personnel costs	432,459	23%
Campaign expenses	101,452	5.4%
Administration expenses	246,810	13.1%
Governance expenses	49,200	2.6%
Grant expenses	12,108	0.64%
Coventry House costs	403,653	21.4%
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,881,961</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total surplus for the year</b>	<b>84,061</b>	



# Financials at a glance

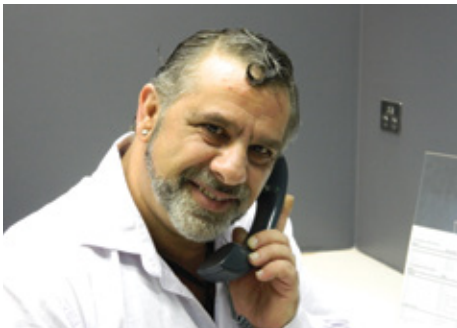
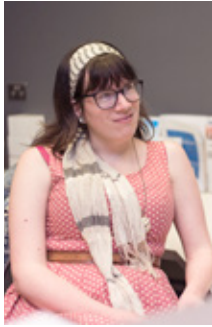
## Statement of Profit and Loss for the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>1,966,022</b>	<b>1,690,662</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration expenses	(246,810)	(133,391)
Campaign costs	(101,452)	(109,552)
Governance expenses	(49,200)	(51,243)
Grant costs	(12,108)	(11,040)
Health promotion & education expenses	(392,422)	(441,162)
Speakers Bureau & Senior Voices expenses	(243,857)	(236,134)
Other personnel costs	(432,459)	(278,420)
Coventry House expenses	(403,653)	(394,873)
<b>Current year surplus before income tax</b>	<b>84,061</b>	<b>34,847</b>
<b>Income tax expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total income surplus for the year</b>	<b>84,061</b>	<b>34,847</b>

## Statement of Financial position for the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	436,241	343,560
Trade and other receivables	1,008	5,434
Other current assets	51,626	49,916
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>488,875</b>	<b>398,910</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	17,268	28,042
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>17,268</b>	<b>28,042</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>506,143</b>	<b>426,952</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	158,722	217,915
Provisions	152,420	98,096
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>311,142</b>	<b>316,012</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>195,001</b>	<b>110,940</b>
<b>Members funds</b>		
Accumulated funds	195,001	110,940
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>195,001</b>	<b>110,940</b>

Fully audited financial statements can be viewed at  
[livingpositivevictoria.org.au](http://livingpositivevictoria.org.au)



**“If we have seen further  
it is by standing on the  
shoulders of giants.”**

**– Isaac Newton**

