

LPV ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

'By and for all'



Living Positive Victoria (LPV) is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation representing all people living with HIV in Victoria since 1988, and is committed to the advancement of human rights and wellbeing of all people living with HIV (PLHIV).

In response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, Living Positive Victoria was created as a safe place to provide support and advocate for those living with virus. The demand for services increased over the years and the organisation has now grown to a team of 16 individuals providing workshops, peer support and activities that increase the psychological, emotional and social wellbeing of those living with, or affected by HIV. Living Positive Victoria also works closely in partnership with a range of HIV sector and other organisations to deliver a comprehensive and coordinated response to the needs of PLHIV in Victoria, nationally and internationally.

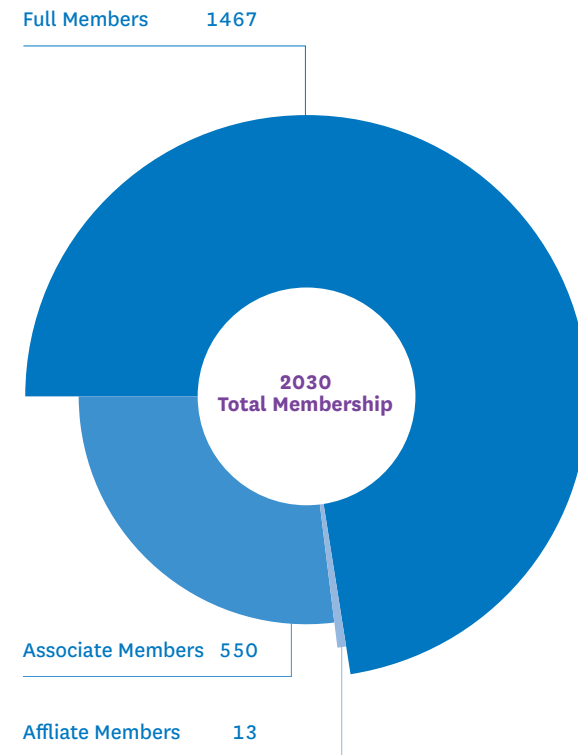
Living Positive Victoria is an Australian, incorporated association and registered Australian Charity for taxation purposes.

Living Positive Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land where we work and live. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We celebrate the stories, culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of all communities who also work and live on this land.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Living Positive Victoria's services reach a member base of 2030 individuals, their partners and family members and their families across all ethnicities, genders, ages, sexual identities and abilities.

Membership of Living Positive Victoria is free and is open to any person in Victoria and Tasmania living with HIV, family members, health care workers, friends and supporters.



OUR FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2028



As an organisation, we recognise the importance of adapting to change and developing innovative solutions to meet emerging challenges. Our five year Strategic Plan represents our commitment to remaining agile and responsive to the needs of our diverse communities. We remain steadfast in our dedication to creating a brighter future for PLHIV in Victoria and beyond and this Strategic Plan represents a significant milestone on that journey.

Our Vision

A world where people living with HIV live their lives to their full potential, in good health and free from discrimination.

Our 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.

Strategic Agenda

Our focus for this five year period is to reduce HIV related stigma. We will do this through strategies that build on what we do well (our 'Defend' objectives) as well as innovate into new areas (our 'Extend' objectives).



OUR PILLARS OF ENGAGEMENT

Support

We support PLHIV at every stage of their lives, through our evidence- based, peer- led models and services.

Advocate

We advocate for equity across the health, housing, disability and legal sectors.

Connect

We provide safe spaces for PLHIV to connect.

OUR ENABLERS

The voice of lived experience

We will elevate the voice of lived experience to help change the narrative of PLHIV and combat both internal and external stigma. We will challenge outdated and discriminatory narratives, provide a platform for the voice of lived experience and build capability in systems and sectors.

Strategic partnerships

We will partner within our sector and across our communities to extend reach, avoiding duplication and increase overall impact.

Sustainable organisation

We will ensure we have appropriate business and operating models to support our work. We will remain financially stable, supported by fit for purpose technology, systems and service provision. We will value, support and invest in staff and board members. We acknowledge the crucial support of volunteers.

Living Positive Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

lpv.org.au/reports-and-resources/reports-and-publications/strategic-plan/

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a year of considerable change for Living Positive Victoria (LPV), marked by our decision to relocate our office to 25 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. This move represents a strategic step forward in how we operate and connect with our communities, offering us an opportunity to reshape our organisation in ways that better serve you, our clients and members, who are at the heart of everything we do.

MAJOR BOARD ACTIVITY: RELOCATION TO BETTER SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES

The decision to move was not made lightly. It required careful thought, significant planning, and months of close collaboration with our long-time partners, Positive Women Victoria. With our lease agreement at Coventry House coming to an end, we recognised that the post-pandemic world had shifted how we work. Flexible and remote working models have reduced the need for large office spaces. Additionally, in a climate of funding uncertainties, finding a cost-effective solution became essential to ensure the sustainability of our organisation.

Our new location at 25 Elizabeth Street places us in the very heart of Melbourne, enhancing accessibility. With excellent public transport links, connecting with us will be easier than ever. Being part of a vibrant local community opens up significant opportunities to engage with and influence our surroundings, enriching the services and programs we offer.



Photo: LPV President Craig A Brennan (right) with Dr Dean Murphy of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University

I want to express my deepest gratitude to those who led and supported this relocation:

- **Richard Keane**, our CEO, and **Kirsty Machon**, Executive Officer of Positive Women Victoria, whose positive attitudes and practical approaches turned a complex process into a manageable journey. Their leadership and collaboration were instrumental in aligning our organisations and ensuring this transition.
- **David Westlake**, who tirelessly searched for the perfect new home and expertly coordinated the fit-out and logistics of our move.
- **Matthew Gallagher**, our Treasurer, who skilfully guided us through the financial considerations, ensuring we made sound decisions for our future.
- **Stephanie Raper**, President of Positive Women Victoria, for her support and for reinforcing the shared vision between our organisations.

To Richard, Kirsty, David, Matthew, and Stephanie—*thank you* from the bottom of my heart.



ADVANCING OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, I would like to provide updates on our strategic objectives as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2023–2028. Keeping you informed about change and progress ensures that our strategic plan remains a living document and that the Board remains accountable to you.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (SUPPORT OBJECTIVE 1)

A key part of our commitment to inclusivity is the development of our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). I am pleased to report that we have begun our Reflect RAP and made significant progress. However, unforeseen staffing changes did force work to begin later than anticipated. The Board has decided to extend the timeline for implementing a fully actionable RAP to 2026. This extension allows us essential time to complete the Reflect stage, to deeply evaluate the insights we've gained and ensure that our actions are grounded in genuine engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



Over the next two years, we will transition from the Reflect RAP into an Innovate RAP, focusing on building stronger relationships and piloting strategies for reconciliation. This approach is not just about meeting deadlines; it's about ensuring that our commitments lead to real, impactful change. We believe that taking the time to get this right is essential for fostering genuine partnerships and making a meaningful difference.

NEEDS ANALYSIS FOR AGEING PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (SUPPORT OBJECTIVE 2)

Addressing the needs of ageing people living with HIV remains a key objective for us. Initially, our goal was to have a comprehensive needs analysis and collaborative strategy by 2024. However, this objective has proven more complex than first anticipated. The Board has extended the deadline for this first measure to 2025, recognising that a deeper understanding of this growing demographic is crucial.

As highlighted at the International AIDS Society Conference, the ageing population of people living with HIV faces unique challenges, such as managing comorbidities and accessing adequate healthcare. By allocating additional time, we aim to gather comprehensive data and develop targeted solutions that effectively address these challenges. In the meantime, programs like the Taking Charge Program and Well Beyond 50 will continue to provide essential support to our communities.

IMMIGRATION LAW REFORM ADVOCACY PLAN (ADVOCATE OBJECTIVE 1)

We continue to actively work on advocacy around immigration law reform, specifically focusing on policies that disproportionately impact people living with HIV who seek residency in Australia. Our initial objective was to complete an advocacy plan by the end of 2023, outlining how we would collaborate with the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) to influence issues at the Commonwealth level.

Board has decided to extend the deadline for completing this advocacy plan to 2025. This extension allows us to develop a comprehensive strategy that is thorough and effective in addressing the barriers faced by people living with HIV in the immigration system. It provides us with the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with NAPWHA and other key organisations, unifying our efforts and amplifying our collective voice.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff and volunteers for their unwavering commitment and adaptability during this period of change. Your passion and hard work are the backbone of our organisation. To our clients and members, your trust and engagement inspire us every day. We are here because of you and for you, and we are dedicated to making a positive difference in your lives.

This has been a year of growth and reinvention for Living Positive Victoria. We have navigated significant changes while remaining steadfast in our mission to support people living with HIV. I am confident that together, we will continue to create positive change and advance our objectives. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Your support is invaluable, and we are excited about what we can achieve together in the coming years.



FROM THE CEO



Photo: LPV CEO Richard Keane

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the support I have received as CEO from both our operational and governance teams, in a year of unprecedented challenges and achievements for our organisation.

In this post-COVID environment, financial and structural changes have shaped much of our priorities over the past fiscal year. The broader Victorian HIV response, inclusive of Living Positive Victoria, was not spared these challenges.

To mitigate this reduction in funding, we decided to take advantage of the post-covid hybrid working environment and downsize our office footprint to save the financial outlay on rental costs and ensure that we are able continue to offer the diverse range of peer-led programs and initiatives that connect our positive community and increase the quality of life for folks living with HIV and ensure that wide-scale redundancies or reductions in staff hours could be minimised.

Coventry House was originally arranged to bring together three separate organisations to build closer and stronger partnerships. 15 years of working together, a merger with Straight Arrows Victoria and Living Positive Victoria, as well as a strengthened alliance with Positive Women shows the real and long-lasting results of that initiative that has benefited all people living with and affected by HIV across Victoria.



From those strong foundations we now have an opportunity to look towards meeting the current and future needs of our community in the heart of the city. This has been a huge and ongoing undertaking across every level of our organisation.

We are truly excited, and we look forward to many years in our new CBD location at levels 3 & 4 of 25 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. This secure, discreet, central location provides easy access from Flinders Street Station and the Elizabeth Street tram interchange, as well as access to a wide range of community spaces located within the CBD, to utilise for workshops and meeting opportunities for both staff and clients alike.

Despite the fiscal challenges we have faced across the 23-24 financial year, we have achieved some amazing results.

ADVOCACY

We have begun our Multicultural Engagement Strategy and are working with Ananda Consultants to deliver this by the end of 2024. This strategy will work to ensure that with the ever-increasing referrals of folks born overseas to our organisation, we become a culturally and psychologically safe place for culturally diverse folks. This is being achieved by reviewing our policies and programs, and consulting community members and providing a forward framework for stronger networking and partnerships with multicultural experts across our state. We will also continue to improve the way we gather information about the cultural backgrounds and identities of people who access our services and programs. As part of this, we have included some details in this report of the numbers of people who engaged with us over the past year who were also born overseas.

We have begun laying the groundwork for a research partnership led by Professor Graham Brown of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) at La Trobe University to investigate the lives and lived experiences of trans and gender diverse folks living with HIV in Victoria. This novel and long overdue research partnership will be delivered in 2025.



Over the last two years I have been proud to engage with Professor Sharon Lewin of the Doherty Institute as we examine the ethics and community-led engagement around the potential implementation of phylogenetic tracing of HIV. This type of tracing has been used across other notifiable conditions like syphilis and difficult-to-treat STIs and was at the forefront of tracing of COVID notifications from 2020 through to 2022. It has also provided our community with a key partnership for developing a decriminalisation framework for HIV as a part of this proposal.

I was delighted to be involved with the development of content and to participate on some lived experience panels as part of the delivery of this year's LGBTIQ+ Leadership Program run via the Minister for Equality and the Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities, with outcomes in training and connecting our future LGBTIQ+ leaders in an enabling and empowering program of diverse leadership skills and opportunities.

As part of the State HIV Strategy, LPV has been central in the development and implementation of the Stigma Reduction Tool Kit, aimed at reducing instances of stigma experienced by people living with HIV in healthcare settings. Building stronger relationships, partnerships and working towards a shared understanding of what good care looks like, has been a great initiative led by the Victorian Department of Health and ARCSHS.

As well as this, we have continued to engage in key forums with our national peak organisation NAPWHA as well as Health Equity Matters on issues as diverse as AI in health care, HIV and ageing, migration and the development of the 9th National HIV Strategy, due to be delivered on World AIDS Day 2024.

SUPPORT

Our program offerings continued to evolve throughout 2023-2024 to provide the support our community expects.



Our recent successes in securing ViiV community grants led to the development of the Translating the Facts project. We have now translated a range of six basic HIV information sheets into eight key language groups, which have not only been distributed across our peer navigation teams, but are in the process of being shared cross clinical and sector partners here in Victoria and adapted, shared and co-branded across NSW, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT, responding to the needs of our local Victorian emerging communities with a national reach and focus.

Initiatives led by our peer staff also secured funding through a ViiV Community Action Grant to co-create a resource for people living with HIV to talk about their HIV status with friends, family and lover(s). We will host a range of Let them Know workshops nationwide and engage in a consultation process to develop a digital resource, available towards the end of 2024. The resource will explore talking about HIV with others from the perspective of people with lived experience, providing people with tools and resources to support people should they choose to talk about their HIV.

To enable our community to learn how to navigate HIV related legal and migration frameworks in Australia, we have developed the Know Your Rights workshops, presented in partnership with Q+Law. These workshops build on Living Positive Victoria's guide to legal issues in Victoria and the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre's Positive Migration Guide to learn about legal and anti-discrimination frameworks related to HIV, disclosure and transmission in Victoria; get practical information about Australian visas and migration with HIV; find out about how to access legal support and services; and share and hear about the experiences of other people living with HIV.

These key advances alongside our ongoing offerings of Let Them Know, Positive Reflections, Phoenix Men and Phoenix Women's workshops continue to deliver peer-led support to our communities across the state.



CONNECT

We continue to offer a broad range of all-inclusive as well as priority population-focused ways for positive people to connect.

The initiation this year of the Bi+ and South Asian peer support groups as well as Victorian chapters of Positive Latinx Australia Network, the Positive Asian Network Australia, Het Men, Women's Day, Adult Retreats, Family Days, Taking Charge over 50's support networks and quarterly Planet Positive events continue to diversify opportunities for in-person connection for our community.

Connection through the development of our Poslink+ media brand to deliver video and podcast media, our monthly and quarterly newsletters, and our monthly interviews on Saturday Magazine with JOY FM, continue to provide offerings for our community to connect in a range of ways to engage with emerging issues.

Members, we should all be proud of the achievements of our amazing operational team at Living Positive Victoria.

I would like to acknowledge key valued staff members who have left our employ in the last 12 months. Craig Burnett, Dimitri Daskalakis and Beau Newham each had diverse engagement with our organisation. We value their contributions to the local HIV response and wish them every success in their new endeavours.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

LPV supports PLHIV at every stage of their lives. Through our evidence-based, peer-led models and services we apply a continuous improvement lens across all program areas to address emerging priorities and communities.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is held on the third Sunday of May every year. In 2024 the event was held at the Docklands Library and several speakers spoke of their journey of living with HIV plus we remembered those we have lost to the virus. Over 100 people attended the event this year, a powerful reminder of how important it is to continue to mobilise our communities in solidarity, to remember the many lives lost to AIDS and honour those who dedicated their lives to helping people living with and affected by HIV.



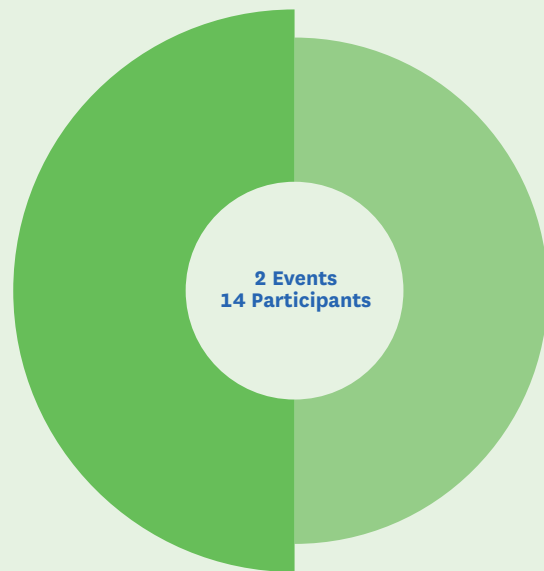
PLANET POSITIVE

Planet Positive is a welcoming social event offering community, connection and fun. It is held four times a year and is open to everyone – men, women, trans, and gender-diverse people living with HIV, along with their friends, partners, and families. Our fabulous volunteers bring the love as they welcome guests and serve up lunch.

Three of our Planet Positive events are generously hosted by our friends at the Laird Hotel, while once a year we venture to a different community in Melbourne. This year we held the launch of the Viral Stories podcast and also introduced a new ‘speed friending’ session for newcomers and others keen to make new connections in the positive community.

T-CELL DANCE CLASS

The T-Cell Dance Class is a dance class-style event for everyone in our community to get together and let loose. Across two events participants learned some easy-to-follow choreography to pop hits by Kylie Minogue, Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande, got some exercise, and celebrated their HIV positive identity.



GEN NEXT

Gen Next provides young people living with HIV a safe, confidential and supportive space to connect with their peers, reduce social isolation and support them to live well with HIV through mix of social events and health promotion activities.



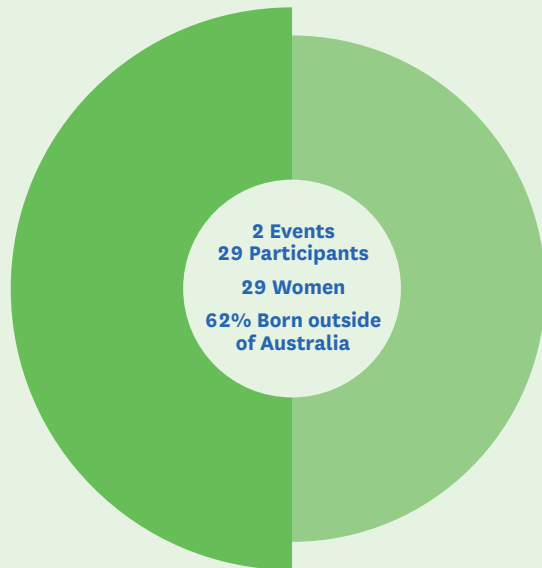
FAMILY EVENTS

Living Positive Victoria offers three family-specific events per year. The family day, end of year Christmas party and the weekend long Camp Seaside. These events are open to all families 0-16 years old and are a great opportunity for people to connect and share their experiences parenting as a HIV- positive person or looking after a HIV-positive child. These events are complete free, safe and confidential.



WOMEN'S DAYS

Living Positive Victoria offer two women's days per year. These events are inclusive of trans women and gender diverse people who identify with this group. The women's days are always lots of fun! Some previous days have included lunches, candle making, self defence and a swap meet. Aside from the fun activities these days are a great opportunity to meet other positive women and share experiences of living with HIV in a safe and confidential space.



BI+ SUPPORT GROUP

Living Positive Victoria is very excited to announce the first bi+ group for people living with HIV in Victoria. The term Bi+ is the umbrella term that includes people of any gender that may identify as bisexual, pansexual, omnisexual, fluid, queer, questioning, multigender attracted and more. This group is offering a much-needed space for the positive bi+ community to celebrate the diversity in their sexuality. Living Positive Victoria is committed to ending bi erasure and create a space in which Bi+ people can connect and share their experiences as people living with HIV.



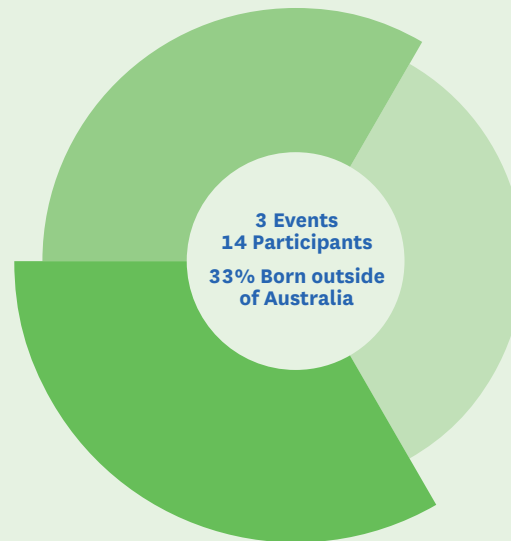
ADULTS LUNCH

This event is open to all women, heterosexual and bi+ men, trans and gender diverse folks who identify with this group and are living with HIV. Partners are welcome.

HETEROSEXUAL MEN'S PROGRAM

The Heterosexual Men's Program offers opportunities for straight men living with HIV to come together informally for social connection. Heterosexual men with HIV have unique needs as a relatively small cohort of people living with HIV. This group gives them a space to connect and support each other as peers. Activities this year included a Sunday BBQ, a mid-week home-cooked dinner, a pizza and pool (pocket billiards) event and a pizza and games night. Typically, HIV gets discussed at these events, often in depth, even when no agenda is set. Privacy plus a short conversation allowing attendees to commit to confidentiality are key ingredients.

"If only one new person comes, it means one life changed, saved or improved. Keep up the good work... it really works".



HETMAN

HetMAN stands for Heterosexual Men's Advocacy Network, a group of heterosexual men living with HIV, supported by NAPWHA, advocating nationally for straight guys living with HIV.



SPOTLIGHT ON AGEING WITH HIV

LPV's strategic plan emphasises responding to and advocating for the needs of older people with HIV, and a core part of this work involves ensuring that our older members access safe and stigma free aged care.

GETTING READY FOR AGED CARE

This year, in partnership with Thorne Harbour Health (THH) and the Bolton Clarke HIV Nursing Team (BC), we hosted a stall at the Aged & Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) Care and Ageing Well Expo. Created in 2017, this annual consumer facing expo is the lead event of its kind in Victoria. Our participation provided benefits to both LPV and our members by raising awareness about HIV and showcasing our work to older consumers and the aged care industry.

Over a weekend we promoted the services the partner organisations provide to the older HIV positive community. The two-day event was well attended by multiple care providers, with 74 exhibiting companies, who responded well to the information and services we provide. We provided print resources and screened lived experience videos, as well as engaging other attendees and exhibitors in discussion about our work. Our three staff and six volunteers engaged in 58 conversations with representatives from aged care, home care and palliative care services, as well as other folks from allied services.



TAKING CHARGE PROJECT PEER SUPPORT NETWORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH

With a mix of health promotion and social activities, Living Positive Victoria continued to provide opportunities for older people with HIV to increase health literacy and peer connection.

Highlights include a session on Body Image in which counsellor Trish Thompson led a discussion on the thoughts and feelings that people had on their body image as they aged. The network also took a train journey to the regional city of Bendigo where local folks living with HIV were invited to join for lunch and a visit to the art gallery.

Other sessions included a trip to Melbourne Museum, a breathing class, and a picnic.



Photos: Melbourne Museum (top) and Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne (bottom).



Photo: LPV Health Promotion Officer Vic Perri presenting on line for International Long term Survivors Awareness Day 2023

INTERNATIONAL LONG TERM SURVIVORS AWARENESS DAY

This year 22 people gathered for International Long term Survivors Awareness Day to celebrate and reflect on the lived experiences of living long term with HIV. Some have lived with HIV for an astonishing 40 years.

To help with the celebrations we were fortunate enough to welcome via Zoom some interstate and international guests including Adrian Ogier, Director of Campaigns and Communications at the National Association of People With HIV Australia (NAPWHA) in Sydney, NSW, Andrew Tan Tze Tho, president of the Kuala Lumpur AIDS Support Services Society (KLASS) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Jesus Guillen, founder of the International Long term Survivors Network in San Francisco, U.S.A.

POSITIVE SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

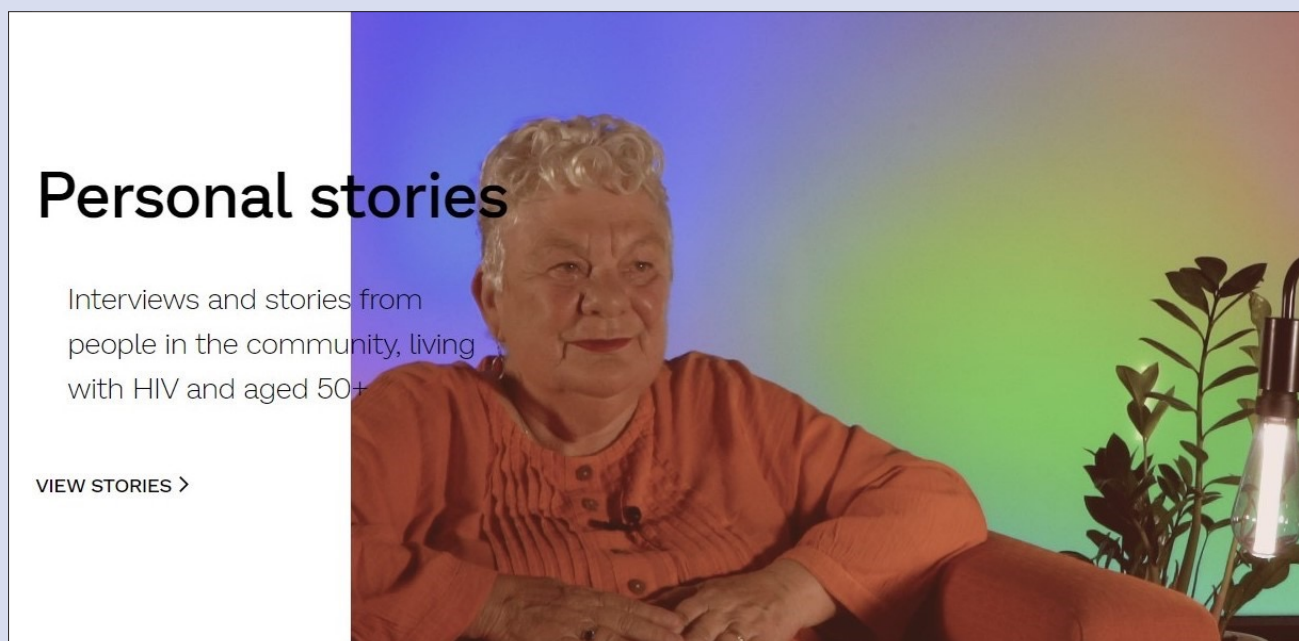
The evidence based Positive Self-Management program is all about building capacity by developing health literacy and life skills is what . This helps people feel greater control and less reliance on the healthcare system, adding to an overall better quality of life.

- One six-week program in person in partnership with Thorne Harbour Health
- One six-week program online in partnership with the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF)
- 7 participants in total

WELL BEYOND 50

This year we produced eight new personal story videos exploring aspects of the lived experience of ageing with HIV. Many thanks go out to Bev, Adam, Max, Ian, Bruce and Jeffrey who shared their stories about challenging stigma, living with disability, coping with past traumas, experiences with drug use, surviving anal cancer and being a positive woman in the early years of the HIV epidemic. Our generous speakers also shared insights for health workers such as strategies for making health and aged care services safer for people with HIV.

The Well Beyond 50 website contains vital health information, articles and personal stories to support older people to live and age well with HIV. It was developed in 2020 in partnership with the Burnet Institute, Alfred Health and Thorne Harbour Health. Following an evaluation of the website we will be merging the stand-alone Well Beyond 50 website with the main LPV website lpv.org.au. This will substantially increase the reach of this vital website and also enhance the quality and relevance of the main LPV site.



CHALLENGING INEQUITY

We advocate for equity across the health, housing, disability and legal sectors to reduce discrimination; to reduce stigma and enhance access to support, treatment and care for PLHIV.

WORLD AIDS DAY

The Victorian World AIDS Day event is an all-day symposium bringing together speakers, panel discussions and scientific lectures exploring changes in the approaches to HIV care and treatment and lived experiences of people living with HIV. This year the theme of the event was inclusion and equity, with experts and positive people sharing insights into what is needed to get closer to equity for all. We also hosted the International Science As Art exhibition which was displayed at IAS Brisbane earlier in the year.



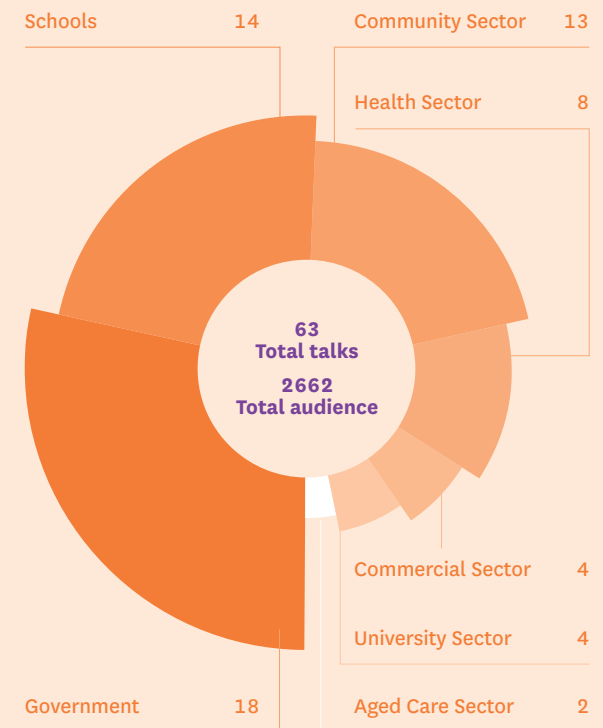
Photo from left: LPV CEO Richard Keane, Positive Women Victoria CEO Kirsty Machon, The Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MLA, Victorian Minister for Health, Minister for Health Infrastructure, and Minister for Medical Research and LPV President Craig A Brennan.

POSITIVE SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Positive Speakers Bureau members are the human face of HIV and help to reduce fear, myths, stigma, and discrimination and to more fully understand the realities of living with HIV.

The Positive Speakers Bureau is run by and for HIV positive people who are highly trained public speakers and presenters. Speakers tailor their presentations in response to each request and in accordance with their subject matter knowledge and experience.

Our speaker's primary aim is to talk about their personal experiences of living with HIV. However topics such as homophobia, sexuality, social justice, and equity of healthcare access are commonly discussed alongside HIV and STI prevention and the promotion of safer sexual behaviours.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: HIV, LAW AND MIGRATION WORKSHOP

This year saw the development and pilot-testing of Know Your Rights, a workshop that enables people living with HIV to navigate HIV-related legal and migration frameworks in Australia.

Know Your Rights responded to the growing need observed across our peer navigation program and workshops for support to overcome discrimination in the Australian migration system and understand legal rights, protections and obligations for living with HIV in Victoria. The workshop content builds on Living Positive Victoria's legal guide to HIV, the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre's Positive Migration Guide and incorporates the experiences of a positive speaker who shares their migration story. Focus group testing of the workshop format with people living with HIV of diverse gender, sexuality and experiences of law and migration frameworks emphasised the importance of emotional support, practical information about visa applications and pathways, and referral to trusted HIV-specialist legal and migration services in Victoria.

We presented the first Know Your Rights workshop in partnership with Q+Law in 2024, which was attended by 14 participants. Participants reported increased knowledge of legal obligations related to HIV prevention and disclosure, Australian visas and migration with HIV, and privacy and anti-discrimination protections. The largest recorded increase in knowledge was about how to access HIV-specialist legal and migration services in Victoria. Participants were asked about what it was like to hear from another person living with HIV about their experience of migration, the most valuable aspects of the workshop and any other feedback they would like to share.

“It was invigorating and makes me feel hopeful, but also aware of what can happen and be prepared.”

“[Through] the session about specialist legal and migration services for PLHIV and the migration journey of the speaker...I gained meaningful insight [about] what I can do.”

“Every session provided very useful information ... It showed me the ways I can go on with support and make all right decisions regarding my visa and permanent residency pathway. I also got to know my rights and rules based on positive living. Getting to know people and their experiences made me motivated.”

Living Positive Victoria plans to run three Know Your Rights workshops in the next financial year, including one online to reach people living in regional Victoria.



OUR WORK WITH STATE AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND NETWORKS

HIV Interagency Forum organising committee

The HIV Interagency Forum is a network of people who work in HIV service delivery and health promotion. The Forum meets three times a year, and meetings are a mix of information-sharing, networking with other people working in HIV area, and a focus discussion on a specific topic. The HIV Interagency Forum is a partnership between Living Positive Victoria, Positive Women Victoria, The Alfred (Social Work) and Thorne Harbour Health (Positive Living Centre).

- HIV and Faith (exploring some of the ways that spiritual and religious beliefs intersect with the lived experience of HIV) 45 attendees, 4 speakers and panelists
- HIV and the NDIS Journey (building understanding of how people living with HIV can engage with THE NDIS) 46 attendees, 7 speakers and panelists
- HIV Peer Support (peer workers sharing their insights about their work supporting people to live well and to manage the challenging aspects of living with HIV) 30 attendees, 5 speakers and panelists

Other

The Treatment Outreach Network (TON), supported and coordinated by the National Association of People With HIV Australia (NAPWHA), is a group of HIV sector workers of a variety of disciplines from around Australia. The group met online twice over 2023-2024. The first meeting covered a range of topics. The second was a webinar, 'Promoting free and low-cost HIV Treatments to people without Medicare in Australia.'

'BOLDER', supported and coordinated by the National Association of People With HIV Australia (NAPWHA), is like the TON group in structure but focuses on issues relating to older people with HIV. As a national group and recognizing access as important, an exciting new initiative was commenced that saw monthly webinars covering a whole range of ageing-related topics such as Inflammation, alcohol and other drug use and the Philosophy of illness.

Policy Submissions and Consultations

- Victorian Cancer Action Plan Consultation - Written submission and in-person roundtable consultation arguing for the inclusion of a priority relating to prevention and screening around viral-associated cancers, as well as a more nuanced framing of priority communities.
- National HIV Strategy Consultation – Two written submissions to consultation drafts urging the government to strengthen the targets related to reducing stigma and to ensure that priority actions reflect the needs of smaller priority populations.
- National Anal Cancer Consultation – participation in development of a national framework for testing, diagnosis and support for people with HIV
- Aged Care Act Review consultation– contribution to written submission via NAPWHA Operational Leadership Group and Older PLHIV Engagement Reference Group

RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

Leading

Peer Navigation Implementation Trial (ARCSHS, La Trobe University/ LPV)

Supporting

Newly Positive (ARCSHS, La Trobe University)

Contributing

Melbourne GBQ+ Community Periodic Survey (CSRH, UNSW)

HIV Futures 11 (ARCSHS, La Trobe University)

Strengthening peer and community led responses program (ARCSHS, La Trobe University)

HIV and Faith (PhD Research, Monash University)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Krulic, T., Brown, G., Graham, S., McCarthy, A., & Bourne, A. (2024). Stepping out of secrecy: heterosexuality, quality of life, and experiences of HIV peer navigation in Australia. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2024.2308667>

Conference Papers

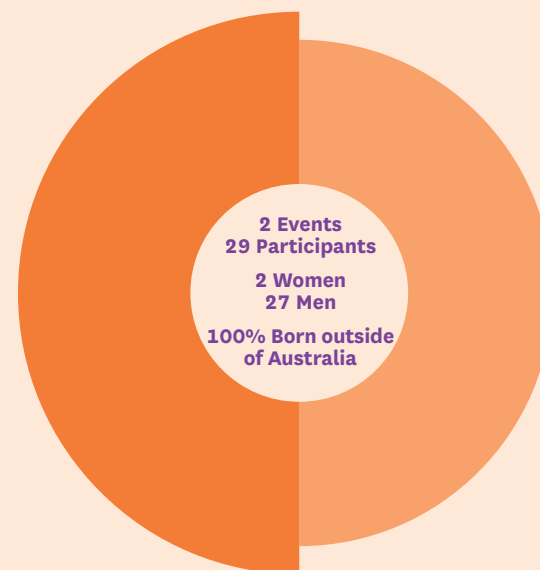
Martinez Andres, J., Fairley, C.K., Krulic, T., Owen, L., Bissessor, M., Thng, C., McNulty, A., Bell, C., Ratnayake, M., Murphy, D., Ong, J.J., Chow, E.P.F., & Phillips, T. (2023, September 19) Telehealth for HIV care and management among people living with HIV in Australia. Session 12: Reimagining our SRH systems, services and care – online/telehealth solutions. Australasian Reproductive and Sexual Health Conference, Sydney. ASRH23 Program - Abstracts 12: Reimagining our SRH systems, services and care - Online / telehealth solutions (eventsair.com)

PLAN

The Positive Latinx Australian Network, known as PLAN, is a community-led advocacy group represented by and for a collective of people living with HIV in Australia who are from Latin American and Hispanic backgrounds. PLAN is an initiative of NAPWHA.

Latinx Support Group

The Latinx Group supports people living with HIV from Latin American and Hispanic backgrounds to connect with their peers. It provides a confidential space for discussing topics of interest to support optimal health and wellbeing and to reduce social isolation in an environment that is culturally safe.



PANA

The Positive Asian Network Australia, known as PANA, is a community and advocacy group by and for all Asian people living with HIV (Asian PLHIV) in Australia. PANA is run by and for community. PANA is an initiative of NAPWA and bi-monthly meetings held online.



**Do you have an Asian background?
Are you living with HIV?**

You are not alone.

Find support with a Positive Asian community in Australia

PANA
POSITIVE
ASIAN
NETWORK
AUSTRALIA

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY
Visit: napwha.org.au/about-us/pana



POSITIVE ASIANS VICTORIA

Positive Asians Victoria, (PAV) is a community-based group for folks of Asian heritage who are also living with HIV in Victoria. The aim of this group is to connect Positive Asian folks with one another, and to provide a safe space to discuss issues such as social isolation, cultural differences, migration, HIV stigma and discrimination. Social events are run every couple of months of the year and consist of hikes, yoga, bowling, picnics, sailing around the city of Melbourne and more!

SOUTH ASIAN CONNECT

A subsidiary of PAV, this group was formed to provide a confidential space for Positive South Asian folks to connect and discuss the unique challenges their communities face in relation to migration, family and cultural demands, and social isolation. A specific group-led event is held quarterly.

SAFE SPACES FOR ALL

LPV provides safe spaces for PLHIV to connect and to ensure no one is left behind. We develop ways to connect with all PLHIV through internal capability and strategic partnerships by offering inclusivity to those outside of metropolitan Melbourne and those who are not comfortable with face-to face events.

COMMUNICATIONS

The LPV communications team plays a pivotal role between LPV's programs and services and the community that relies on them. Our communication strategy focuses on support, advocacy and connection, ensuring that our members, clients, followers, stakeholder partners and broader community. receive safe, accurate, relevant and trusted information. These messages, delivered through the LPV website, newsletters, video & podcast channels, social media platforms and direct mail to our subscribers provide targeted and purposeful information that fosters connectivity between community members. While our focus is metro Melbourne and regional Victoria, our work builds engagement amongst PLHIV folks through our national and international links.

Our communications efforts are further enriched by raising awareness and encouraging participation in significant days of recognition and remembrance such as World AIDS Day, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, International Women's Day, Long Term Survivors Day, International Day of People with Disability, IDAHOBIT, Trans and Gender Diverse Day of Visibility and many other allied community activities.

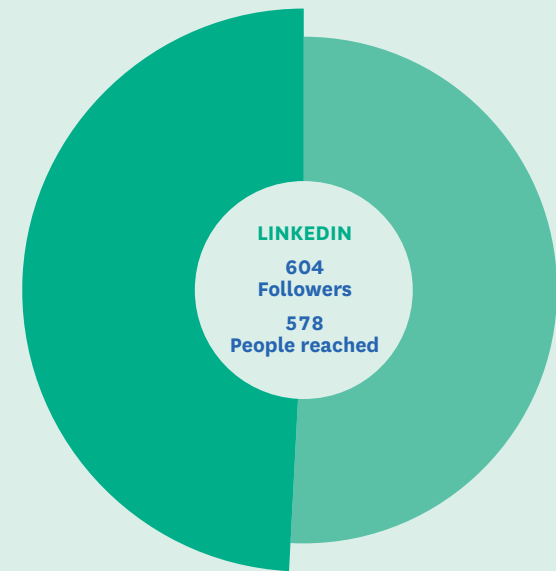
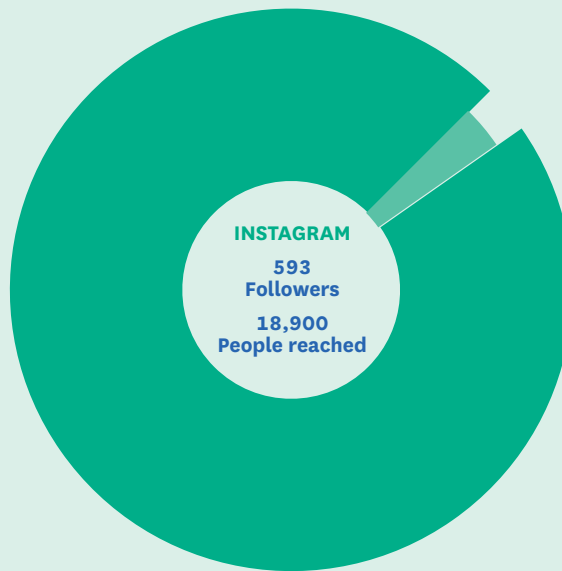
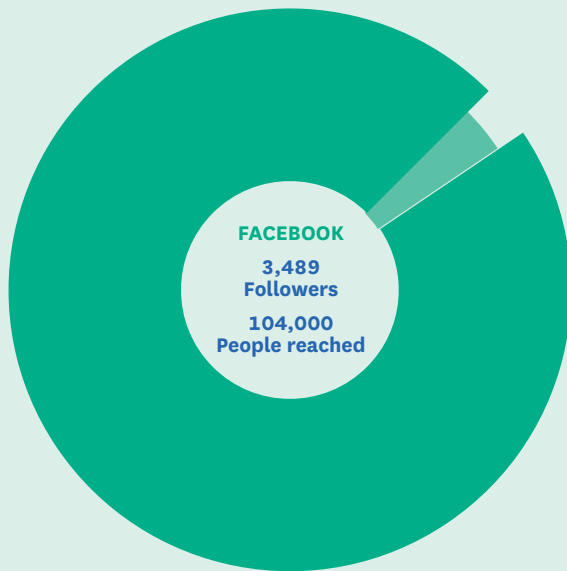
In 2023 we launched the Poslink+ Media channel, diversifying our digital media output to include regular ongoing video and podcast production. This new channel captures and showcases the voices of lived experience, healthcare sector-specific engagement, historic and social interest stories and allied community partnerships.



POSLINK+ QUARTERLY

Poslink+ Quarterly continues to connect our 1700+ subscribers and wider community with in-depth stories about the latest in HIV-related news, art, opinion, research, health advice and lived experience. This year, our quarterly issues covered the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science in Brisbane, the role of meaningful engagement and self-determination to address health inequity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the latest on how treatments interact with habits and lifestyle, and the personal and social factors underpinning HIV transmission and diagnosis in Australia.

We would like to thank our featured artists and contributors: Melissa Warner, Dani Marti, Andrew Chan, Brent Allan, Daniel Cordner, Kairon (Ren-Kai) Liu, Timothy Krulic, Richard Keane, Justin Salerno, Arone Raymond Meeks, Tamera Broughton, Jenny Hoy, Peter Maloney, David Menadue, J Davies, Jeanne Ellard, Clifford Prince King and Robert Grant.



PODBEAN
Total downloads 374

YOUTUBE
Total views 1,934



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers are critical to everything we do at Living Positive Victoria, from helping to facilitate our community events and workshops to serving on our Board of Directors.

Not only do volunteers support us in our day-to-day operation, but their engagement also makes us a much richer and more dynamic community organisation. This year, there were over 41 active volunteers across our programs and organisation. It was a pleasure to thank each of them at our annual Volunteer Week dinner in May.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our 11 newest volunteers who we welcomed across two inductions.

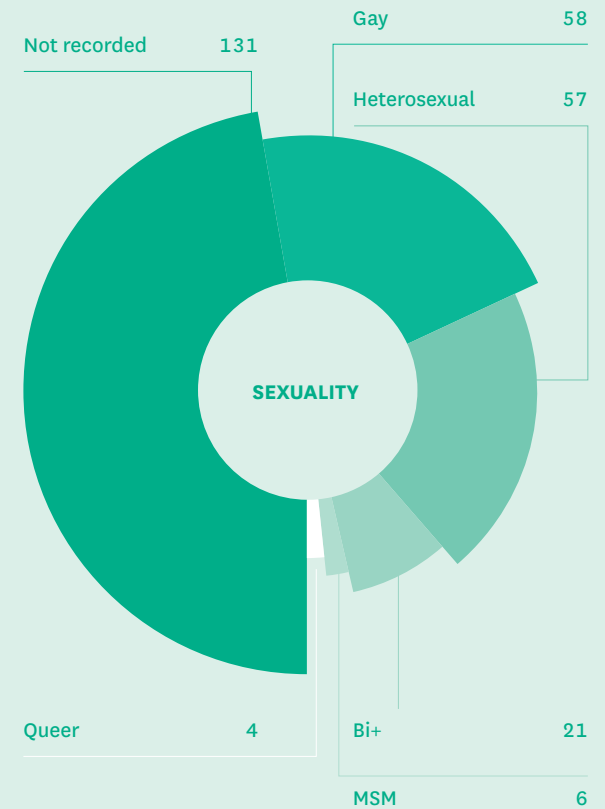
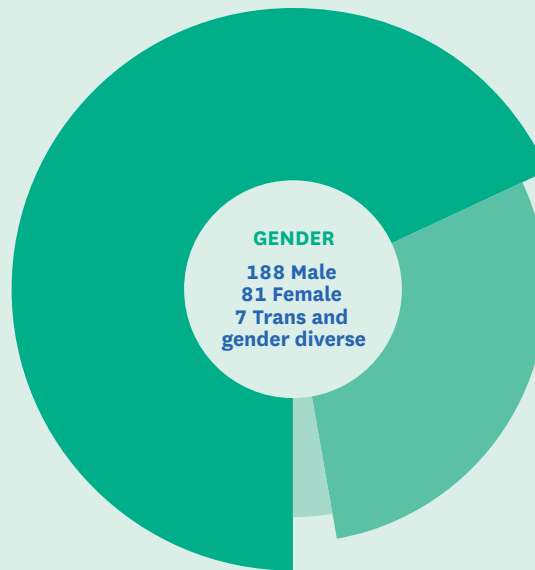
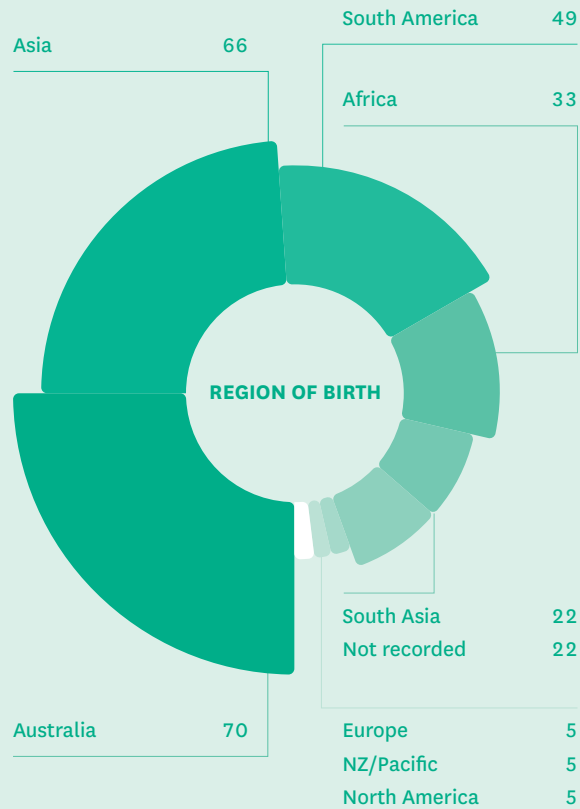
We would also like to congratulate the seven volunteers who completed our peer education and support training and began to help facilitate our peer workshops and support groups.

CHALLENGING STIGMA IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

We know that stigma and discrimination can happen when people share their HIV status, and one of the main places that HIV status is discussed is healthcare settings. We used our in-house skills to develop an HIV stigma intervention video for healthcare workers. Rather than outlining a list of things healthcare workers should not do, we wanted to make a video offering practical tips for good practice, allyship and creating an HIV-safe environment when working with people with HIV. The script was developed in collaboration with the peer workers at LPV and the HIV nursing team at Bolton Clarke, and filmed over a cup of tea and an Iced Vovo. The video will be distributed later in 2024.

PEER NAVIGATION PROGRAM

Our Peer Navigators provide one on one support for people who are newly diagnosed with HIV to manage their diagnosis, access optimal healthcare, achieve their goals and reach full physical and emotional wellbeing. They also work with people who have been living with HIV for some time but who are experiencing HIV-related challenges. Our diverse team of peer navigators take a person-centred approach to supporting their clients to reach optimal quality of life.



PHOENIX FOR WOMEN

Phoenix for women, inclusive of trans women and gender diverse folks who identify with this group, is a workshop for those newly diagnosed or those still wanting to learn more about living with HIV. It is a confidential and supportive space that is facilitated by other people living with HIV. Participants meet other positive people, and learn about managing relationships, stigma, disclosure, HIV health, sexual health and much more.



PHOENIX FOR MEN

Our Phoenix workshops for gay and bisexual men and trans people facilitated peer support and education to 13 newly diagnosed people living with HIV over the course of two weekends. The workshop covers the latest in HIV treatment, negotiating disclosure, sex and relationships, strategies for managing stigma and mental health, and information about other support and services.



LET THEM KNOW

Let Them Know is our HIV Disclosure Workshop, where anyone living with HIV is invited to contribute and learn. This three-hour workshop focuses on improving Positive folks' legal literacy when it comes to navigating HIV stigma and disclosure, as well as providing a confidential space for people living with HIV to share their strategies navigating disclosure with friends, family, lovers and sexual partners. This workshop is held three times in a year and is run by our community volunteers.



POSITIVE REFLECTIONS

Positive Reflections is a workshop run by our community volunteers. This three-hour workshop invites people living with HIV from all walks of life to reflect on three particular points of their HIV journey: their relationship prior to diagnosis, their diagnosis, and their life after being diagnosed.



ADULT RETREAT

The Adult Retreat is a very special weekend away, open to heterosexual and bi + men, women and their partners. Inclusive of trans and gender diverse folks who identify with these groups. The retreat offers a great opportunity to connect and form lifelong friendships over a weekend filled with workshops, discussions and the opportunity to explore different parts of Victoria.



POSITIVE COMMUNITY AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Awarded at the discretion of the President to an individual, group or organisation within the broader community that has demonstrated visionary leadership in improving the quality of life for HIV-positive people. Often the recipient will have served over a long period and contributed to high-level improvements in services for HIV-positive people and to an increased level of awareness of HIV issues.

Awarded to Jordan Laundry

On line gamer Jordan, AKA Skellybear18, plays on a video streaming channel called Twitch. Jordan has set up a donation facility on his channel that is aligned with a series of streaming goals that he set for other gamers. Funds raised by Jordan are directed to LPV's FLIP Fund and where required, are used to assist younger positive people living in regional Victoria. Jordan, who lives in Victoria's Gippsland region, knew nothing about HIV when diagnosed as an 18 year old. Living in country Victoria, Jordan felt isolated until he began researching HIV to educate himself to find answers to the many questions that needed answers. This led to his discovery of LPV and the programs and services offered for folks like him.

Connecting with LPV has meant a reduction in that feeling of isolation, loneliness and fear. Forming connections has allowed Jordan to view living in regional Victoria from a better space. He has connected with other HIV positive locals and he has begun the journey of disclosure. For Jordan, there was no better forum for his fundraiser than his online gaming community. We applaud Jordan for his bravery and commitment to helping others like him and promoting the work of LPV to regional folks.

ALLY OF THE YEAR

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation who, as an ally of the community, has made an exceptional contribution to the advocacy for the health, wellbeing and human rights of people living with HIV in Victoria.

Awarded to Peter Callanan

Peter first engaged with Living Positive Victoria in January 2016 having applied to become a volunteer. An eager ally of people living with HIV, he has since attended a wide variety of events that LPV has been involved in, ranging from the Midsumma Pride March, the Daylesford Chillout Festival, representing LPV at various parties at the Laird Hotel, and regularly assisting us at our quarterly Planet Positive events, welcoming our members with his very friendly nature. Along with his enthusiasm, Peter applies his professional work ethic, always keen to go the extra mile for us whenever available and has been a consistent, reliable and welcoming face at many our events.

Peter will often be the first person you engage with as you arrive at Planet Positive. Peter really does set the tone for the event and his disarming and charming manner puts everyone at ease whether you there for the first time or a regular at our socials. These events do not happen without the participation of our allies and our volunteers and Peter is one of our very best. We are thrilled to formally acknowledge his ongoing contribution as part of team LPV.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation that has had a significant impact on the lives of people living with HIV through a sustained and extraordinary contribution that supports and empowers our positive community.

Awarded to Shivneel Singh

Shivneel (Shiv) has quickly become synonymous with the positive movement in Victoria. As someone who came here to find refuge, connection, and a community, we're incredibly grateful that Shiv decided to share his warmth, talent and love towards our communities. Living Positive Victoria is proud to acknowledge Shiv's ongoing commitment to the development of his community. As one of the key founders of Australia's first positive South Asian group, he's also a staple at a number of community events: from volunteering at Planet Positive and Positive Asian Victoria events to facilitating our quarterly workshops — Positive Reflections and Let Them Know.

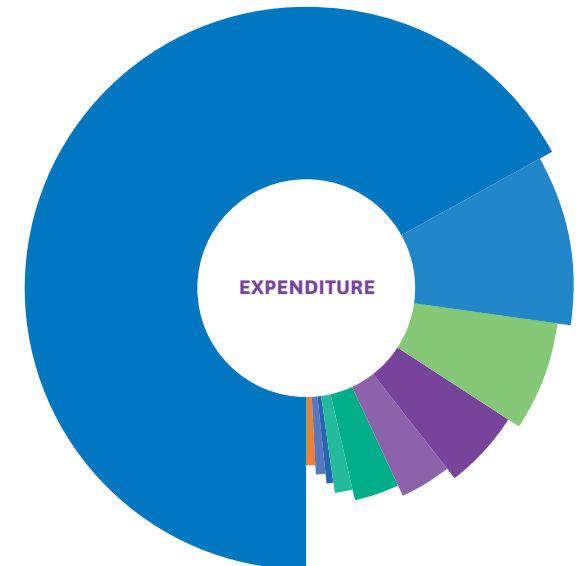
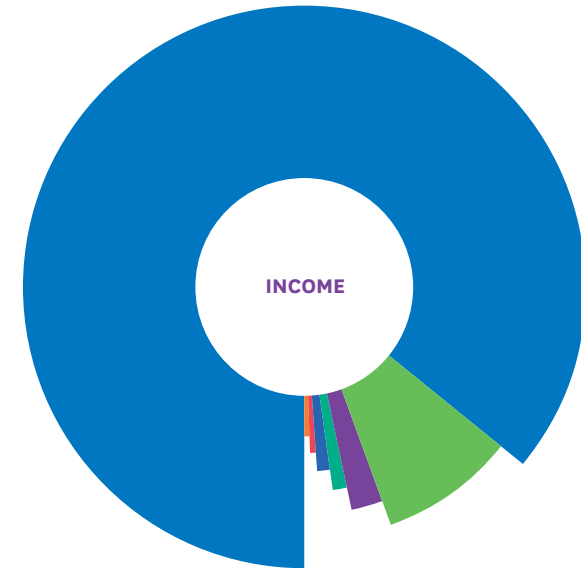
Living Positive Victoria is only as rich as the people who make it and Shiv is one of those shining gems who inspires and builds resilience in anyone he connects with. Thank you for making us proud Shiv. It is our privilege to have the opportunity of getting to know someone as special as Shiv.

MAKING OUR MONEY COUNT

LIVING POSITIVE VICTORIA FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024

Income	\$	%
Government Grants	1,977,021	86.7
Other Government Grants	200,000	8.7
Other Income	46,338	2.1
Corporate Grants	29,182	1.3
Interest Received	14,942	0.7
Donations	8,377	0.4
Speakers Bureau Income	2,314	0.1
Total Revenue	2,278,174	100%

Expenditure	\$	%
Other personnel costs	1,564,037	67.0
Right of use of leased premises amortisation	242,901	10.4
Under spending on grant Funding	164,035	7.0
Health promotion & positive education expenses	120,739	5.2
Administration expenses	80,901	3.5
Coventry House costs	78,278	3.4
Campaign expenses	29,728	1.3
Speakers Bureau	18,818	0.8
Interest on lease liability	13,630	0.6
Grant expenses	11,348	0.5
Governance expenses	8,399	0.3
Total Expenses	2,332,814	100%
Total Comprehensive income for the year	(54,640)	



FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

		2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue	2	2,278,174	2,256,529
Gain on change in right use of assets and liabilities		(80,901)	334,178
Expenses		(1,564,037)	
Administration expenses		(8,399)	(81,121)
Administration salaries and superannuation		(29,728)	(1,428,802)
Board expenses		(11,348)	(50,207)
Campaign expenses		(74,562)	(11,967)
Grant expenses		(46,177)	(9,201)
Health promotion		(13,630)	(62,420)
Health promotion & positive education		(242,901)	(65,287)
Interest on lease liability		(18,818)	(83,789)
Right of use of leased premises amortisation		(290,481)	(290,481)
Speakers Bureau		(22,888)	(22,888)
Conventry House expenses		(78,278)	(107,604)
Income tax expense		-	-
Total income surplus for the year		(54,640)	376,940

Fully audited financial statements can be viewed at lpv.org.au

FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

		2024 \$	2023 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,053,083	1,219,518
Trade and other receivables	5	1,100	444
Other current assets	6	288,267	116,659
Total current assets		1,342,450	1,336,621
Non current assets			
Plant and equipment	7	-	-
Intangible assets	8	60,559	303,460
Total non-current assets		60,559	303,460
Total assets		1,403,009	1,640,081
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	314,031	200,710
Provisions	10	188,188	186,219
Lease liabilities	11	75,372	287,866
Total current liabilities		577,591	674,795
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	10	8,591	18,447
Lease liabilities	11	-	75,372
Total non-current liabilities		8,591	93,819
Total liabilities		586,182	768,614
Net assets		816,827	871,467
Equity			
Accumulated funds		816,827	871,467
Total equity		816,827	871,467

DONATE

As the nature of the HIV epidemic has changed, so too has the needs of our members and our need to continue to respond to a range of issues affecting the health and wellbeing people living with HIV.

Living Positive Victoria works to provide programs and services for people living with HIV that go towards improved health education and awareness, individual and collective resilience raising, capacity building, community connectivity and peer to peer support.

With a one-off donation or regular recurring donations, your support will make a difference to the quality of life of people living with HIV and help us address the mental and physical health barriers that alter the ability of people living with HIV to live the best life they can.

We rely on the support of individuals and organisations to:

- Facilitate access education, referral and advice to people living with HIV in Victoria
- Advocate on behalf of people living with HIV and lobby government, business, and non-government organisations, to ensure improved wellbeing, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, their partners and family members,
- Encourage a positive image of people living with and affected by HIV, to break down prejudice, isolation, stigma and discrimination;
- Build capacity for positive change in people living with HIV, allowing them to live with dignity and lead valued and meaningful lives as full participants in our community.

Help us to continue supporting people living with HIV in Victoria.

We are a deductible gift recipient charity. As long as your donation is \$2 or more, you can claim the full amount of money that you donated on your tax return.

THANK YOU

Support, advocacy and connection through equity of access and peer-led empowerment are the building blocks for better outcomes for all people living with HIV. These are the qualities that guide Living Positive Victoria and motivate our volunteers, our members, our valued donors and our partner organisations to continue supporting us.

Our thanks are shared via our dedicated staff and board and the ever-diversifying communities living with and affected by HIV. It is with your support that we can continue to achieve our mission.

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Living Positive Victoria
(People Living With HIV/AIDS Victoria Incorporated)

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#TeamLPV #LPVconnect #LPVadvocate #LPVsupport

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