

Positive In Prevention: Revisiting PWHIV Roles In The HIV Prevention Response.

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Background/Approach: People with HIV (PWHIV) have played a central role in the HIV prevention response in Australia and internationally. This paper explores the ways in which positive prevention has been conceptualised and practiced in the past and considers its future direction. The paper is informed by consultations with the NAPWHA secretariat and membership, literature relating to positive prevention and interviews with PWHIV.

Analysis/Argument: Positive Prevention often targets PWHIV and focuses only on preventing onward transmission and as such does not recognise prevention as something that is also *for* PWHIV. Many positive prevention programmes exclude the health, wellbeing and prevention needs of PWHIV. We propose that a broader definition of positive prevention is required,

Outcome/Results: The literature, interviews and consultations identified a range of benefits of PWHIV participation in the conceptualisation, design, implementation and delivery of HIV prevention programmes. These include empowering PWHIV, reducing social isolation, changing risk behaviours, reducing stigma and discrimination and increasing antiretroviral therapy uptake. PWHIV engage in a range of formal and informal prevention activities, yet they are often offered little to address their own prevention and sexual health needs. While many PWHIV understand HIV prevention to be a shared responsibility, in practice the burden for preventing onward transmission is often carried by PWHIV.

Conclusions/Applications: We argue for a conceptualisation and practice of positive prevention, that draws on the unique expertise of PWHIV and recognises that health, wellbeing, and human rights are essential components of prevention. We propose the term “positive *in* prevention” as a way to articulate the agency and centrality of PWHIV in ending HIV.