



**SENIOR HIV POSITIVE SPEAKERS  
EDUCATING THE AGED CARE SECTOR –  
ISSUES, SOLUTIONS AND WHERE TO NOW?**

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## PROJECT FUNDING

Australian Government  
Department of Health & Social Services  
Ageing and Diversity Aged Care Service  
Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants 2013  
– 2016



## SENIOR VOICES PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Address the challenging issues of HIV, sexuality, sex and ageing with senior PLHIV speakers
- Educate aged care providers and staff on the needs of senior PLHIV
- Break down HIV stereotypes and stigma
- Ensure inclusion and visibility of older PLHIV in Aged care
- Strengthen the resilience of senior PLHIV



## PROJECT APPROACH WHAT WE DID

- Innovative, peer-based community engagement for speaker training and support
- Resources on models of care excellence for PLHIV
- Built aged care sector networks and knowledge of aged sector workforce training
- Assessed level of HIV knowledge in aged care sector



## THE POWER OF PERSONAL NARRATIVES

- The human face of HIV challenging myths, stigma and discrimination
- Powerful education sessions about living and ageing with HIV, sexuality, sexual health, HIV medication, comorbidities
- Empowered older PLHIV to self advocate for their health and well being



## HIV RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FOR AGED CARE WORKERS AND CARERS

- Speaking with us not for us
- Education and capacity development
- Best practice principles and policies
- Inclusive person centred care
- Empowering PLHIV, care workers & carers
- Health literacy



## SPEAKER RECRUITMENT & TRAINING ISSUES, SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES

- Many struggled with disclosure of sexuality and HIV stigma. WHY?
- Reformatting our peer and health promotion programs supported older speakers with greater peer-to-peer engagement
- One on one mentoring, support and coaching improved speaker recruitment retention.

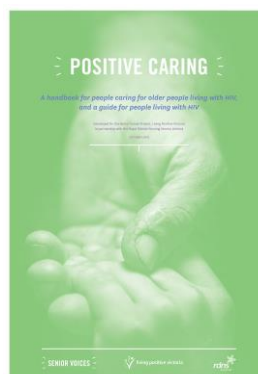


## ENGAGING THE AGED CARE SECTOR ISSUES, SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES

- LGBTI training a higher priority for the sector
- Senior Voices project was unique among all other funded projects
- Little understanding of the power of personal narratives in changing attitudes
- Ambivalence versus eagerness
- Success



## POSITIVE CARING HANDBOOK AND FACT SHEETS RESOURCES



## FUNDERS PERFORMANCE TARGETS ISSUES, SOLUTIONS AND OUTCOMES

- Overly ambitious targets in funding agreement
- Project staff and performance
- Far longer project timelines
- External contractors timelines
- Resources editing timelines



## CONCLUSION

- Realistic goals for grant applications
- Realistic timeframes for project management
- Acknowledge peoples individual needs
- Current and future capacity and development
- Empowered senior HIV speakers as consumer voices in the aged care sector
- Learn from experience
- Refocus on core principles of peer support

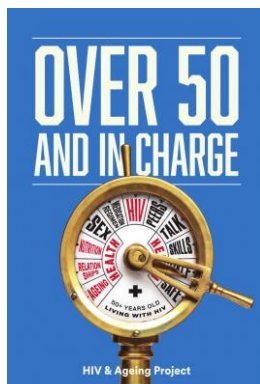


## THE FUTURE

- Continue educating aged care providers and staff
- Core work of peer support and health promotion for people ageing with HIV
- Successful grant from ViiV Healthcare- Positive Action
- Working in partnership with VAC
- Two separate projects with coordinated synergies



## HIV & AGEING. PEER SUPPORT NETWORK



### HIV & AGEING PROJECT

**Are you over 50 and in charge of your health and wellbeing?**

Let the HIV & Ageing Project show you how!

We offer Self-Management workshops where you can gain the skills to put you in charge of your own health.

We also have monthly Peer Support Network gatherings where you can connect with others in a safe and confidential environment.

This group will offer short workshops and sessions covering a variety of topics relating to HIV & Ageing in a social setting.

If you want to get involved, contact:

Vic Perri 03 9663 8733 vicperri@livingpositivevictoria.org.au  
Garry O'Brien 03 9663 0444 garry.obrien@lpi.org.au

Proudly supported by ViiV Healthcare - Positive Action Community Grants



[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/  
PLWHAVIC](https://www.youtube.com/user/PLWHAVIC)

ACROSS  
THE  
AGES



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VICTORIAN AIDS COUNCIL  
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## SENIOR VOICES PROJECT RESOURCES

To book a speaker and or download  
the Positive Caring Handbook and  
factsheets:

[http://livingpositivevictoria.org.au/positive-  
speakers-bureau/senior-voices-project/](http://livingpositivevictoria.org.au/positive-speakers-bureau/senior-voices-project/)

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