

PositiveLifeNSW
the voice of people with HIV since 1988

PLHIV Housing, Homelessness and Independent Living

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Housing Support Officer

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Housing Support Objectives

- *By working alongside our peers, our objective is to source and secure the best possible independent living and housing arrangements for PLHIV*
- *We aim to provide intake for our peers to best assess their relevant needs and housing goals. Referrals may also be provided to assist in improving health and care coordination, psychosocial support and independent living*
- *Provide systemic advocacy by collecting and analyzing housing and homeless data to address any reoccurring and emerging patterns of concern*

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Peers working with Peers

What we do.....

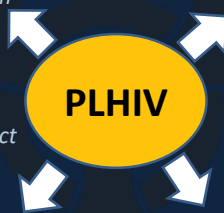
- Find crisis or temporary accommodation
- Complete a housing application
- Apply for a transfer to another property
- Address maintenance and/or tenancy issues
- Lodge a complaint and/or attend a tribunal hearing
- Provide appropriate referrals
- Tenancy Reviews

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Service Partners, Referral Networks and Housing Services

Partners and Referral Networks

- Adahps
- ACON
- Bobby Goldsmith Foundation
- Twenty10
- The Gender Centre
- HIV/AIDS Legal Centre
- Sex Workers Outreach Project
- Local Health District Sexual Health Clinics and HIV & Related Units, HIV Outreach Teams
- NSW Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service
- AOD, Mental Health, Aged Care and Hospitals



Housing Services

- Family and Community Services (Housing NSW)
- Centrelink
- Community Housing Providers
- Affordable Housing Providers
- Boarding House Services
- Crisis Accommodation Services
- Private Real Estates
- Share Accommodation Services
- Tenancy Tribunal

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Peers we have supported and their accommodation needs

We have provided various levels of housing support to more than 120 PLHIV

An average 3-4 new Peers access our support services every week

Gender of peers engaging into the program varied, 86% identified as men, 9% as female, 2% as transgender and 3% as non-binary

The age of the peers we support range from 25yo through to 72yo. More than 50% of the PLHIV we support are over 45yo

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What Peers Achieved...

Peers present as one of the following categories:

- Homeless (28%)
- Current FaCS Housing Tenant (27%)
- Private Rental (26%)
- Private Rental Subsidy (4.5%)
- Transitional Housing (5.5%)
- Boarding House (4%)
- Homeowner (2.5%)
- Crisis Accommodation (2.5%)

Types of contact and engagement from both PLHIV and Service Partners varied depending on need and location, included phone, email, skype, face-to-face, social media

Priorities and emerging issues...

Lack of appropriate transitional housing:

- *Peers can wait several years for an appropriate housing offer*
- *Transitional accommodation for PLHIV is limited and in high demand*
- *Private Rental is unaffordable for PLHIV who receive Centrelink benefits*
- *FaCS ceased the Private Rental Subsidy Scheme in 2012 for PLHIV*
- *Crisis Accommodation Services generally offer accommodation for a limited time period*
- *Share accommodation options may not be feasible for PLHIV who have comorbidity concerns*
- *Boarding Houses are generally of a poor standard*

Testimonials

- “Service is good. Help with my housing problems by following up and updating me. Great for my community who do not speak English very well”
- “Appreciate the help and support as I could not find it anywhere else”

Questions and Answers

Discussion

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