

OUTCOMES OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO HIV AND AGEING IN AUSTRALIA

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Background/Purpose:

By 2020, 44.5% of people with HIV in Australia will be aged 55 years or over. People ageing with HIV have a greater burden of disease and are also experiencing complexity associated with additional comorbidities at a greater rate than the general population. This includes: cardiovascular disease; muscular skeletal conditions; psychological distress and non HIV related cancers among others.

Approach:

NAPWHAs HIV and Ageing project includes a review of current literature and an assessment of legislative and service delivery frameworks for ageing and disability in Australia. It articulates a clear understanding of the issues, maps the current research, identifies gaps and makes recommendations to government, research, health and medical services and the community sector.

Outcomes/Impact:

Our environmental scan has elucidated gaps and opportunities in the policy and operational frameworks of federal and jurisdictional service delivery for Australians ageing with HIV. Contact with stakeholder groups in ageing and disability service has been established and comprehensive feedback has been provided to PLHIV organisations on the access pathways and opportunities available. Our comprehensive review of experiences of ageing with HIV in Australia has provided evidence of the impacts of HIV infection and its treatments on the ageing population, including impacts on specific priority populations. This has identified gaps in functional support and medical services and deficiencies the understanding of the HIV and ageing experience.

Innovation and Significance:

People with HIV have always been at the forefront of the response to HIV through the principles of MIP and GIPA, and must continue to be so in the response the emerging phenomenon of HIV and ageing. The advocacy agenda emerging from this project has important implications for: research; health and medical service providers; people living with HIV; and Government. Organisations representing people living with HIV must take the lead on driving this advocacy agenda.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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