

POSITIVE LIVING

EDITORIAL POLICY

1. DOMAIN

- 1.1. This document details the editorial policy of *Positive Living* published by the National Association of People living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA).
- 1.2. *Positive Living* is a national magazine published for HIV positive people to provide them with news, information and cultural content of relevance to them. It also has a significant readership of other people with an interest in HIV issues, including friends, partners and associates of HIV positive people, gay men and lesbians, doctors, health professionals and workers in the HIV sector.
- 1.3. As a publication of NAPWA, *Positive Living* has a commitment to promote and strengthen the work of the organisation as part of its charter. This policy does provide for a level of independence for the publication as outlined in Subsection 3.2 and Section 6 of this document.

2. EDITORIAL OPINION

- 2.1. As a general rule *Positive Living* will not publish an editorial column but from time to time the Board of Directors of NAPWA (the Board) may determine to make an editorial statement on a subject of its choice, to be published in *Positive Living* in a manner that clearly identifies it as the opinion of the Board. The Board will assume complete responsibility for any editorial so published.
- 2.2. The Board will appoint the writer of the editorial. Employees of NAPWA may decline this appointment without penalty.
- 2.3. An editorial column will be considered to have the approval of the Board if it has been circulated to all members of the Board and consent given by the President of NAPWA for it to be published.

3. EDITORIAL CONTENT

- 3.1. Editorial content is defined as all news and comment and excludes advertising, 'advertorial' and other comment clearly labelled as advertising.
- 3.2. Except where otherwise provided for in this charter, the Editor shall determine the editorial content of each edition of *Positive Living*. The Editor shall select, commission and contract contributors to *Positive Living*.
- 3.3. The Editor may consult with such persons as he/she thinks fit in making determinations of editorial content.
- 3.4. The Editor will establish a Reference Group of individuals with experience in HIV-related areas to consult on a regular basis about the direction of the publication.
 - 3.4.1. The Board will nominate a representative to sit ex-officio on the Reference Group.
 - 3.4.2. The Editor will endeavour to include HIV positive people in this Reference Group and to make this group as diverse and inclusive of people from different states as is practical.
 - 3.4.3. The Editor will give full and proper consideration to the advice and opinion of the Reference Group but will not be bound by it.

- 3.5. The special position of the Editor means that opinion pieces by the Editor might be taken as being the view of NAPWA. Therefore, the Editor should take care to ensure that no such misconception arises by including a disclaimer to the effect that “the views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the position of the National Association of People living with HIV/AIDS”.
- 3.6. Pieces expressing opinion or comment on issues should bear the name or bona fide pseudonym of the author; but this will not prevent, in appropriate cases, withholding on request the name of the author of a letter to the Editor or a contributor.
- 3.7. *Positive Living* recognises the importance of continuing its unique role as the primary national source of information and comment on matters and issues related to HIV/AIDS for HIV positive people.
- 3.8. *Positive Living* also has an important role in providing a voice for HIV positive people. The Editor will select contributors and contributions based on their merits, however all other things being equal, the Editor should give preference to HIV-positive contributors where possible.

4. ADVERTISING

- 4.1. At the time of adoption of this policy, *Positive Living* does not carry, or contemplate carrying, paid or unpaid advertising.
- 4.2. This section should not be construed as preventing *Positive Living* from promoting the work or activities or events of NAPWA, its member organisations, and related entities.
- 4.3. This section should not be construed as preventing *Positive Living* from acknowledging, with appropriate prominence, the financial support of corporate entities.

5. ETHICS AND STANDARDS

- 5.1. The Editor, journalists and contributors must maintain standards of ethical conduct in publishing and journalism not less than those of the Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance Journalists' Code of Ethics, and must observe the Statement of Principles issued by the Australian Press Council.
- 5.2. Compliance is a responsibility of each writer but remains ultimately the responsibility of the Editor.
- 5.3. There is a special requirement on the Editor, journalists and contributors to *Positive Living* to ensure that the confidentiality concerns of HIV-positive people are respected and observed in the publication of all material. The final responsibility for observance of these matters is with the Editor.
- 5.4. Where possible, the Editor should, prior to publication, refer any article containing complex medical or scientific information for review by one or more appropriately qualified persons. The Editor should give full and proper consideration to the reviewer's comments prior to publishing the article, and should decline publication of any article which a reviewer considers not suitable for publication, unless there are compelling reasons to do otherwise.
- 5.5. Where possible, the Editor should, prior to publication, refer any article which directly addresses or conflicts with the work of NAPWA to the relevant National Portfolio Convenor, or another person nominated by the Executive Officer, for review. The Editor should give full and proper consideration to the reviewer's comments prior to publishing the article, and should decline publication of any article which a reviewer considers not suitable for publication, unless there are compelling reasons to do otherwise.

6. INDEPENDENCE

- 6.1. *Positive Living* asserts its independence from individuals, groups, organisations, advertisers and institutions. It has a special commitment to promote and strengthen the work of NAPWA but this should not compromise its independence. It is expected that the publication will present a range of views from positive people (in particular) around Australia, regardless of affiliation.
- 6.2. *Positive Living* asserts its right to publish news, information, opinion and comment about any individual, group, organisation, advertiser or institution regardless of their views or objections.

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 7.1. Where the Editor or any contributor has a conflict of interest, this conflict must be clearly disclosed as part of the story or comment piece concerned. "Conflict of interest" includes being a member, employee, shareholder, debtor or creditor of any group, organisation, advertiser or institution that is subject to reporting or comment, or having any financial or political involvement with an individual who is subject to reporting or comment.

8. PRESERVATION OF THE PUBLICATION

- 8.1. The Editor must not, through the publication of material that is defamatory or in breach of copyright, or that otherwise carries sanctions or penalties under the law, expose the publication to serious financial risk. If the Editor is of the opinion that such a risk arises but publication ought as a matter of principle to proceed, the Board's consent must be sought.

9. BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

- 9.1. Breaches of this policy by any member of the editorial staff including the Editor will be dealt with by the Executive Officer of NAPWA.

10. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THIS POLICY

- 10.1. This policy was adopted by the Board on 10 August 2002 and may be amended by a normal resolution of the Board as required.