



**Tenth National Conference
of People Living with HIV/AIDS**

Adelaide, South Australia • November 18–20, 2005

**Abstracts
Handbook**

Our place, your place – in the bigger picture
The 10th NAPWA Biennial Conference

Abstracts Handbook

PUBLISHED BY the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

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GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE

The University of Adelaide on North Terrace, Adelaide is the venue for all sessions and associated events of the conference. The Union House building located close to Victoria Drive and the River Torrens is the specific venue.

University of Adelaide
North Terrace
South Australia 5005
Phone: (08) 8303 5131
Fax: (08) 8303 6017
Web: www.union.adelaide.edu.au

LOCATION MAPS

General Adelaide and Union House location SEE PAGE 6
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DISCLAIMER

All information disclosed in the Conference Program is correct at the time of printing. NAPWA reserves the right to alter the Conference Program in the event of unforeseen circumstances. All speakers were invited to contribute abstracts for inclusion in the Conference Handbook. Unfortunately, not all speakers were able to provide us with their abstracts at the time of printing. NAPWA accepts no responsibility for errors, misprints or other issues with abstracts contained in this handbook.

MOBILE PHONES/BEEPERS

As a courtesy to all delegates and speakers, please switch off, or set to silent, your mobile phones and beepers during all sessions.

NAME BADGES

For security purposes all attendees must wear their name badge at all times whilst in the conference venue. Entrance to the exhibition will be limited to badge holders only. If you misplace your name badge, please advise staff at the registration desk.

SMOKING

Smoking is allowed only in designated areas of the university.

REGISTRATION DESK

All inquiries should be directed to the registration desk in the Equinox Function Room, open at the following times:

Friday November 18: 8.00am-5.30pm
Saturday November 19: 8.00am-5.30pm
Sunday November 20: 8.00am-4.00pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

SPEAKER PREPARATION ROOM

A speaker preparation room will be located in the South Function Room. This room will be open at the following times:

Friday November 18	1.30pm-5.30pm
Saturday November 19	8.30am-5.30pm
Sunday November 20	8.30am-3.30pm

All speakers must take their presentation to the speaker preparation room a minimum of two hours prior to their presentation or the day before if presenting at a morning session.

LUNCHES AND TEA BREAKS

Arrival tea, morning tea and afternoon tea on Friday November 18 will be served in the Equinox Function Room. Lunch on this day will be held in the outdoor Cloisters area on ground level of Union House (the conference building). In the event of bad weather the Equinox Function Room will be used.

Arrival tea, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on Saturday November 19 and Sunday November 20 will be served in the Equinox Function Room.

CONFERENCE RECEPTION

5.30-7.00pm, Friday November 18, 2005

Cloisters, Ground Level of Union House, University of Adelaide

COMMUNITY BBQ

6.00-9.00pm, Saturday November 19, 2005

Barr Smith Lawns, University of Adelaide

The Barr Smith Lawns is located on the lawn area adjacent to Union House

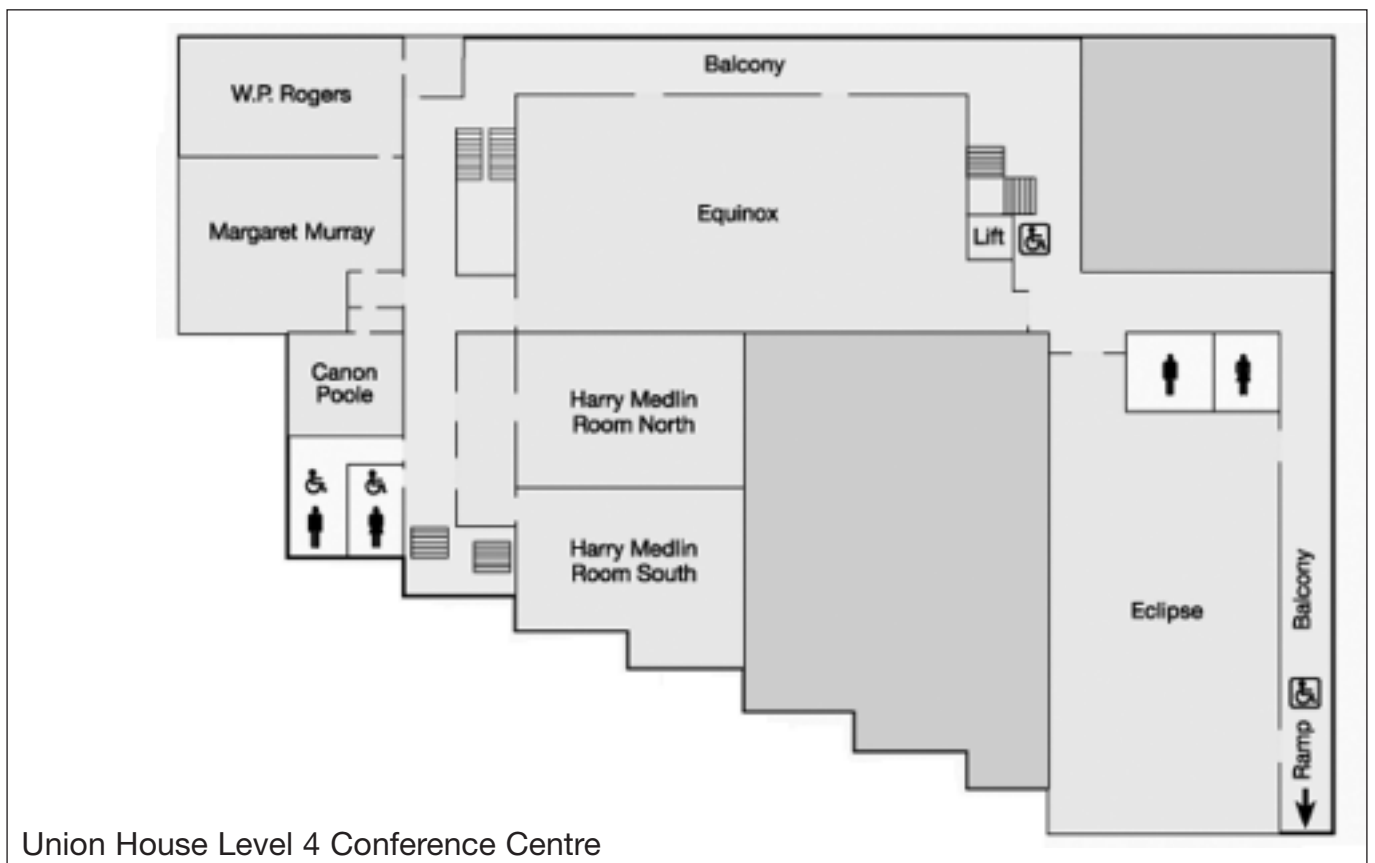
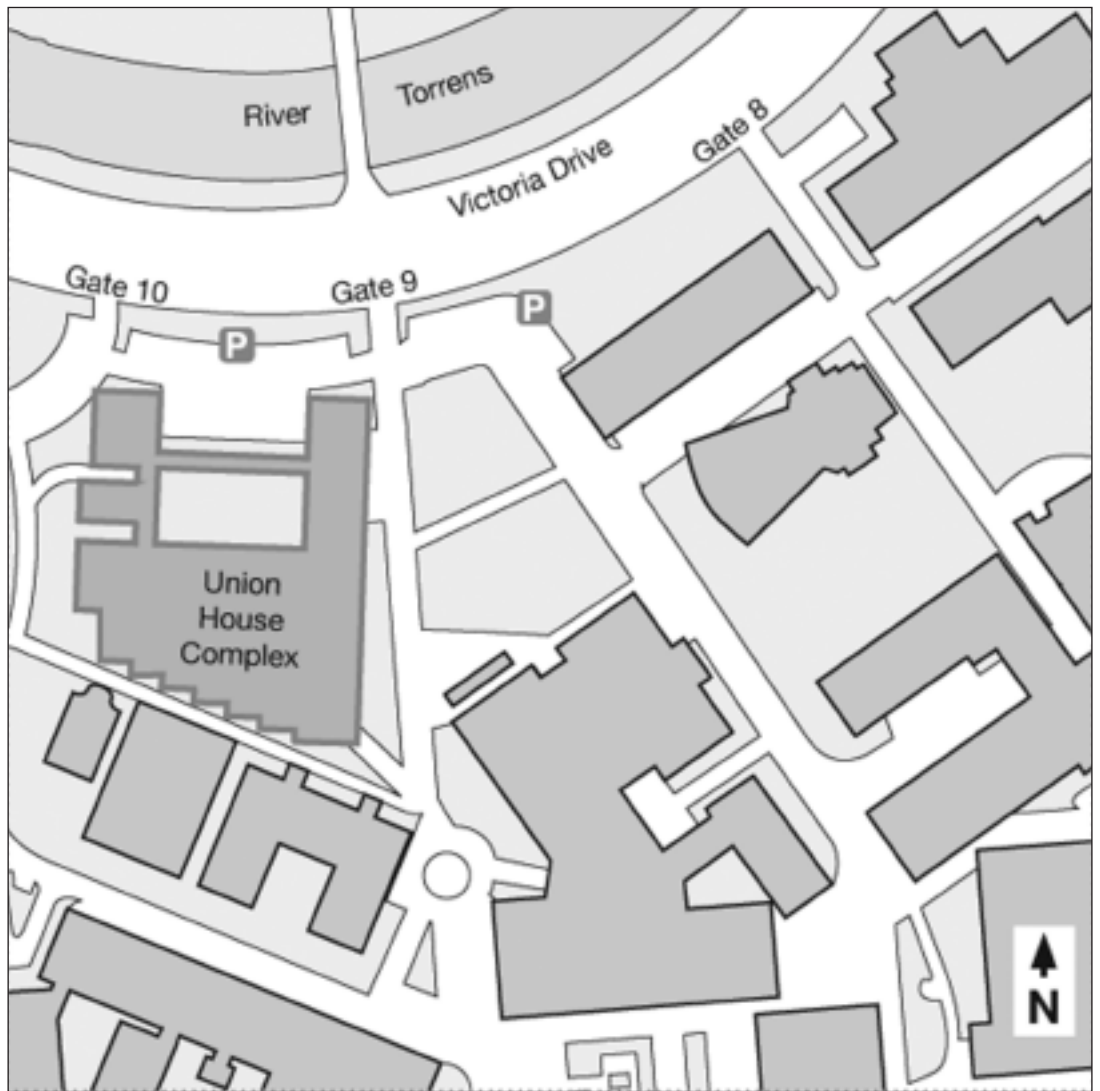
CREATIVE EXHIBITIONS + STALLS

These displays will be available for viewing at 1.30pm on Friday November 18, 2005. In the event of bad weather this area will be available from 12.30pm when lunch is served. Afternoon tea will be served in this area.



Adelaide City Map Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Adelaide Aquatic Centre 2 Adelaide Botanic Gardens & Bicentennial Conservatory 3 Adelaide Casino 4 Adelaide Golf 5 Adelaide Festival Centre 6 Adelaide Golf Links 7 Adelaide Oval 8 Adelaide Zoo 9 Art Gallery of South Australia 10 Apers House | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Central Bus Station 12 Central Markets 13 East End Markets 14 General Post Office 15 Kennick Interstate Rail Passenger Terminal 16 Light's Vision 17 Lion Arts Centre & Jaw Factory Craft & Design Centre 18 Memorial Drive Tennis Centre 19 Migration Museum 20 Netwerk Library of South Australia and Bradman Collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 National Museum of Australia & State History Centre 22 Old Treasury Museum 23 Parliament House 24 South Australian Museum 25 South Australian Theatre Museum 26 South Australian Travel Centre 27 Sandilays 28 Tate Museum 29 Passenger Information Centre |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Loop Bus Service Bee Line Bus Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City - Glenelg Train O'Train Busway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linear Walk Restaurant & Cafe precinct |



Union House Level 4 Conference Centre

THE PROGRAM

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17

9.30am-4.30pm	National Positive Women's Meeting Women's Health Statewide	64 Pennington Terrace North Adelaide
9.30am-4.30pm	National TON Meeting	Radisson Playford Hotel 120 North Terrace, Adelaide

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18

8.00am	Registration open. Arrival. Coffee/tea	Equinox Function Room
9.00am-10.30am	Annual General Meeting	Eclipse Function Room
10.30am-11.00am	Morning Tea	Equinox Function Room
11.00am-12.30pm	Annual General Meeting	Eclipse Function Room
12.30pm-1.30pm	Lunch	The Cloisters
1.30pm-3.30pm	Creative Exhibitions & Stalls	Equinox Function Room
EXHIBITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art Project: "The Big Picture" A NAPWA 2005 Participatory Art Project – Paul Kidd and Brent Allan• Performance: "Songs From Home" – Tim Bishop• Video: "Digital Storytelling" Positive Women Victoria	
POSTERS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Co-Morbidity of HIV and Bipolar II Disorder: A Personal Case History" – Eric Glare• "Grief and Loss Project" – Sharee Knight• NAPWA International Portfolio• Indigenous Positive Network (IPN+)• NAPWA – Positive women's views on routine HIV Antenatal screening• NAPWA Positive women's email network• ATPA Roadshow• ATPA/ASHM HIV/AIDS Short courses	
STALLS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA)• Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)• Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS)• Hepatitis C Council of South Australia• HIV National Women's Stall – Nationwide collaboration of Positive women• National Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS (NAPWA) & AIDS Treatment Project Australia (ATPA)• PLWHA South Australia and the Positive Living Centre	

- (PLC South Australia)
- Poz on Poz Project
 - QLD HIV Services
 - Relationships Australia –
“Belonging, Diversity, Learning, Respect”

1.30pm-5.00pm	Satellite Meetings IPN+ Meeting	Various WP Rogers Function Room
3.00pm-3.30pm	Afternoon Tea	Equinox Function Room
3.30pm-5.30pm	Creative Exhibitions & Stalls	Equinox Function Room
	Fitness Class (open to all delegates) Chairs: Gabe McCarthy and Katherine Leane Fitness and Health Issues Presenter: Deanna Blegg	Eclipse Function Room
5.30pm-7.00pm	Welcome Reception Welcome by the President of NAPWA, Gabe McCarthy	The Cloisters, Adelaide University
	Launch of the Declaration of Rights by David Buchanan	

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19

8.00am	Registration. Arrival. Coffee/tea	Equinox Function Room
9.30am-10.30am	Opening Plenary Chair: Gabe McCarthy	Eclipse Function Room
9.30am-9.35am	Traditional Owner of the Land Welcome Rodney Junga-Williams	
9.35am-9.55am	Gabe McCarthy, President of NAPWA	
9.55am-10.15am	South Australian Government representative Hon. Lea Stevens MP, Minister for Health, Minister Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion	
10.15am-10.35am	Plenary Address From Turning Point to Tipping Point: Maintaining Hope in the Fight Against AIDS Ian Grubb HIV/AIDS Policy Advisor, World Health Organisation	

Ian Grubb has been involved in the response to HIV/AIDS as an activist, service provider and policymaker for more than 20 years, beginning as a volunteer at the Victorian AIDS Council and a member of ACT-UP in Melbourne in the mid 1980s. Fed up with practice as a commercial lawyer, he managed the medical clinic at the positive living centre in St Kilda for several years in the early 1990s and was a co-founder of the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre of Victoria. He was the first PLWHA Policy Officer at AFAO in 1995, and part of the team that subsequently established the PLWHA research program at the national centre in HIV social research at La Trobe University in Melbourne. He had his first exposure to international AIDS issues when he held the international portfolio on the NAPWA board in 1995 and 1996, helping to develop a human rights charter for the Asia Pacific Council of AIDS

Service Organisations, and he was involved in the early development of the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Ian worked as a consultant for five years in Canada in the areas of HIV/AIDS research, organisational development and policy for NGOs, government and industry. For the last four years he has been policy adviser to the Director of the HIV/AIDS Department at the World Health Organisation in Geneva, Switzerland, where he has been closely involved in the implementation of the “3 by 5” initiative to expand access to antiretroviral treatment to three million people living with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005. Ian has been living with HIV/AIDS for at least 12 years.

10.35am-11.00am **Morning Tea** **Equinox Function Room**

11.00am-12.30pm **BREAKOUT SESSION: Social Research** **Eclipse Function Room**
Chairs: Brent Allan and Amelia McLoughlin

11.00am-11.20pm **Difficulties Disclosing to Casual Partners**
and Assumptions about Partner Serostatus:
The Positive Health Cohort
Presenter: Patrick Rawstorne

This paper sets out to explore some of the difficulties experienced by HIV-positive gay men in disclosing their HIV status to casual partners. The paper also examines some of the assumptions underpinning men’s assessments of the HIV status of their casual partners. The presentation will draw on data from the Positive Health and Health in Men cohort studies to provide a comparative analysis of HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay men’s perspectives.

Only data from the Positive Health Cohort study will be reported in this abstract. These analyses draw on data from 235 HIV-positive gay and homosexually identified men living in NSW and Victoria, Australia, who participated in the interview-based Positive Health (pH) cohort study in 2004 and who had sex with casual partners in the six months preceding their study interview.

The majority of the 235 men never engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with casual partners (UAIC), so disclosure of HIV status was not relevant to HIV transmission risk.

Among the 120 men who engaged in UAIC, 61% of the UAIC events were with other HIV-positive men, posing no risk of seroconversion to an HIV-negative person. Of the remaining UAIC events, a sizeable proportion occurred in the context of strategies to minimise the risk of HIV transmission. In assessing the serostatus of casual partners’, HIV-positive men drew on a range of factors, some of which may be more prone to error than others, such as the place where they met or the partner’s attitude towards condoms.

Some of the most frequently mentioned reasons for finding it difficult to disclose their HIV status to casual partners included beliefs that HIV prevention is a shared responsibility; concerns that partners might react badly, and inappropriate timing during sex.

The findings suggest that HIV -positive men often assume shared responsibility with their partners for HIV transmission risk. Discussions about the role of community values and norms in developing safe sex education programs may be beneficial.

11.20am-11.40am **Futures Past, Futures Present, and**
Futures ... well, future
Presenter: Jeffrey Grierson

The HIV Futures surveys are four cross-sectional Australian nationwide studies of multiple aspects of the lives of PLWHA, both clinical and social. The study was conducted in 1997 (N=925), 1999 (N=921), 2001 (N=894) and 2003 (N=1059). The studies included detailed examination of the experiences of Australian PLWHA in health, treatments, social relationships, community involvement, employment, finances, sex and relationships, identity and discrimination.

This presentation will discuss some of the implications arising from the analysis of the four HIV Futures Surveys. Issues such as the influence of economic and social circumstances on co-infection, co-morbidity and ageing will be discussed. Findings from the four surveys will be used to examine trends and speculate on the future for PLWHA in Australia.

Dr Jeffrey Grierson is Senior Research Fellow, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

11.40am-12.00pm **Positive People Owning a Place in Social Research**
Presenters: Peter Canavan and John Rule

This presentation covers a number of areas including the ways in which positive people are developing a shared confidence in understanding how to shape social research. The development of stronger links between research organisations and community sector organisations is described as a key element in this process. And the presentation also describes the potential for PLWHA organisations to develop a ‘culture of research’. The presentation drawing on some practical examples also refers to the collaborative work which is required as research is designed and implemented, as well as during analysis and dissemination.

Peter Canavan is NAPWA’s HIV Living Policy Analyst and John Rule is NAPWA’s International Project Manager.

12.00pm-12.30pm Discussion

11.00am-12.30pm **BREAKOUT SESSION: Activism**
Chairs: Gabe McCarthy and Robert Mitchell

Margaret Murray
Function Room

11.00am-11.20am **Public Speaking for Positive People:
The Basics of Public Speaking**
Presenter: Max Niggl

HIV positive people often find themselves in the situation of being asked to speak about their experiences of living with HIV/AIDS. They can be asked by family members, work colleagues, schools and other organisations. There is a perception that because we are living with HIV/AIDS we are experts and can speak confidently on the subject. Unfortunately the combination of fears about public speaking and publicly disclosing our HIV status combine to hinder our ability to speak out openly and honestly. Many HIV positive people are not sure about appropriate boundaries regarding disclosure and discussion about sexual practices. Inadequate training results in poor communication to whomever we are speaking and engenders a sense of failure for the speaker.

Public speaking is not just about standing in front of an audience. It can be as simple as speaking with others in a small group in a range of situations. Speaking about living with HIV/AIDS can inspire audiences to overcome many of the misperceptions including the stigma that is still attached to HIV/AIDS. Exchange of information results in a clearer understanding and public speaking training in effective communication facilitates this.

PLWHA Victoria's Speakers Bureau provides public speaking training to new and experienced HIV Positive speakers. The Bureau also provides training to community development workers and allied health professionals who work in the HIV/AIDS sector. Public speaking training also contributes to personal and professional development.

Max Niggl is from People Living with HIV/AIDS Victoria Inc.

11.20am-11.40am **My Experience, Our Experience:
In the Bigger Picture**
Presenters: Derya Han and C Kamal

People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds are recognised as a key priority target population for prevention and care in relation to HIV. Through its work with CALD communities, the Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service (MHAHS) has developed a unique and culturally appropriate framework for providing support to CALD PLWHA, their families and carers. A core component of these frameworks are the bilingual/bicultural co-workers, who are selected, trained, and supervised to provide psychosocial support, advocacy and liaison with mainstream health services. This paper describes what it means to be from CALD background and live with HIV. It also outlines the positive outcomes of the MHAHS' model of support from the personal perspective of a CALD client and the co-worker who has been instrumental in the provision of that support.

11.40am-12.10pm **Women at NAPWA:
Some Positive Women Speaking Out**
Presenters: Bev Greet, Susan Paxton,
Amelia McLouglin, Sharon Cheney,
Stephanie Raper

A panel presentation by a diverse group of positive women discussing their various roles as advocates for women with HIV/AIDS in their differing environments both nationally, locally and internationally.

While statistically lower in numbers in Australia women represent more than 50% of those infected with HIV/AIDS globally. They have for historical reasons a lower profile than HIV+ men and as a consequence their specific needs and priorities have often been overlooked.

Each of the women will talk about their own experience as activists, advocates and role models in their own environments and the importance of their voices being heard in the broader dialogue around HIV/AIDS.

Discussion and questions will be encouraged. It is expected that each woman would speak for approximately ten minutes plus time for questions and answers.

12.10pm-12.30pm Discussion

11.00am-12.30pm **BREAKOUT SESSION: Inhibitions Workshop** **North Function Room**
Chairs: Katherine Leane and John Daye
Inhibitions and Exhibitionists:
Floppy Dicks, Dry Pussies and Low Sex Drive
Presenter: Alan Strum
*(Introduction Plenary followed by two breakout rooms
men and women in North Function Room and the
Clubs Common Room)*

Sexual dysfunction occurs in quite high numbers (around 50%) and can hit nearly anyone at just about any age. It would appear that people with HIV experience more sexual dysfunction than the general population. Sexual dysfunction is a broad term that can cover different areas of concern when it comes to reduced sexual performance. The term can cover areas such as low libido (desire for sex) through to the ability for men to get and maintain erections or for women to become lubricated (and other issues). Much of the time sexual dysfunction is considered to be the result of underlying psychological issues that can often be identified and treated through counselling. However, psychological causes are not the only reasons why people can experience sexual dysfunction. Sexual dysfunction can also be caused by medical conditions or side effects from drug therapies.

This interactive workshop will provide information on potential underlying causes of sexual dysfunction for both men and women and will provide discussion for possible ways to improve sexual function and pleasure.

11.00am-12.30pm **BREAKOUT SESSION:** **WP Rogers Function Room**
Access & Support Workshop
Chairs: David Menadue and Rob Lake
Our Future, Your Future: Providing Practical,
Emotional and Financial Support to
People Living with HIV
Presenter: Bev Lange

The Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) has been providing practical, emotional and financial to people living with HIV in New South Wales for over 20 years. In that time it has distributed over \$20 million of donations and currently provides over \$500,000 per year in direct financial assistance. Acknowledging that the needs of people living with HIV have changed, BGF has recently undertaken a major review of its client service delivery with the aim of ensuring that the organisation continues to provide the best assistance and support possible in a greatly changed environment.

This workshop will explore some of the changes that BGF has made, the issues and challenges it has met along the way and the steps it is taking to ensure that it remains focused on the needs of its clients; meets those needs effectively; assists them to initiate change in their lives and in the process support them to look forward to a more self sufficient future wherever possible – in particular in relation to supported housing and the options for people living with HIV being able to consider a return to work and/or study, against the backdrop of the recent changes initiated by state and federal governments.

The workshop will also provide a forum to discuss and share ideas to ensure that people living with HIV across the country continue to be able to access support and assistance when they need it and are able to look forward to a more positive future.

Bev Lange is the BGF's Chief Executive Officer.

12.30pm-1.30pm **Lunch** **Equinox Function Room**

1.30pm-3.00pm **BREAKOUT SESSION: Care & Support Needs** **Eclipse Function Room**
Chairs: David Menadue and Peter Canavan
1.30pm-1.50pm **Are Our Care and Support Needs Being Met?**
Presenter: Rob Lake

There is no national coordinated approach or response to care and support and NAPWA has been trying to bring attention to this over the past few years. This includes needs identification, assessment of the appropriateness of current care or service delivery models or national and state implementation plans which place care and support issues within a coordinated continuum of care in the lives of positive people.

This presentation will highlight the key areas of work that the NAPWA Care and Support Working Group have prioritized for policy and advocacy interventions and provide some details of how the work of the Care and Support Portfolio is activated to reflect the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS in the areas of HIV Health and HIV Living in progressing national thinking and discussion on care and support.

Rob Lake is NAPWA's Care and Support Portfolio Convenor.

1.50pm-2.10pm Growing Old with HIV
Presenter: Graham Douglas-Meyer

With the success of treatments for PLWHA more of us will keep up with our baby boomer counterparts to become part of the Ageing Australian Population. However, very few of us have really considered what shape that future would be. There is a need to consult with positive people to understand what they perceive their needs will be for the long-term future. From this consultation it will be possible to construct appropriate models for PLWHA for the future.

Do you have a dream for growing old with HIV? Share it with us.

2.10pm-2.30pm People Living with HIV Residing in Long-Term Residential Care Facilities? Not a Problem!
Presenter: Michael Curry

People living with HIV (PLWHA) are living longer and many are likely to live into old age. As a result, some will experience age related illnesses and varying levels of frailty and reach a stage in their lives when living alone is no longer possible, where options for assisted care may be sought.

Are long-term residential care facilities in Australia willing and prepared to care for the older person living with HIV? A naturalistic inquiry was conducted in Adelaide in a number of long-term residential care facilities to explore this topic from the perspective of care staff currently working in this environment. Ten participants including registered nurses, enrolled nurses and personal care attendants consented to participate in semi-structured, individual interviews. Audio-taped interviews were transcribed and thematically analysed using the principles of Grounded Theory.

The main finding from this analysis was that participants would have no problem in caring for the older person living with HIV within the setting of long-term residential care facilities. The care for PLWHA was characterised as the same as it would for all residents.

Issues raised by some participants as potential complicating factors included:

- The age disparity between PLWHA and existing residents within the traditional aged care population – the difficulty in communication and shared activities between these groups
- The incidence of dementia amongst the current population of people residing within this setting and the impact of this for PLWHA.
- Perceived attitudes of a minority of their colleagues who may feel less comfortable towards caring for PLWHA within this environment. However, support from management, colleagues and further education was expected to alleviate this.

With these issues expressed, participants felt that PLWHA who sought this style of care and accommodation would be welcomed. The findings from this study augur well for the long-term residential care options for PLWHA. For these participants, caring for PLWHA within the setting of a long-term residential facility would be no problem.

Michael Curry is with the Care & Prevention Program, University of Adelaide. G. Rogers is Director, Health in Human Diversity Unit, University of Adelaide and S. Koch is Deputy Director Gerontic Nursing, La Trobe University, Melbourne.

2.30pm-3.00pm Discussion

1.30pm-3.00pm BREAKOUT SESSION: Prevention Workshop
Chairs: Brent Allan and John Rule
Principles of Prevention
Presenters: Glenn Flanagan, Cipri Martinez, Kathy Triffit

Margaret Murray
Function Room

This workshop will examine the ways HIV positive people have been involved in HIV prevention efforts. It will also discuss the context and place of HIV prevention in the overall health education needs of positive people.

Many PLWHA groups already have started working in the area of HIV prevention in recent years. Positive prevention has become an important but contested site of social marketing and peer education work.

What does prevention mean for positive people? Should HIV positive people and organisations be involved in prevention work? If so, on what terms should they be involved? What are the relationships between HIV prevention and the developing health promotion and education work being undertaken by PLWHA groups and organisations?

The workshop will aim to draw together principles for education and prevention activities with people living with HIV, and locate them in the context of current developing work.

Glenn Flanagan is NAPWA's Education Portfolio Convenor.

3.30pm-5.00pm **BREAKOUT SESSION:**
Treatment Officers Network Workshop North Function Room
Chairs: John Daye and Bill Whittaker
Changing Roles of Treatment Officers from around
Australia: The importance of the Treatment Officers
Network and why Futures IV was not able to pick up
the workload of these community workers.
Presenters: Alan Strum, Jenny McDonald

Following the introduction of new antiviral agents, viral dynamics, viral load and highly active antiviral therapy, confusion and excitement prevailed as the HIV community scrambled for treatment information and support. Treatment Information Officers stood alone at the coal face of this revolution, drowning in massive amounts of information until the Treatments Officers Network was formed. This network, sponsored by unrestricted educational grants from the pharmaceutical industry and organised by the AIDS Treatment Project Australia, provided unity of information and training for Treatments Officers and a unique environment where community workers could find support, mentors and direction in what is often an endless changing world of medical information and contradictions.

Social research is an important tool that can show service providers and government funding bodies changing trends in the HIV community and where current and future support services may or may not be required. The Futures IV data indicate that few people access Treatment Officers for information. However, changing times have meant that Treatment Officers have had to adapt to meet the needs of the community.

Unfortunately the Futures IV questionnaire did not pick up these changes in order to ask the right questions about who accesses information from Treatment Officers.

This presentation will review the changing roles of the Treatment Officers from around Australia, the importance of the Treatment Officers Network and how Futures IV was not able to pick up the workload of these community workers.

3.00pm-3.30pm **Afternoon Tea** **Equinox Function Room**

3.30pm-5.00pm **BREAKOUT SESSION: Activism Workshop** **Eclipse Function Room**
Chairs: Robert Mitchell and Bernard Kealey

Papers presented will attempt to outline the factors affecting the practice of AIDS Activism in Australia and speculate about potential future challenges. It is hoped that this session could achieve three main goals, 1) raise awareness of the history of AIDS activism in Australia and the various methods employed over the years, 2) provoke critical reflection in the current state of activism and 3) explore opportunities and strategies for expanding political capacity within the Australian PLWHA movement.

3.30pm-3.55pm **Reflections**
Presenter: Kenn Basham

Kenn Basham, a founding member of the National People Living with AIDS Coalition (NPLWAC), looks back at the heady days of activism. He will discuss insights into protest, social justice and twenty years of HIV positive life. This presentation draws on imagery and documentation from the collection of the AIDS Action Council of the ACT that contains materials that record the social history of community responses to HIV/AIDS. Kenn Basham is NAPWA's ACT representative.

3.55pm-4.20pm **Temporal and Practical Developments**
in AIDS Activism
Presenter: Ian Rankin

From the times of direct and well-reported AIDS protest various factors have influenced the modalities and visibility of AIDS activism. Death, secure funding, inclusion of positive people in the AIDS response, the burden of maintaining political passion over time, community apathy, changing relationships between government, health and community sectors, increased levels of research based knowledge, changes in levels and nature of needs in the antiretroviral era and even the aging of the HIV positive population are all potential factors in the changes in the AIDS activism arena.

Ian Rankin is a past NAPWA president and a post-graduate student at ANU.

4.20pm-4.45pm **Contemporary Activism**
Presenter: Geoff Honnor

When appointed as Executive Officer of PLWHA NSW last year the *Sydney Star Observer* interviewed Geoff Honnor. The piece included an account of Geoff's many roles in HIV sector organisations and also explored whether the notion of HIV/AIDS activism was as relevant now as in the past. This presentation provides by way of 'reflection on practice' some thoughts on the different forms that contemporary PLWHA activism may take.

4.45pm-5.00pm Discussion

3.30pm-5.00pm **BREAKOUT SESSION:
Pos in Prevention Workshop**

(limited to 45 max)

Chairs: Glenn Flanagan and David Menadue

Condoms vs Undetectable Viral Load

Presenter: Cipri Martinez

**Margaret Murray
Function Room**

The parameters of HIV risk transmission and the harm it causes have changed significantly. HIV drug treatments have led to undetectable viral loads and dramatic increases in life expectancy for most PLWHA. This workshop provides a space where PLWHA on a national level are able to

- explore the challenges and uncertainty surrounding HIV risk transmission and viral load in every day life;
- recommend some points for policy and research; and
- articulate PLWHA participation in prevention when meeting the challenges and uncertainty surrounding HIV risk transmission and viral load.

3.30pm-5.00pm **BREAKOUT SESSION:
Positive Support Group Workshop**

Chairs: Amelia McLouglin and Scott Lockhart

**The Role of Support Groups: Addressing Needs or
Maintaining Dependency. Who is Looking after
You Post-HAART?**

**Presenters: Jurgis (George) Maleckas, John Rule,
Amelia McLouglin**

North Function Room

What is the role of support groups to the newly-diagnosed in the post-HAART era? Do they promote Active Citizenship* or are they a hangover from a past era? This discussion will explore how these community organisations introduce themselves to newly diagnosed individuals; what programs they run; what support they offer and how they encourage people living with HIV/AIDS to take control of their own lives.

“Our Place, Your Place – in the bigger picture” the theme of NAPWA’s 10th Conference is a good time to revisit the models set in place for these essential support networks for the newly diagnosed – as a reassessment to where we have come to in the post-HAART era. This panel and audience discussion will explore the difference in service delivery between some of the organisations. It will also inquire as to whether the nature of these organisations is one of the determinants to the identity construction of the newly diagnosed.

NAPWA, in recognising that ‘people with HIV have always been in the process of naming their own realities’ must have a response akin to the socially complex needs of the newly diagnosed and so the development of a ‘National HIV Living Project’ was born. This is recognition of the need to promote capacity of member PLWHA groups in the need to respond to changes in the impact of HIV/AIDS. Further, NAPWA’s “Strategic Plan 2004-2008” is ‘committed to improving the quality of life of positive people and keeping these lives visible and the many different voices heard.’ Do the support groups we have encapsulate the awareness which would allow an individual to not alter the linear progression of his/her life at the point of diagnosis? Where people can have the opportunity to walk into a safe space and see other people with HIV who are living normal, well adjusted lives; where the group must serve the community, not the organisers.

Presenting at the workshop with the assistance of John Rule, whose PhD work is about citizenship and community organisations. It is envisaged that there will be four positive panel members, including a female member, to try and represent a fair cross-section of the existing support groups in the HIV/AIDS sector in Australia.

*Active Citizenship is someone who participates fully in the community; engaging their rights, obligations and duties as citizens; of people associating freely and taking responsibility for their own lives. Active Citizenship requires the development of skills and capacity; listening and respecting others; informed discussion and democratic decision-making – all of which reinforce the idea that humans are the agents of their own destiny. Sue Kenny (The Vocal Citizen) 2000:70-81.

6.00pm-9.00pm **Community BBQ
Full BBQ dinner and beverages provided**

**Barr Smith Lawns,
Adelaide University**

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

8.00am Registration. Arrival. Coffee/tea Equinox Function Room

9.30am-10.30am **BREAKOUT SESSION:**
Disclosure Workshop Eclipse Function Room
Chairs: Peter Canavan and David Menadue
“Something We All Think About”: The Contexts
and Cultures of Disclosure
Presenters: Glenn Flanagan, Jeanne Ellard and
David Menadue

Disclosure is an important issue for many HIV positive people, and one that is dynamic and influenced by a range of factors. We will examine the contexts and cultures which have an impact on people’s experience of, and decisions about, disclosing HIV status.

This workshop will incorporate research presentations and a number of interactive exercises in order to facilitate an open discussion about the challenges and benefits of HIV disclosure. The workshop will cover some of the key issues that positive people face when disclosing, and the strategies and reasons for either disclosing or not disclosing their status. These include subtle forms of disclosure, codes, confidentiality, body image issues, and whether there are safe spaces for disclosure. We will also consider the role of HIV disclosure in the context of safe sex and who is responsible for safe sex.

9.30am-10.30am **BREAKOUT SESSION: Social Research Workshop** Margaret Murray
Chairs: John Rule and Bernard Kealey Function Room
Developing a Charter for Community Engagement
Presenter: Michael Salter

Community consultation and partnership are instrumental to the research of the National Centre in HIV Social Research. Community stakeholders provide expertise and assistance in recruitment, data collection, analysis and dissemination, and a dynamic and evolving model of social diffusion and knowledge transfer is a key goal of the Centre.

The NCHSR is developing a Charter for Community Engagement to consolidate and strengthen our current relationships with affected communities and stakeholders. The Charter will articulate the principles and processes that constitute authentic community partnership, and outline implementation strategies and benchmarks.

This workshop will form a crucial stage in the community consultation phase of the development of the Charter. We are looking to People Living With HIV/ AIDs for direct advice and innovation in formulating the Charter. The workshop is designed to collate advice, recommendations and feedback on the preliminary Charter framework, and explore alternative approaches.

Michael Salter is from the National Centre in HIV Social Research in Sydney.

9.30am-10.30am **BREAKOUT SESSION: Positive Women Workshop** North Function Room
Chairs: Gabe McCarthy and Amelia McLouglin
Rediscovering Aphrodite:
HIV Positive Women and Sexuality
(*Aphrodite – the Greek goddess of love, beauty
and sexual allure*)
Presenter: Angela Hellewell

Many positive women have expressed over many years how a diagnosis often renders them “dirty” and “unclean” and fear of sex and sexual intimacy is often a result. This workshop – only for positive women and facilitated by a positive woman, will explore the many ways women can express their sexuality and sensuality after diagnosis. Women can share stories about coming to terms with sexual image and sex with HIV. All women will be encouraged to explore the many aspects of sexuality, sensuality and incorporating safer sex practices into their life in away that reaffirms themselves as sensual, sexual beings.

The workshop will be driven by the participants, around a loose framework of education and fun exercises about sexuality for women. Questions about denial of sexuality and why, will be explored if women feel comfortable enough and the opportunity to share stories about good, bad, bloody awful and absolutely fabulous ways in which positive women have been able to explore sex and sexuality after diagnosis will be given in a space that will be safe, confidential and not recorded.

Part of the workshop may include ways in which women can celebrate, explore and reconnect with the sexual, sensual beautiful woman that existed pre-diagnosis, what are the things that changed and how, what has caused the positive or negative impact and how can we make that reconnection come about.

A positive women’s only space would be vital to this workshop as a means to increase participation and dialogue on the subject matter.

9.30am-10.30am BREAKOUT SESSION: Beyond T4 Count Workshop WP Rogers Function Room
Chairs: Tony Maynard and Brent Allan
Beyond T4 Count and Viral Load:
How Co-Factors Affect the Outcome of HIV
Presenter: Jim Arachne

Medical treatment of HIV focuses on using drugs to directly suppress the virus. In line with this focus, it's often forgotten that most people's immune systems can successfully handle HIV for many years without any medical assistance. Unfortunately, very little attention is paid to assisting the immune system in dealing more effectively with HIV and extending the time before people start on anti-HIV drugs.

Research over the last 20 years has shown that there are many things people can do to enhance their immune system's control of HIV. Numerous scientific studies have identified around twelve "co-factors" that influence the outcome of infection with HIV.

The time when the importance of these co-factors comes to the fore is when people are relying particularly on their immune systems to control HIV. These times tend to be:

- When people are newly diagnosed and want to extend the time to the maximum before starting use of anti-HIV drugs
- When people are planning a drug-break and want the break to last as long as possible
- When people's drugs are failing and allowing HIV to replicate – especially if you have no other drug combinations left.

This workshop will present up-to-date, research-based evidence for the importance of these co-factors and how people can make use of them to improve their immune function and control of HIV. Many co-factors will be discussed but the focus will be on four of particular significance; selenium, antioxidant status, body composition and hormones – especially DHEA.

Jim Arachne is with the Victorian AIDS Council.

10.30am-11.00am Morning Tea Equinox Function Room

11.00am-12.30pm BREAKOUT SESSION: Positive Places Eclipse Function Room
Chairs: Brent Allan and Michelle Tobin

11.00am-11.20am Managing Wellness at the Melbourne PLC
Presenter: Julia Freeborne

The Melbourne Positive Living Centre (PLC) has existed for nearly twelve years. It began operations at a time when a HIV diagnosis equated to an average time of death to ten years and discrimination and ignorance relating to HIV was rife. Treatments and a greater understanding of the virus have led to an extended life expectancy and improved quality of life for some people. Ten years ago HIV was most likely to be the major presenting issue whereas now HIV can be one of many factors impacting on people's lives.

The PLC is funded to provide services to those most disadvantaged who are living with HIV. Though all people living with HIV are welcomed our services are targeted towards those on low incomes, those with complex care needs and those most marginalised such as people from Non English speaking backgrounds, young people and sex workers.

This can make the environment a challenging one to manage as we need to balance the right to access and managing a wide range of people with differing or competing needs within the Centre.

The PLC currently has 730 members and of these approximately 400 regularly utilise our services. There are currently more than a dozen service options at the PLC with the average attendance at the centre of 37 clients per day who stay for approximately 1.5 hours each and access three to four service points during this time. This volume and diversity of attendance makes for a challenging and dynamic service environment.

This session will articulate the model utilised at the Melbourne PLC and will explore both successes and ongoing challenges experienced within this diverse and colourful service.

Julia Freeborne is with the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre.

11.20am-11.40am Positive Plots
Presenter: Guy Kharn

The aim of this project was to assist isolated HIV positive people by giving them the opportunity to form new social networks and contacts in a community garden space. The intention was to provide a safe local environment, which facilitated new friendships with minimal costs involved for participants.

Currently, one garden has been established in St. Kilda in July/August 2004. This presentation will explore the process involved in setting up this garden environment and now 12 months later, look at how the use of the garden by the participants has impacted upon their lives.

The notion of using community gardens has been explored by other local community groups as a significantly successful community development tool. In this scenario, we are interested in addressing a number of social determinants that impact and exacerbate the social isolation of HIV positive people such as poverty, skills development (i.e. garden skills) and self esteem and social anxiety issues.

There are numerous challenges in reaching the most isolated of HIV positive people in the community who are trapped in urban environments with limited access to the therapeutic effects of social interaction and using gardening as the mechanism to provide hope and a kick start into new experiences.

The project has in fact exceeded the expectations with interests in expanding the program into new localities across Melbourne. Participant's experiences will be shared as a part of this presentation and the challenges of mounting a similar or like project will also be addressed.

Guy Kham is with PLWHA Victoria.

11.40am-12.00pm Our Place is Your Place: The SA Positive Living Centre
Presenter: Chris Browne

- PLWHA history in SA
- Development of strategic & business plans
- A brief review of services (especially our Health & Wellness program)
- Audiovisual presentation illustrating PLC work in the community (ie. Friday lunches, Melbourne cup party, Xmas party, Positively Decadent birthday celebration, ABC TV volunteer program, etc)

12.00pm-12.20pm Being Positive and in Practice
Presenter: Neville Braybrook

A workshop for people working in human service roles within the HIV Sector such as support workers, welfare workers, social workers, and disability workers etc, who are PLWHA themselves. This workshop seeks to explore and uncover the experience and issues in (but not limited to) some of the following areas

- ethics in practice;
- assumptions about our wellness;
- sexualities and sexual expression;
- we work in small communities;
- disclosure or not;
- benefits in use of self;
- boundaries;
- loss of anonymity.
- self-care strategies;
- is it about us or the client;
- organisational context;

The workshop will be interactive and initially aim to draw from participants, through brainstorming and case studies, what are the common themes, modes of practice, benefits, disadvantages and supervision experiences etc, with the group defining what are the priorities for further exploration. The overall aim would be not only reveal to positive workers an ethical way to practice that results in a healthier and more confident use of self, but also an effective way of exploring how to use our experience of being positive that would benefit clients, with the focus of practice remaining on the client. Also up for discussion would be how does this sit alongside our colleagues who are negative.

Neville Braybrook is Client Support Officer, HIV Services/Community Support Program, Victorian Aids Council.

12.20pm-12.30pm Discussion

11.00am-12.30pm BREAKOUT SESSION:
Building Resilience Workshop
(limited to 50 max)

Margaret Murray
Function Room

Chairs: Katherine Leane and Bernard Kealey
Building Resilience through Strengths, Skills,
Resources and Inspiration

Presenters: Joint Agency Workers Group South Australia

There are a multitude of issues that undermine the emotional health of HIV positive people – struggles with secrecy, stigma, sexuality and intimacy, struggling with depression, anxiety, grief and loss, isolation and relationships. However, despite the difficult patches, most of the time people do manage to get on with their lives and manage to more or less “live well” with HIV. When HIV positive people are struggling with emotional health problems they may be “out of their depth”, unprepared or unable to rise to the psychological and practical challenges they are facing. It is often because there is a mismatch between the complexity and enormity of challenges they are confronting and their ability to access their “strengths, skills resources and inspiration”.

Working from a peer-based model the workshop will explore ways to access supportive resources and to reconnect with existing strengths and skills and a sense of hope.

This interactive workshop is facilitated by the SA joint agency workers group. The group meets regularly to build collaborative relationships and programs and to support each other's work.

11.00am-12.30pm **BREAKOUT SESSION: Health Promotion Session** North Function Room
Chairs: Glenn Flanagan and John Daye

11.00am-11.10pm **Finding the Place of Wellness in Health Promotion**
Presenter: Peter Canavan

The concept of health promotion used in this paper refers to the proactive engagement of positive people in creating a broad, life wellness approach. This approach does not ignore the realities and vulnerabilities faced by those living with HIV/AIDS but suggests that wellness and wellbeing should be the desired outcomes of interventions. New treatments, care and support arrangements as well as changes in work patterns add up to a picture of living with HIV as being the experience of living with 'change as the constant'. This paper is intended to explore how in these constantly changing patterns positive people can find their place of wellness.

Peter Canavan is HIV Living Program Coordinator at NAPWA.

11.10am-11.30am **New and Emerging Treatments**
Presenter: Bill Whittaker

There are currently around 20 HIV antiviral drugs available in Australia. However, the pace of new drug development is increasing and it seems likely that there may be around 30 antiviral drugs available within the next five years, in six different drug classes. This presentation will highlight the most promising of these new treatments and look at how they will likely be accessed in Australia.

Australia has also recently updated its HIV Antiviral Treatment Guidelines in line with the availability of new HIV treatments and growing scientific knowledge. These guidelines are used by doctors and people living with HIV to assist with making treatment choices. This presentation will highlight the main changes in these guidelines and discuss what they may mean for HIV/AIDS treatment.

11.30am-11.50am **Sexually Transmitted Infections in a Cohort of
HIV Positive Gay Men in Sydney**
Presenter: Garrett Prestage

In Australia, levels of sexual risk behaviour in HIV positive gay men have been demonstrated to be higher than in HIV negative gay men. Whether or not this is reflected in a higher prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in this population is uncertain.

Approximately 200 men from the Positive Health community-based cohort of HIV positive gay men from Sydney are currently being tested for gonorrhoea and chlamydia (Becton-Dickinson nucleic acid amplification); and syphilis, hepatitis A virus (HAV), and hepatitis B virus (HBV; all by ELISA, with confirmatory tests for syphilis and hepatitis B). As of May 2005, data were available on 82 participants.

Of 108 participants invited to participate, 82 participants agreed to screening for STIs. To date, 5.0% of men have tested positive for pharyngeal gonorrhoea, while none have tested positive for pharyngeal chlamydia; 6.4% had evidence of rectal chlamydia, while none tested positive for rectal gonorrhoea. No men had evidence of urethral gonorrhoea infection, and 2.6% were positive for urethral chlamydia. Fifteen of 78 men (19.2%) tested positive by syphilis enzyme immunoassay. One of these men did not report prior diagnosis and treatment; 5.1% reported syphilis infection and treatment in the preceding 12 months; 24.6% were non-immune to HBV, whereas 24.6% had been vaccinated and 44.6% had evidence of prior infection; 4.6% have evidence of chronic HBV infection. One-third of men showed either equivocal or no immunity to HAV.

The high rate of recent incident syphilis infection indicates that this community-based cohort of HIV-positive gay men is at high-risk of STIs. This, along with the relatively high rates of non-vaccination for HAV and HBV, suggests significant health promotion issues concerning sexual health among this population and the need for appropriate diagnosis and treatment of STIs in this at-risk population.

11.50am-12.10am **Where Have All the Stories and Images of
HIV Positive People Gone? HIV (in) Visibility**
Presenter: Kathy Triffitt

This paper will be guided by a review of the community research project – self-documentation, self-imaging: people living with HIV and AIDS, 1988-2002 (hereafter abbreviated as SDSI). Personal narratives and histories recorded in SDSI may provide new impetus and ideas that speak to the contemporary experiences of plwaha.

SDSI offers a chronicle of the changing course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in its first decade in Australia and the shifting responses to it through the recording of the lived experiences of people with HIV/AIDS. The early emphasis on collective community action provided the impetus to negotiate the cultural and political regulations on HIV/AIDS including discrimination, treatment policies and community attitudes. Within a focused and energised community response we find a powerful testament to individual survival and continuation. These experiences and histories recounted as a story of an 'everyday life' of HIV/AIDS, are rarely heard. The current lived experience, knowledge and visibility of people diagnosed with HIV in the last seven years is often described as very limited. This invisibility has resulted in a number of misconceptions concerning the realities of living with HIV within the broader community and of the place of HIV in different plwaha's lives – that is, the personal, social, political and everyday details.

Kathy Triffitt is Health Promotion Officer at People Living With HIV/AIDS (NSW).

12.10pm-12.30pm The Place of Health Promotion in Victoria

Presenter: Suzie Malhotra

PLWHA Vic first trialled the concept of "Treatment Interactive Events"(TIE) in 1999 to try to re-engage plwha who had lost interest in the more dry treatment update approach which had been used until then.

Surveys indicated that people wanted a social peer support environment to accompany the imparting of the latest in treatment information. We developed a model using Vanessa Wagner as compere, panels including health professionals and positive people, set in a bar atmosphere on a weekend afternoon.

This presentation details the thinking and preparation which goes into a TIE, the formats which work and why we believe mixing entertainment with education and information is the most effective approach. Our organisation will be using this format as part of our upcoming Healthy Living workshops.

Suzie Malhotra is with PLWHA Victoria.

11.00am-12.30pm BREAKOUT SESSION: Policy

WP Rogers Function Room

Chairs: John Rock and Suzanne Lau-Gooey

11.00am-11.20pm A Place in the Welfare/Work Networks

Presenter: Rob Lake

There will be changes to the systems for plwha applying for DSP or Newstart to Centrelink (and changed roles for Job Network providers) following on from the Federal budget of 2005. In this session Centrelink and employment agency representatives will respond to case studies that relate directly to the experiences of PLWHA. The session will be an opportunity for questions and answers and will hopefully provide information for plwha who need to negotiate these welfare networks.

This session will be facilitated by Graham Douglas-Meyer, who is the NAPWA representative on the Board of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations. Graham has had experience in Western Australia encouraging constructive communications between these service agencies and plwha so that plwha understand their rights within the welfare/work networks.

Rob Lake is NAPWA's Care and Support Portfolio Convenor.

11.20am-11.40am Our Place, Not Necessarily Your Place:

Immigration and Travel to Australia for HIV+ People

Presenter: David Puls

The immigration legislation is the second biggest piece of legislation in Australia. Each visa for Australia carries with it a health requirement. The health requirement varies depending on the visa. In addition some health requirements carry a waiver provision, so even if an applicant fails a health requirement they may be able to persuade the Minister to grant the visa at any rate. The immigration legislation treats all health issues in the same way in theory – it's a question of cost – and the Commonwealth Medical Officer (CMO) providing the health checks would say that HIV is not treated any differently from any other health issue. Is that true?

This paper explores a number of issues:

- What does the migration law say about HIV+ people coming to Australia?
- How is the migration law implemented in practice for people with HIV?
- Is HIV treated the same as all other health issues?
- What medications are available to people in Australia before they are granted permanent residence?
- What is the cost estimate for the cost of health services to people with HIV?
- Is the health cost reasonable?
- Should the health cost be reviewed?
- Does the health cost apply to the applicant, and if not – why is the MOC using it at any rate?
- Is the implementation of the immigration law done in a way that demonstrates an underlying discrimination against HIV+ people?
- Do we have up the barriers – it's our place, not necessarily your place?

David Puls is Principal Solicitor, HIV/AIDS Legal Centre, Surry Hills, NSW.

11.40am-12.00pm Knowingly Infecting and HIV Transmission:

Legislation and Public Health Controls

Presenter: Geoff Honnor

On 14 February 2005 the *Sydney Morning Herald* ran an editorial arising from the dropping of a prosecution for the offence of Maliciously and Intentionally Inflicting Grievous Bodily Disease and the substitution of a charge of Maliciously Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm. The editorial began – Stronger laws needed on HIV – "Laws designed to protect the public from those who knowingly spread the HIV virus have failed their first test . . . The law must be swiftly amended so the courts have the power to impose the very heavy sentences that Parliament intended."

The editorial failed to appreciate that there was already a scheme of offences relevant to risk of sexual transmission of diseases.

PLWHA and ACON then prepared joint submissions arguing that targeted public health measures are vastly more effective in

preventing HIV transmission than the blunt instrument of criminal law. The first was to the Review of the NSW Public Health Act and the second to the Review of the Criminal Law Division in NSW which sought to amend NSW legislation to align it with criminal codes in other states.

This presentation provides some information about the arguments contained in those submissions.

Geoff Honnor is PLWH/A (NSW) Executive Officer.

12.00pm-12.20pm Fifth National Strategy: Opportunities and Interventions
Presenter: David Menadue

In 2004 –2005 NAPWA contributed significantly to the development of the Fifth National HIV/AIDS Strategy. In this paper David Menadue, (who sits on the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis), draws attention to those areas of the strategy document which outline nationally agreed upon areas of work that will be supportive of positive people.

These include aspects of prevention education, principles of health promotion and the long-term care and support needs of plwha. The document recognises the fact that there is an ageing of the positive population and that there is an increased complexity of health outcomes which require a response. The strategy also notes the increasing complexity and high demands of HIV medical practice. It is suggested that the strategy can now be used by plwha to help argue their case for the best possible responses, programs and healthy outcomes for positive people over the next three years. David encourages positive people and their organisations to seize opportunities and directions that are contained within the strategy documents.

David Menadue is NAPWA Vice President.

12.20pm-12.30pm Discussion

12.30pm-1.30pm Lunch

Equinox Function Room

1.30pm-3.00pm BREAKOUT SESSION: Treatments & Pos Ed Panel **Eclipse Function Room**
Chairs: John Daye and Kirsty Machon
HIV Medicine, Treatments, Information and
Positive Education: Intersections and
Complementarities
Presenter: Phillip Keen

Kane Race and other researchers have described how HAART has changed PLWHA's experience of HIV medicine. It is said that discussion of HIV medicine is now located more in the 'clinical space' – a private discussion between PLWHAs and their GPs – and less in social and community spaces.

The privatisation of HIV medicine has been accompanied by changes in the social world of people with HIV. Before the arrival of HAART, organised social events and gatherings based around HIV-related issues were common – for example support groups, public rallies and demonstrations, 'Positive Sex' nights at some SOPVs, and regular social/information events such as 'Planet Positive'.

In 2005, many people with HIV have arguably 'normalised' HIV (i.e., talking to friends about issues related to HIV may happen in ways that are similar to other matters), but others may contain discussions about HIV to a select group of friends or other people with HIV. Thus, information 'loops' (where information about HIV is shared and discussed) may be bigger or smaller, and faster or slower, depending on the individual's place in them, and the medium. The Internet, for example, has facilitated particularly rapid information loops.

Social research gives us an insight into how people with HIV today connect to services and treatments information; is this matched by our experience as practitioners? Are there gaps in our understanding of where and how PLWHA do or don't connect to services now?

This multidisciplinary panel will discuss how HIV medicine and issues of interest to PLWHAs around health and lifestyle are discussed in the clinical, community and social spaces. The panel will consider the following questions:

- How have these changes influenced the way our work in HIV medicine, treatments information and positive education is undertaken today?
- What do we know about how people with HIV today manage discussions about HIV-related issues in their within their friendship and social networks? How may this be different for people diagnosed after 1996? What are the implications for our practice?
- What differences in these areas exist across geography, ethnicity, gender, age and sexuality?
- What is the territory of positive education? Where does positive education begin and end? How do PLWHA understand positive education and what it has to offer?
- What can HIV GPs, Treatments officers and Positive Educators do to better understand and complement each others' work?

Phillip Keen is ANET Educator, AFAO.

1.30pm-3.00pm **BREAKOUT SESSION: International Session** Margaret Murray
Chairs: Suzanne Lau-Gooley and Robert Mitchell Function Room

1.30pm-1.50pm **Translating GIPA From Australia to Asia Pacific**
Presenter: John Rock

The GIPA Declaration was made at the Paris AIDS Summit in 1994. This presentation explores the practicalities of implementing GIPA principles in the region. Questions explored include:

- How does GIPA work in Australia and the region?
- What are the barriers that effect GIPA implementation and potential what potential exists for structures such as the country co-ordinating mechanisms to assist?
- Global bodies have adopted the GIPA principles but how are these translated to practice 'in country'?

This presentation is based on the experience of many years of work that NAPWA has carried out in trying to promote and work with the GIPA principles and suggests some strategies for work in the future.

1.50pm-2.10pm **HIV and International AIDS Issues:
Current Challenges in HIV/AIDS and
International Development**
Presenter: Ian Grubb

Abstract not available to time of going to print.

2.10pm-2.30pm **“Coming From Different Places and Working Together”:
A report from the NAPWA-AHAPI project work in
PNG and East Timor**
Presenter: John Rule

In 2005 NAPWA received funding from AusAID for a project to begin three years of intensive work with three partner organisations in the region. This session reports on progress to date. The underlying theme, presented from the perspective of positive people trying to support positive people is not about the delivering of aid programs. Rather it explores at a practical level how the learnings from our Australian context can connect with the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS in other places.

Three partner organisations have been involved in the project. Igat Hope Inc is the registered organisation of PNG HIV positive men and women, currently based in Port Moresby. NAPWA has been providing peer based support and technical advice to the development of the group, since 2003.

As many aid organisations and the government sector attempt to develop national infrastructure and put in place reconstruction programs in East Timor, NAPWA is proposing to work with Timor Aid and other stakeholders to develop initiatives for specific HIV related activities with people living with HIV/AIDS within their communities.

APN+ has been seeking to enhance the development of capacity and skills throughout the region, NAPWA wants to assist in the development of leadership skills amongst the plwha networks for APN+ governance and broader strategic mobilisation.

John Rule is Manager, HIV Living and International Unit, NAPWA.

2.30pm-3.00pm **Discussion**

1.30pm-3.00pm **BREAKOUT SESSION: Personal Experiences** North Function Room
(limited to 40 max)
Chairs: Gabe McCarthy and Bernard Kealey
Self Esteem Workshop
Presenter: Susan Paxton

Abstract not available at time of going to print. Session open to HIV positive delegates only.

3.00pm-3.30pm **Afternoon Tea** Equinox Function Room

3.30pm-4.00pm **Closing Session** Eclipse Function Room
Gabe McCarthy, President of NAPWA and
David Menadue, Vice-President of NAPWA

4.00pm **End**

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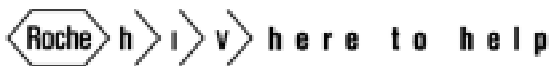
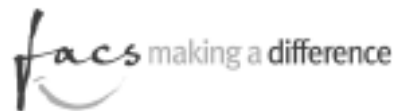
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