



Queensland Positive People

INCLUSIVE, INNOVATIVE HIV SERVICES

Empowering multicultural PLHIV through
adaptable and flexible community-led HIV service

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ABOUT US

Queensland Positive People is a peer-based community organisation that has been committed to improving the quality of life of all PLHIV across Queensland since 1989.



Queensland Positive
People
since 1989

Multicultural PLHIV engaged with QPP

- Total PLHIV registered as clients: 595 (2016 – 2019)
 - 229 (38.5%) clients were born overseas
 - 64 (10.7%) clients were ineligible for Medicare
 - 24 (4%) clients needed interpreter service
- Total enquiries: 429
 - Access to HIV treatment: 129 (30.1%)
 - Access to HIV treatment (generic meds): 11 (2.6%)
 - Immigration: 40 (9.3%)

Goals of Life+ Program – Q Health funded treatment & care



**Case management/
Treatment Support &
Facilitation**



Peer Navigation/Support



**Stigma & Discrimination
Program**

- Address barriers to treatment initiation/adherence and retention in care
- Reduce the time between diagnosis and uptake of treatment
- Prevent HIV disease progression in PLHIV
- Reduce the possibility of onward transmission
- Improve **self management** & HIV health literacy
- Address individual & systemic stigma/discrimination and barriers to treatments access and access to care

Peer Navigation

- Geographically distributed team of Peer Navigators (originally 17, currently 8 with 3 'Peer Case Managers')
 - 2 straight men (1 African and 1 Caucasian)
 - 3 straight women (2 African and 1 Caucasian)
 - 6 gay men (1 Asian, 5 Caucasian)
 - 2 refugees
- Located in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Gold Coast and Brisbane and outreach to all other areas as required
- Full time, part time and casual
- Office, clinic (TSV) and/or community based

Peer Navigation for Multicultural PLHIV

- Supporting Medicare ineligible PLHIV in navigating the access to HIV care and medications
- Supporting serodiscordant couples
- Supporting adolescents born with HIV
- Sharing lived experience of HIV and immigration
 - Collaborative support with Stigma & Discrimination Case Manager
 - Offering personal experience to address the anxiety and stress induced by migration experience



Treatment Support & Facilitation

- Case Management
- Address barriers to treatment initiation/adherence and retention in care
- 3 positive peers are working to deliver case management and Peer Navigation
- Barriers for multicultural PLHIV - each barrier can affect other barriers
 - Trust
 - Shame
 - Housing
 - Mental Health
 - Trauma
 - Culture
 - Language
 - Lack of knowledge
 - Transport
 - Finance
 - Family



Treatment Support & Facilitation

- Information
- Linkages to other services
- HOPE Fund, Complex Client Fund, and Emergency Treatment Fund
- Self- management and empowerment

Stigma and Discrimination Program

- Address individual presentations of stigma, discrimination or other HIV-related legal problems affecting quality of life
- Improve the legal literacy of PLHIV providing education, information and time limited case management support
- We do not provide legal and migration advice



Stigma and Discrimination Program and Multicultural PLHIV

- Migration
- Disclosure, Privacy, and Discrimination
 - Will I be treated differently, unfairly, or less favourably if I disclose?
 - Will my confidentiality be respected?



Relevant resources

- Medicare ineligible factsheet (with ASHM):
<https://www.qpp.org.au/qpp-publications/medicare-ineligible-fact-sheet>
- HIV and Immigration (with ASHM and Freedom Migration):
<https://www.ashm.org.au/products/product/hivandimmigration>
- QLD Disclosure Guide (with HALC):
<https://www.qpp.org.au/qpp-publications/hiv-disclosure-guide>

A case of adaptable and flexible services for Multicultural PLHIV

- Three African Australian adolescents were referred to QPP through HIV Public Health Team
- QPP support:
 - Allocate a Peer Navigator and two Case Managers
 - Provide individualised and group peer support
 - Develop youth-friendly activities to deliver a wide range of information with approval from clients and their parents
 - Utilise Complex Client Fund
 - Regular review within the team and with the clients and their parents
 - Collaborative support with other service providers
 - Regular reporting to HIV Public Health Team



Queensland Positive People

INCLUSIVE, INNOVATIVE HIV SERVICES

Marginalisation constrained the identification, participation, and development of marginalised leaders. Enable and foster the multicultural leadership through strategic talent development. Be open to the cultural differences on what constitutes a good leadership and governance.

Next steps

INFORM – CONSULT – INVOLVE – COLLABORATE - EMPOWER

- Community consultation and engagement using International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) framework
- Develop community advisory group
- Develop support group for multicultural PLHIV