

## **COVID-19 Toolkit Newsletter: An innovative and responsive resource for all people living with HIV in NSW**

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### **Background/Purpose:**

In response to the lockdowns due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in NSW, Positive Life NSW (PLNSW) created a regular COVID-19 Toolkit communique to provide timely COVID-related updates and information for all people living with HIV (PLHIV) in NSW, our supporters and associates affected by HIV, as well those who work in the HIV sector.

### **Approach:**

The PLNSW COVID-19 Toolkit provided a wealth of practical resources, tools and strategies for PLHIV with updated, evidence-based information and tips for staying mentally well and socially connected including online classes/courses and entertainment activities. The Toolkit was published weekly from 17 April-15 September 2020 until NSW restrictions were lifted. Once restrictions were reintroduced across Greater Sydney, the Toolkit was produced fortnightly from 16 July-22 October 2021. It was published as a PDF downloadable from the PLNSW website for ease of distribution as a printed resource or email attachment.

### **Outcomes/Impact:**

The COVID-19 Toolkit was created in response to community requests for regularly updated information specific to PLHIV. In March 2020 prior to the lockdown, PLNSW had 1,114,708 webpage hits with searches for Coronavirus and HIV, representing a 268.31% increase in page views and a 272.09% increase in unique page views from the previous month, with an average time on a page of 66.60%. After PLNSW started publishing the Toolkit, there were 1,017,673 webpage hits between 17 April-30 June 2020, and 685,980 from 01 July-30 September 2020. When the Delta subtype was identified in July 2021 and Greater Sydney went back into COVID lockdown, webpage hits increased again to 1,017,367 between 16 July-30 September 2021, and 271,858 from 01-22 October 2021.

### **Innovation and Significance:**

The COVID-19 Toolkit was a proven, innovative approach to empower PLHIV with resources to make timely, informed, evidence-based decisions, providing tools to alleviate mental health issues and social isolation during the COVID pandemic lockdown periods.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

Nothing to declare.