

# STAYING NEGATIVE

## Interviewee Information Sheet



### VICTORIAN AIDS COUNCIL

Peter Knight Centre  
6 Claremont Street  
South Yarra Victoria 3141  
P 61 3 9865 6700  
F 61 3 9826 2700  
Toll Free 1800 134 840

Positive Living Centre  
51 Commercial Road  
South Yarra Victoria 3141  
P 61 3 9863 0444  
F 61 3 9820 3166  
Toll Free 1800 622 795

Centre Clinic - St Kilda  
Rear of 77 Fitzroy Street  
St Kilda Victoria 3182  
P 61 3 9525 5866  
F 61 3 9525 3673

PRONTO!  
Rapid Testing Service  
175 Rose Street  
Fitzroy Victoria 3065  
P 61 3 9416 2889

ABN: 52 907 644 835

### CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

The *Staying Negative Campaign* was launched in 2004 by the Health Promotion Program at VAC to address the everyday issues that affect the overall health and wellbeing of gay & bisexual men who have sex with men (MSM), including trans men.

Whilst HIV infections were still rising each year in Victoria, research was telling us that a lack of information about how HIV is transmitted was not the problem – most of us knew about condoms and lube. So what was stopping men from using this knowledge to protect ourselves from HIV in a sustained way?

This campaign exists on the premise that our main goal is to help reduce HIV transmissions within our community and we understand that 'best practice' isn't always feasible on a daily basis. This campaign provides a platform for both HIV-negative and HIV-positive individuals to share their personal experience as they both have an important role to play in the fight against HIV.

The *Staying Negative Campaign* was designed to help isolate and expose the very real, everyday issues, unique to MSM, that stand in the way of sustained HIV prevention. It aims to do this by engaging with the community on a practical level through the sharing of personal life stories from our peers - real everyday guys. It is unique in the way that it helps identify these everyday issues and provides the personal strategies used to overcome them.

### THE PROCESS

Outlined below is the process followed for publishing stories on Staying Negative

- **The Interview** - We will coordinate a time with you to conduct an interview. We anticipate that the interview will run for approximately one hour.
- **Transcription** – Once the interview has taken place, your story will be professionally transcribed.
- **Photos** – We will request that you send us photos of your choice to be used on the website as your profile picture as well as photos that can be added into your story.
- **Our story editing** – Your transcript will be edited into story form so it flows in a readable manner as well as split them into chapters. Stories may be edited in order to focus on a particular issue of interest.
- **Your story editing & Approval** - You will be sent the edited story whereby you can make any changes you like before final approval for publication.
- As we run a tight schedule releasing stories, we request that you take a **maximum of one week** for you to get back to us with final edits. If you anticipate this will take any longer, please discuss this with us and we will be happy to comply, within reason.
- **Publish** - We will then upload your story and publish on the Staying Negative website. Your story may also be published on mediums such as printed media.

#### Important \*

It is important to note: This is your story! We are not happy with it if you are not happy with it. The process can be stopped at any stage and if you change your mind once the story is on the site, we will happily remove it. You maintain ultimate control of the process.

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## INTERVIEWS

The interview is more of an informal chat about life where you can discuss as much or as little personal information as you like. It starts off with a few open-ended questions and the discussion is guided by the facilitator. You have the right to pass on any question you do not feel comfortable answering.

You will have the opportunity to share whatever you feel will contribute to your story. We are not only looking for stories that always have a happy ending, ultimately, we want to hear about something honest, real and relatable.

After the interview there will be a chance to debrief with the interviewer and discuss any health or risk-related issues that come up in it.

At any time during the story development process you can contact your facilitator to talk about any concerns, if they were to arise, from your participation in the campaign. VAC also offers participants the opportunity to debrief with a member of the VAC Counselling Service should the interview process raise any significantly upsetting feelings or adverse emotional experiences.

Questions, concerns or complaints may be directed to the Director of Health Promotion, Policy and Communication - Colin Batrouney  03 9865 6700  
 [colin.batrouney@vac.org.au](mailto:colin.batrouney@vac.org.au)

## IDENTIFIABILITY

In your interview, you may reveal details that are very specific, with regards to other people involved. During the editing process, names of other people will be removed and they will be de-identified.

You will have the opportunity to **edit** or **cut** the story as much as you like, given it is still an accurate description of true experiences. This is your story, so it is important that you are happy with it.

Your **profile photo** will appear with your story on the Staying Negative website and only your **first name** will be used, unless there are already participants of the same name, in which the first letter of your last name will also be used.

When advertising your story that has been published to the site, **your name**, a **quote** from your story and a stock image will be used to create ads that will appear on certain publications or other websites.

There is a possibility your **photo** and **story** will be published on other websites or used in production of promotional materials, resources or collateral for the campaign.

If you are not comfortable with any of this, please do make this clear to your facilitator.

## PAYMENT

Participants do not get paid to share their story on our campaign, especially as we do not want any bias in the reiterating of real life stories that occur. All participants tell their story on a voluntary basis and we hope that you will enjoy a warm and fuzzy feeling from participating in this campaign and giving others hope that they are not alone in the issues they face.

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## Personal Details & Consent Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Best contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Suburb & Postcode) \_\_\_\_\_

What is your gender identity? (Please tick if you please – no obligation)

Man  Woman  Trans man  Trans woman

Other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your sexual identity? (Please tick if you please – no obligation)

Gay  Bisexual  Lesbian  Heterosexual  Pansexual

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Country of birth \_\_\_\_\_

What town/city did you grow up in? \_\_\_\_\_

## AGREEMENT

"I, \_\_\_\_\_ (full name) have read and understand the interviewee information sheet provided and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction.

I agree to participate in the project and understand that I am allowed to withdraw at any time without reason or penalty.

I understand that my story will not be published without my full approval and consent.

I agree that my story, first name, and photo are allowed to be published on the Staying Negative website which is a campaign of the Victorian AIDS Council.

I understand that my story, first name and photo may be used/published on sites outside of the Staying Negative website as well as in promotional printed materials, resources or collateral developed for the campaign.

I understand that my first name and a quote from my narrative, will be used in online advertising outside of the Staying Negative website.

I accept the risk that I may be identifiable from my published contributions.

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)