



Positive Women

Support and advocacy for women living with HIV

Volunteer Peer Support Worker

Part time position

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

The Volunteer Peer Support Worker is responsible for providing support and information and acting as a listening friend to newly diagnosed women and other women who are living with HIV. Under the supervision and direction of Positive Women Victoria staff, the Volunteer Peer Support Worker will work with women to help empower and support them to achieve their own unique emotional, social and practical goals. The aim of the peer support worker's involvement with women is to reduce women's isolation, encourage community engagement and improve overall health and well-being. This role is intended for a Victorian-based woman living with HIV. This is a part-time role requiring a commitment of approximately 6 hours per month.

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Positive Women Victoria (PWV) is the only community based organisation in Australia specially funded to support and empower women living with HIV through the provision of peer support, information, referral services, practical services and advocacy and policy change activities. For over 25 years PWV has responded to the changing needs of women living with HIV, recognising the impact gender has on the way women experience HIV and addressing the specific needs and emerging issues that affect women living with HIV.

POSITION ACCOUNTABILITY

Working as a member of PWV's peer support team, the Volunteer Peer Support Worker reports to and is accountable to the PWV Programs Co-ordinator and will also take direction and supervision from the Peer Support Lead.

RESPONSIBILITIES / KEY TASKS

- Provide one-on-one peer phone or face-to-face support, information, education, referral and advocacy to women living with HIV
- Liaise and work collaboratively with Positive Women Victoria staff and/or other agencies to educate and/or support women living with HIV
- Collect peer support statistical information
- Complete training deemed relevant by PWV
- Stay up-to-date with current HIV medical and other information
- Provide a conduit for membership feedback to PWV as appropriate

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- A woman living with HIV who has been aware of her HIV status for at least two years and has been undergoing treatment for at least six months
- A sound understanding of HIV and/or sexual health
- Able to establish rapport within appropriate interpersonal boundaries
- Demonstrated sensitivity, understanding and respect for diverse issues
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to function autonomously as well as within a larger team
- Able to fulfil required hours with a flexible approach
- Able to understand the principles and requirements for confidentiality relating to any client engagement or interaction
- Appropriate studies and/or experience in counselling, community development or case management are desirable but not required

CONFIDENTIALTY

This position requires a high level of integrity and confidentiality and must act with a high level of probity and ethics. The incumbent will also be required to understand and comply with relevant privacy legislation such as the Health Records Act of 2001 and the Information Privacy Act 2000.