that support the rights of men who have sex with men and their access to HIV services do exist such as (GALZ) H.O.P/PSI. Many are routinely punished and shutdown or have their members arrested. UNAIDS reported in 2017 that just one in seven men who have sex with men in Zimbabwe (14.1%) are aware of their status. International donors such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Malaria and Tuberculosis and PEPFAR have attempted to ensure some of their funding is directed towards men who have sex with men. Government restrictions mean this has not materialised.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

P271 A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE ON THE IMMEDIATE PRESCRIBING OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY AT TIME OF A HIV DIAGNOSIS (ARTATD)

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Background The World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2017 published 'Guidelines for Managing Advanced HIV Disease and Rapid Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy'. Supporting evidence that the prescribing antiretroviral therapy (ART) at the time of an HIV diagnosis (ARTatD) maybe beneficial. Further support arises from the Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Therapy (START) study and from clinical programs e.g. RAPID Program at San Francisco General Hospital. The START Study shows improved outcomes for all body systems affected by HIV including cardiovascular, lower risk of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and ARTatD may reduce the populating of viral reservoirs within the central nervous system (CNS) at the time of infection.

Methods With an interest in community opinions on ARTatD Positive Life NSW (PLNSW) distributed an online survey using SurveyMonkey recording answers from across Australia (N=833) to 18 questions. Current demographics and HIV status, Attitudes supporting ARTatD if it was recommended, Concerns and problems envisaged on a recommendation of ARTatD, and What would influence their decision on commencing ARTatD

Results Representation from those born in Australia (69%) and from overseas (31%) with an age range 18 to >75 years of age of whom identified as 96% male, 2% female, 1 non-binary and 1% as other and of these 76% supported ARTatD if it was available. 9% did not support and 15% were unsure of ARTatD.

Conclusion Those identifying ARTatD as being the most beneficial identified among their reasons as, if the doctor recommended it, giving a sense of control, protecting sexual partners, protecting the unborn baby for pregnant women. Those not supporting ARTatD identified needing time to adjust, making sure of the diagnosis and prescribed medication was correct. The outcome of this survey will inform how those at the time of a HIV diagnosis will need to be supported if ARTatD becomes a standard recommendation

Disclosure No significant relationships.

P272 RESEARCH TO RESOURCE: BOOKLET FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV ASSOCIATED NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDER (HAND)

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Background Recent estimates of risk for symptomatic HAND range from 18–50% of those people living with HIV (PLHIV) on combined antiretroviral therapy (cART). Positive Life NSW's (PLNSW) research into the level of knowledge of HAND amongst PLHIV arose from questions raised at a meeting of HIV healthcare and community representatives in early 2015. Questions to be answered: Is there an awareness of HAND? Are PLHIV thinking about and are they concerned about HAND? Have they tried talking to someone about HAND? What was the response to this and the outcome? Did PLHIV want suggestions of how to talk about their concerns to others? The research identified the next steps to develop resources and support programs for PLHIV managing their experiences and concerns living with HAND.

Methods Ethics was granted for a questionnaire to be distributed online via SurveyMonkey through PLNSW social media and electronic media platforms. From total responses (N=163), postcodes of respondents from other states outside NSW (n=31), incomplete responses (n= 6) and those from overseas (n=28) were removed, leaving a total of ninety-eight responses from NSW for analysis (n=98).

Results A resource was drafted by healthcare professionals, reviewed by Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service (MHAHS) for those with low level literacy, the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) covered legalities, and focused tested by PLHIV with HAND before publication. The booklet is now being distributed for use by PLHIV to talk in a meaningful way with healthcare providers and significant others about HAND. The booklet outlines signs and symptoms, seeking further assessment and support, legal assistance and practical advice on living with HAND.

Conclusion PLHIV and service providers alike reading the booklet have applauded the initiative are utilising the resource to speaking with friends and partners and seeking assistance from clinicians.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

P273 UNDERSTANDING THE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND SERVICE NEEDS OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN DELHI, INDIA

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Background Trauma and distress are common characteristics of mental disorder among the Transgender (TG) community.