

Positive Women Victoria Donations via *The Rose Fund*

Positive Women Victoria has always raised funds to support our members, Victorian HIV-positive women, and their families. In the past, money raised through donations to the organisation had only been utilised for the distribution of food vouchers and the provision of retreats for our members.

In 2007, *The Rose Fund* was established in response to the broader needs of our members. All donations received by the organisation are placed into a term deposit bank account and the interest earned from this is used to support *The Rose Fund*.

The Rose Fund is an opportunity for members to do something that will enhance the quality of their lives. It assists them to improve health and wellbeing, for training and education, or personal development.

There are two funding rounds each year that members apply to via a short application form and funding is available for the following activities:

- Sponsorship to undertake an event that will improve your health and wellbeing such as physical activity
- Capacity building such as training/education or return to work skill building etc.
- Personal development courses
- Entry fees or equipment required to assist in you in developing skills or accessing training
- Funding for group activities organised by members

We have received positive feedback from members when asked how and why the Rose Fund has helped them:

"It has removed the financial stress and worry of undertaking activities"

"It helped me and showed me that there is help out there for those who want to take up skills and training."

"It helped me move progressively towards my ambition to obtain a better income."

"I would strongly recommend women out there who need money for a course or study to apply for it because it helped me a great deal."

To date, almost \$10,000 has been delivered to our members via grants from *The Rose Fund*, all thanks to the generous donations from our friends and supporters.