



bobby goldsmith foundation

# POSITIVE NEWS

AUGUST 2018



Nick Lawson, BGF CEO with BGF Patron, the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG

## A YEAR OF WONDERS

### It has been a year of wonders.

When I was first considering the idea of applying for the CEO role at BGF a year ago, I have to admit it was with some trepidation. Although I had spent many years in international humanitarian aid, and time as a Country Director for a HIV program in Malawi, HIV in Australia, in a developed setting, was an entirely new matter to me. It was obvious from the start however that the same principle – that humans are humans are humans, and nothing is more important than supporting dignity when it is needed – ran deep at BGF, and that the values on display in the sector underpinned this principle. The passion, activism, leadership and empathy exhibited by so many people who work in the HIV sector

is powerful to witness. I am proud and humbled to work amongst them.

Nothing has impressed me more though, or made me prouder than the team here at BGF. This is a grass roots, committed group of individuals, both staff and board, who have dedicated years, and in some cases decades, working to provide care, dignity and empowerment to people living with HIV who face medical and social challenges on a daily basis. The team supports every person with HIV who walks through our door. And in the face of these challenges, the humanity of that action is simply inspirational.

I am honoured to work with this team, and thank everyone for the year of wonders it has been.

Financial year 2017-2018

### A YEAR OF RESULTS

152  NEW CLIENTS

 44 (NLS)

No Interest Loans valued at an average cost of \$780, to buy essential items such as furniture and household appliances.

 \$160 THOUSAND

Direct financial assistance to cover the cost of medication, medical expenses, vet bills and dental treatments.

15  OUTREACH VISITS

Face-to-face visits across the Northern Rivers, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Western NSW and Murrumbidgee.

 5,200 COMMUNITY SUPPORT VISITS

To help clients attend medical appointments, ensured medical prompting, shopping, cooking, cleaning, accommodation assistance, moving house, transportation and provided advocacy at case meetings.