



## National Long Term Survivors Group Inclusion Policy

Issue: 5      Date: 21/10/2012

### **A. Purpose of the Procedure**

1. To establish who can attend the NLTSG 'Living Proof' weekends and the reasons for excluding some people who meet the criteria to join the organisation and including others who do not.

### **B. Principles**

1. The purpose of NLTSG is to offer support to all those who have a positive diagnosis of 5 years' standing, mindful that they may have experienced significant exclusion.
2. The HIV virus is not exclusive to any group or category of people and NLTSG is determined to be open to all who may benefit from the fellowship of this self-help group.
3. The objective of NLTSG is to provide a community, a venue and facilities for the care of, and life-enhancement of, members, on a number of weekends per year.
4. To ensure that members may gain respite in the best way suited to them on any or all of the weekends, the Board of Trustees will set the optimum conditions: rooms set aside for specific purposes, good food, a variety of therapies, a welcoming atmosphere, space to be with others or more solitary. To ensure that members may gain respite in the best way suited to them on any or all of the weekends, the Board of Trustees will set the optimum conditions: rooms set aside for specific purposes, good food, a variety of therapies, a welcoming atmosphere, space to be with others or more solitary.

### **C. Details**

1. It being a self-help group, we need to limit attendance to those who can take care of themselves during the weekend. However, NLTSG acknowledges that some members may require additional support during the weekends, including the assistance of a paid carer. This is recognised in the NLTSG Policy on Carers.
2. NLTSG is aware that its membership criteria means that those under the age of 18 who have been diagnosed as HIV+ for five or more years are eligible to join. However, the Board of Trustees is conscious that there is an over-riding duty to ensure the well-being of children enshrined in current legislation. This duty of care is over and above what NLTSG can offer, and therefore has to restrict attendance of those under the age of 18. No-one who is under the age of 16 will be able to attend. Those aged 16 and 17 would be able to attend if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, provided that the parent or guardian met the criteria to attend the 'Living Proof' weekends in their own right.



3. To safeguard this atmosphere of well-being and care for such a broad spectrum of members, the Trustees take it upon themselves, on behalf of the membership, to require the departure of any weekend participant who they deem proves insensitive to the well-being of one or all of those attending that or all weekends.