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18 October 2017

Dear Professor Boyd

On behalf of the board, membership and staff of the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) I would like to express our deepest sympathies to the ASHM family on the passing of Adjunct Associate Professor Levinia Crooks, AM.

Levinia was front and centre of the HIV community response from the earliest days. An unwavering activist and humanitarian, Levinia always gave her best and fought her hardest - we were privileged to have her fighting with us.

Levinia was that rare community worker whose compassion and empathy ensured that everyone was included in her push for equal health and human rights for people at risk or living with HIV, HCV and STIs. In her very pragmatic way she quietly went about ensuring that ASHM - and any organisation she was involved with - worked to the highest standards and was inclusive of all communities, including our the community - people who use drugs. Levinia always supported our rights and our call for a community-centred response to BBV transmission.

Our people knew they could rely on Levinia to support them in meetings or forums on issues of parity and equity. Levinia was unwavering in her commitment to pursuing the goal of preventing the transmission of BBVs in stigmatised communities.

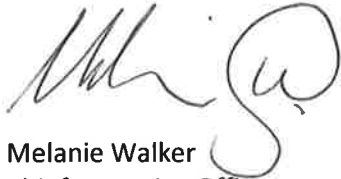
Levinia approached most problems or barriers as an intellectual exercise - she had a formidable contacts list that she used judiciously and an agile mind that she used relentlessly for the benefit of her community. She was highly regarded in our sector, very respected within our communities and she was much loved by many people from all those intersecting groups. She was loved in particular for her compassion and her fierce intellect, as well as her sense of humour and flashes of sardonic wit.

Australia and the global HIV/HCV communities have lost one of the most effective and compassionate people in our sector - it is a monumental loss. We hope the sector will uphold

Levinia's legacy by continuing to demand high quality education for those involved in service provision, ensuring the principles of community participation are upheld and promoting compassion for people who use drugs.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with our friends at ASHM to keep Levinia's legacy alive. We owe it to that amazing and fearless woman who took us all into her heart.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Walker', with a large, stylized 'S' or 'W' flourish at the end.

Melanie Walker  
Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of the AIVL board, membership and staff