



## WORLD AIDS DAY NEWSLETTER

“ Future generations will either praise us or hold us accountable for our failure to prevent the spread of this disease.

This is a make-or-break time, but beating this disease is entirely within our reach. ”

Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa  
President, 61st UN General Assembly

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COUNCIL OF THE ACT**

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### Up *Front*

Enjoy *Life.*  
Take control.  
**STOP** HIV/AIDS.

On December 1st every year since 1988, nearly 200 countries have acknowledged World AIDS Day. For many, it is both a chance to reflect on those who have gone, their carers and other affected, whilst at the same time renewing a commitment to minimise the transmission and social and personal impacts of HIV/AIDS.

Unlike the rest of Australia, here in the ACT we continue to recognise the AIDS Candlelight Memorial earlier in the year (May) and this is the time when we give particular attention to the impact this epidemic has had on us directly and locally. It is therefore fitting that we take a much more global perspective for World AIDS Day.

At the recent 17th International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, it was apparent that an effective response to the pandemic lies in a 'marriage' between treatment and prevention. For Australia this was perhaps an affirmation of something well understood here for some time. There was also a growing embrace of how important it is to ensure that human rights be at the centre of efforts to reduce the pandemic itself and the effects that flow from it.

Even though these were hopeful signs, it was disturbing to acknowledge that only around 10% of those that should have access to antiretroviral treatments in fact have it, thereby making this treatment/prevention 'marriage' somewhat distant for the vast majority of the world's HIV positive population.

Despite Australia's relative success in containing its own epidemic, we must continue to recognise that we are but one part of a universal health crisis, and for World AIDS Day 2008, the AIDS Action Council has chosen to reinforce a global message by fundraising to support an extremely worthy cause in Papua New Guinea.

PNG is our closest neighbour and at the end of 2007 was estimated to have 60,000 people infected with HIV. Many of

## Up Front, continued...

these people not only cope without treatment, but also face incredible stigma and discrimination. The particular cause we are supporting this year is IGAT HOPE. This is an organisation run by positive people for positive people, and our support can make a huge difference.

We have always acknowledged the central role of positive people in our Australian response and it is therefore fitting that we should work hard to help a peer-based organisation that operates in an incredibly difficult environment.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2008 is Enjoy Life. Take Control. Stop HIV/AIDS.

As slogans often do, this represents aspiration. However, it is an aspiration we can support in practical ways, and I ask all of you to get involved with World AIDS Day and help us make a difference.

## Raising Awareness Through Community Stalls



**Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November**

**Westfield Belconnen and Tuggeranong Hyperdome**

As well as raising money for the Papua New Guinea HIV/AIDS organisation, Iगत Hope, the stalls aim to raise awareness in the community of the global and local impact of HIV/AIDS.

Ribbons and other awareness products will be available.

## Doves & Ribbons



## World AIDS Awareness Week Launch

**11.00 am, Monday 24 November**  
**ACT Legislative Assembly**

Keynote speakers will discuss contemporary issues around HIV/AIDS and a large artwork will be installed outside of The Assembly.

For further information contact Megan Munro on 02 6257 2855 or [megan.munro@aidsaction.org.au](mailto:megan.munro@aidsaction.org.au)



**12 noon - 5.00 pm Sunday 30 November**

**Palmerston Lane, Manuka**

Live music, fashion, food and drink, raffles, giveaways and much more....a cause to celebrate!

Doves and Ribbons Day 2008 is a day dedicated to raising awareness of HIV/AIDS sufferers throughout the world. This year the money raised will be donated to OzCots - a project launched in 2003 by Canberra-based Despina Voudouris - to support Cotlands, a South African orphanage for HIV/AIDS children.

This event is a partnership with the Manuka Traders' Association, Amnesty International and Ozcots, and is sponsored by ActewAGL and Community CPS.

# AIDS No More

7.00pm, Wednesday 26 November

Hush Lounge, Irving Street, Woden

Cocktail Party

A Night of Hope; Enjoy Life; Take Control

\$2.50 cover charge and lucky door prize.

All monies raised donated to the Trevor Daley Fund.

Supported by Greater Southern Area Health Service.



# Community Interfaith Service

6.00pm, Monday 1 December

The Carillon, Aspen Island, Wendouree Drive.

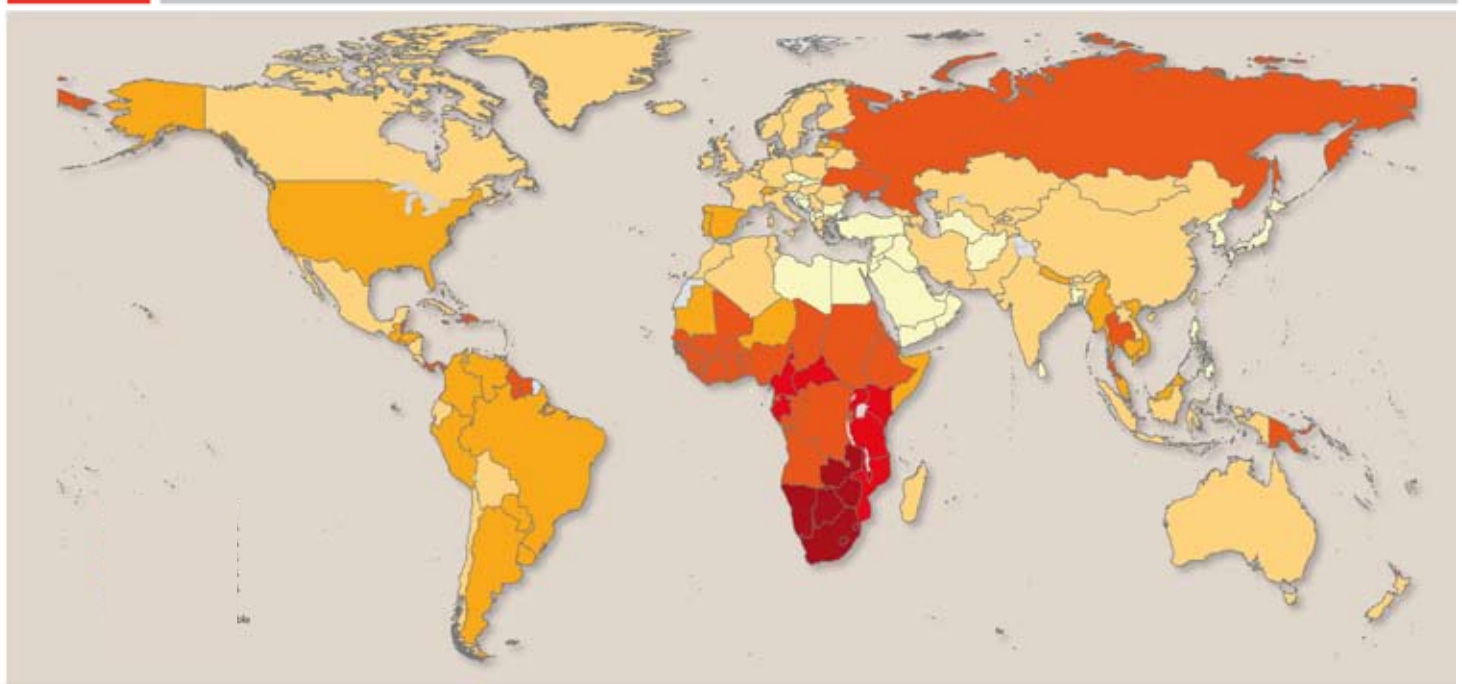
This service features representatives from a number of religious faiths and offers a quiet reflection to remember those who have lost their lives to HIV/AIDS.

Organised by All Saints Anglican Church, Ainslie and with a performance by the Canberra Gay and Lesbian Qwire.

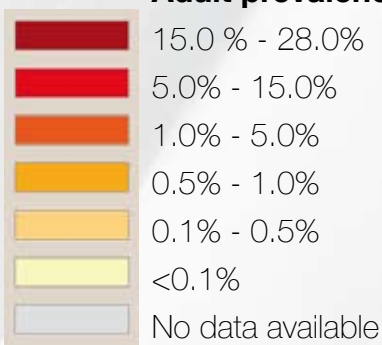


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## A global view of HIV infection



### Adult prevalence (%)



**People living with HIV worldwide:**

**33.2 million**

Including 15.4 million women and 2.5 million children under 15 years.

**People infected with HIV in 2007:**

**2.5 million**

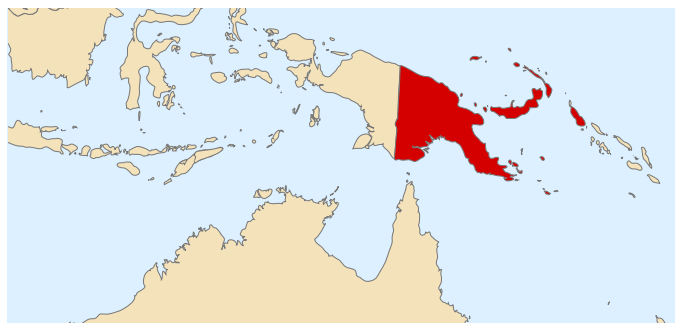
**Deaths worldwide in 2007:**

**2.1 million**



# Emerging disaster on our doorstep

## *HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea*



Papua New Guinea (PNG) is our closest neighbour, yet the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country is closer to Sub-Saharan Africa's than Australia's. As it stands, the infrastructure in PNG is not ready to cope with the huge strain the epidemic will have on the country's health system and economy.

PNG is classed as having a generalised epidemic, which means that HIV infection is spread throughout the community, in contrast to the epidemics in most developed countries, which have been largely contained within at risk populations.

Violence against women and gender inequality are major drivers of the epidemic. Sexual violence is widespread through much of the community. Women are often not in a position to negotiate condom use, and men often have many sexual partners. A growing number of organisations are working to address these issues, but strong leadership is required to counteract these societal norms.

AusAID is helping to build some of the basic health infrastructure required to implement HIV testing programs. Anti-retroviral medication is becoming available in the country, but vast resources are required before it will be possible to treat all people living with HIV in the country.

Igat Hope ('There is hope' in Tok Pisin) is the first community driven organisation for people living with HIV in PNG, and it helps to support positive people and given them a voice. Buy a red ribbon or make a donation this World AIDS Day, and help support this important new organisation make a real difference in the lives of our neighbours.



Photo: hartanto on Flickr

## Local Programme

### Monday 24 November

World AIDS Awareness Week Launch, ACT  
Legislative Assembly

### Tuesday 25 November

Awareness Raising Stalls - Riverside Plaza

### Wednesday 26 November

AIDS No Longer - Hush Lounge

### Saturday 29 November

Awareness Raising Stalls - Belconnen and  
Tuggeranong

### Sunday 30 November

Doves and Ribbons, Palmerston Lane, Manuka

Awareness Raising Stalls - Belconnen and  
Tuggeranong

### Monday 1 December - World AIDS Day

National launch, Parliament House

Interfaith Service, National Carillon

## Join the AIDS Action Council

The AAC belongs to you, the community.

Proud to be a grass-roots organisation, we rely on our members. Members help us to carry out important work for our community. Join today and become part of our team.

[www.aidsaction.org.au/membership](http://www.aidsaction.org.au/membership)

## Give hope on World AIDS Day.



6,700 Australians have already died with HIV/AIDS. Right now 16,500 brothers, sisters, lovers and friends are living with HIV. Each week 20 more are newly diagnosed. Assist in putting a stop to HIV/AIDS and support those who are HIV positive by selling red ribbons in your local shopping centre, to your customers or to your colleagues on World AIDS Day, Monday December 1.

Call 6257 2855 or email [megan.munro@aidsaction.org.au](mailto:megan.munro@aidsaction.org.au)