



MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2009

GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN ASKED TO HELP AS INFECTIONS AMONGST YOUNGER MEN INCREASE

Gay and bisexual men attending this weekend's SpringOut Fairday are being encouraged to help build the health and wellbeing of the community by taking part in an important research project. It comes at a critical time in the HIV epidemic.

"The practices and relationships to the community of gay men are changing, especially amongst younger gay men" said Andrew Burry, general manager of the AIDS Action Council today. "It is critically important the the AIDS Action Council be able to respond to the changing epidemic and the rising numbers of younger gay men becoming HIV positive."

The Canberra Gay Community Periodic Survey is designed to improve understanding of gay health issues by gathering data on sexual behaviour, sexual health, drug use and community engagement.

The study forms a vital part of the ACT's HIV response, enabling the AIDS Action Council and ACT Health to target health promotion activities.

People interested in contributing to the study can do so at the AIDS Action Council stall at Fairday and at many other events being held as part of the SpringOut festival.

The tenth annual SpringOut Fairday will be opened Saturday 31 October by Mr Andrew Barr, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation. SpringOut Fairday is Canberra's biggest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community day, with over 500 people from Canberra and interstate converging on Westlund House in Canberra's City West.

(ENDS)

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