

# AIDS Action Pledge

**We believe** that the AIDS crisis calls for a broad movement of people actively engaged in ending the epidemic.

**We stand in solidarity** with all people threatened by the AIDS crisis.

**We join together to demand:**

1. **Adequate Funding** to end the AIDS epidemic, made available from Federal and State governments for research, care and support, education, anonymous voluntary testing programs and any and all treatments and therapies;
2. **An adequately funded and coordinated education program** which is comprehensive and sex positive, and which promotes safe sex and safe drug injecting practices;
3. **An adequately funded and coordinated national research strategy for AIDS** vaccines, treatments and therapies;
4. **An adequately funded and coordinated support services program** covering areas of counselling, home help, transport, accommodation, day centres, respite care, hospice and convalescent care services;
5. **A health care system** guaranteeing equal access to treatment and care, regardless of ability to pay;
6. **Public accountability** to affected communities for any AIDS-related research, funding and programs, to be controlled by the communities affected by AIDS;
7. **Legislation against discrimination** to protect those who have or are perceived to have HIV/AIDS or related illnesses; and
8. **A world-wide culturally sensitive program** focussed on ending the AIDS epidemic. Australia should contribute financially to this and should encourage the participation of other developed nations.

**We further join together to oppose:**

1. Any **coercive, involuntary, or routine measure** instituted against any population or individual anywhere (e.g. quarantining or mandatory testing);
2. All laws that may contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS or related **discrimination** (e.g. laws against sodomy, prostitution, the carrying of implements for self-administration of drugs);
3. **Spending cuts** in any social service or health programs in order to create or increase funding to fight AIDS. Funding must be taken primarily from the defense budget; and
4. The use of **inflammatory or isolating language** which contradicts medical understanding and dehumanises people with HIV/AIDS. The use of inaccurate terms such as AIDS-test, AIDS-carrier, AIDS-blood, AIDS-victims, innocent victims, is vehemently rejected.

I pledge

- to join with others in fighting for all our lives and liberties during the AIDS crisis.
- to participate in forms of protest such as demonstrating, lobbying, marching and picketing.
- to engage, as conscience leads me, in non-violent direct action, including civil disobedience.
- to demonstrate, as conscience leads me, my support for those who engage in non-violent direct action, including civil disobedience.

*distributed at first or second meeting - but never  
rally used... (U.S.)*