

# WORLD AIDS DAY 2007

## 'HIV/AIDS – Prevention is Everybody's Business'

Dear Fellow Citizen

Many of us might think that HIV and AIDS don't concern us, so it's easy to pay little attention to it or to simply ignore it.

Millions of other people, however, all around the world cannot ignore AIDS as according to the 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 38.6 million people are living with HIV. This pandemic has cut short the lives of 25 million men, women, and children globally and something that has killed 25 million people concerns everyone.

AIDS can be stopped only when we admit it's everyone's challenge.

While international figures show that Australia ranks at the top of the world in controlling HIV/AIDS, this good news is dampened by recent national statistics which show that HIV infections are on the increase nationally. According to the Australian National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research in 2006 there were 1,183 diagnoses of HIV infection and 180 diagnoses of AIDS, while the UNAIDS 2006 report estimated 16,000 adults and children are living with HIV in Australia.

With this in mind, AIDS Awareness Week 2007 will begin Saturday November 24 and concludes on World AIDS Day, Saturday 1 December. This year the local Illawarra World AIDS Day working group have placed their activities on the Celebration of Ability calendar for People with a Disability, in recognition of people living with HIV/AIDS.

During the week, red ribbons are worn as the international symbol of HIV and AIDS awareness, the colour red symbolising a connection to blood, passion and love. Wearing a red ribbon is a simple and powerful way to challenge the stigma and prejudice surrounding HIV and AIDS.

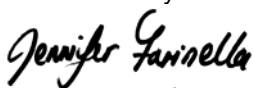
Healthy Cities Illawarra in collaboration with ACON and South East Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service will be selling Red Ribbons to raise funds for services for people living with HIV/AIDS in NSW.

If you would like to find out more you can find us at the following events:

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November - ACON Illawarra Open Day, BBQ, Memorial Garden launch and games night
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Sexual Health Awareness stall at the I98FM community booth in Wollongong Mall
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Movie screening of 'A Closer Walk' at the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Unity Dance (World AIDS Day fundraiser/raffle) Beaton Park Tennis Club - from 8pm
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Sexual Health Awareness stall in the mall at the markets

Pick up a copy of the Celebration of Ability calendars from your local library or community centre, or contact Wollongong, Kiama or Shellharbour City Council.

Yours faithfully



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To find locations of World AIDS day events visit [www.worldaidsday.org.au](http://www.worldaidsday.org.au) and [www.worldaidsdaynsw.org](http://www.worldaidsdaynsw.org)