

Media Release

Key HIV Safety Message Lost

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Key HIV Safety Message Lost

The AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA) today expressed concern that a key safety message has been lost in the recent media coverage of the detention of HIV positive man, Stuart McDonald.

“People need to take responsibility for their own sexual health as well as protecting their partners” said Kate Hartwig, Executive Director of ACSA.

“Twenty years on from the launch of the Grim Reaper awareness campaign it is timely to remember that HIV/AIDS is still out there, condoms still work and practicing safe sex is still the best way to avoid the risk of infection.”

Anyone who has engaged in unsafe sex with any partner of unknown HIV status should be concerned and contact their doctor or arrange for free testing at Clinic 275.

“You can’t tell someone’s HIV status just by looking at them” Ms Hartwig reminded. “The vast majority of HIV positive people take great care not to pass on their infection to others, but it should also be remembered that some people may not even be aware that they are HIV positive. It is everybody’s responsibility to protect themselves and their partners by taking the precaution of using a condom and water-based lubricant and practising safe sex.”

“It is disappointing that the extensive media coverage has largely failed to highlight this fundamental safety message.”

Ends.

For further information contact:

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