

## Media Release

# Casual About Condoms?

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# Casual About Condoms?

A new campaign highlighting the rise in new HIV infections in South Australia will be launched during FEAST, *Gay Men's Health* Manager Gary Spence announced.

"There has been a 41 per cent national increase in HIV infections in the last five years," (as reported in the *Australian Annual Report of HIV Surveillance for 2006*) said Gary.

And South Australia is following the national trend.

"In the first six months of 2006, 30 new HIV cases have been reported in South Australia, compared with 51 for all of 2005."

Since STD Services began collecting figures on South Australian HIV infections in 1985, more than 1000 cases have been reported. 90% of these cases are male, and three-quarters of that number were infected through male-to-male sexual contact.

The national average age of new HIV infections among men diagnosed in 2005 was 35. This indicates these are not men arriving on the scene and having their first experiences.

"While treatment options available now slow the progression from HIV to AIDS, this is not a reason to be casual about using condoms," Gary said.

The new campaign will feature posters, press adverts and condom packs, and will be distributed in gay and gay-friendly venues, businesses, the gay media, and at beats through the *Gay Men's Health* Outreach Project.

"Condoms really are the answer," said Gary. "Every time."

Campaign material can be found by going to the *Hot News* webpage:

[http://www.acsa.org.au/hot\\_news.htm](http://www.acsa.org.au/hot_news.htm)

South Australian HIV and STI statistics can be found at the Clinic 275 webpage:

<http://www.stdservices.on.net/stats/clinic275.htm>

Ends.