29 November 2018

World Aids Day – Everybody Counts

Compassion, knowledge and action are the strongest weapons we have in the fight against HIV.

That’s the message Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s (SCHHS) Clinical Director of Sexual Health and HIV Services, Dr Kuong Taing, is sending to promote this year’s World AIDS Day (1 December).

Dr Taing said the aim was to encourage people to talk about HIV, to remind the community that the HIV epidemic was still present in Queensland, and to break down barriers and educate the community.

“The national theme for World AIDS Day 2018 in Australia is ‘Everybody counts’. We encourage you to show your support and wear a red ribbon, talk to your friends and work colleagues about HIV or make a donation to a HIV charity,” Dr Taing said.

Sexual Health and HIV Services is marking World AIDS Day with a display in the Nambour General Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Hospital foyers throughout the week to promote community awareness and provide information on HIV and sexual health.

“People are invited to visit to the Sunshine Coast Sexual Health and HIV Service in Nambour and learn about HIV and what services we offer," Dr Taing said.

“We offer rapid HIV testing at our clinic, which is a simple finger prick test that will give your result in only 20 minutes. If reactive, a confirmatory test will then be sent to the laboratory. You no longer have to wait up to a week for a HIV result," he said.

Health experts say about 10-15 per cent of those infected with HIV in developed countries today, including Australia, are unaware of their status. Thanks to recent advances in HIV treatments and testing technologies, there are increased opportunities to virtually eliminate HIV transmission in Queensland by the end of the decade.

ENDS

Media opportunity:

Penelope Marshall, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Sexual Health & HIV Service, Community Integrated & Sub Acute Services (CISAS) is available for interviews on request.

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