



Ron Irvine
Body Positive Inc

Russel Norman MP
Green Party Co-leader



Green
Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand

Tuesday 5th May 2015

Dear Ron

2015 marks 30 years since Eve van Grafhorst was ostracised from her local pre-school in Australia because she had contracted HIV through a contaminated blood transfusion. Her family subsequently moved to New Zealand where she raised awareness about the disease despite her young age, and death at 11 years old in 1993. Three decades later, treatments for HIV/AIDS have improved dramatically, but sadly, understanding of the risks of transmission and needs of those living with HIV/AIDS have not changed as much as they need to.

In Aotearoa most people living with HIV/AIDS have been gay or bisexual men, who have faced the double jeopardy of prejudice associated with their illness and with their sexual orientation. The Green Party is proud to have always taken a stand against such prejudice, and to have played a role in making things better. We pledge to continue this work.

The Green Party joins with you today to reflect on the lives that were taken too soon, and the great contribution that those with HIV/AIDS, both those who have passed on and survivors, continue to make to our communities. We also take a moment to think about the health promotion work that we still need to do to prevent further tragedies and support people living with HIV/AIDS medically and socially. We remain vigilant to the threat of HIV/AIDS, in the hope that no one has to suffer the way Eve and her family did, ever again.

In solidarity,

Russel Norman and Metiria Tūreī

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