



**Government House
New Zealand**

AIDS Candlelight Memorial 2017

Nga mihi ki a koutou.

As Governor-General and Patron of the AIDs Foundation, I send my best wishes to everyone taking part in the AIDS Candlelight Memorial this year.

It is important to take this time to pause and honour loved ones, friends and colleagues – the people who died before their time – and to show solidarity with those who are living with HIV/AIDS.

We can be thankful that medical treatments are now widely available in New Zealand, but we also know that complacency is not an option. I commend the vital work undertaken by the AIDs Foundation to raise awareness about risky practices and to provide support wherever and whenever it is needed.

Today, as you express solidarity with people at similar memorial gatherings around the world, it will be in the hope that people in those countries who are living with HIV/AIDS will receive the support and assistance that they need, whatever their circumstances.

Kia ora, kia kaha, kia manawanui, huihui tātou katoa.

**The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO
Governor-General of New Zealand**