



Prime Minister

Message to Body Positive New Zealand at the 2017 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service

Today we pay tribute to those New Zealanders who have died from HIV and AIDS at the annual Candlelight Memorial Service.

I would like to offer my condolences to all those who have lost a loved one to the disease.

I know some of you who are here tonight will be living with the disease and we want you to know that there is hope.

This year's theme for the Memorial, "Ending HIV together", aligns with NZ AIDS Foundation's aspiration to make New Zealand HIV free. The Government supports this aim and funds effective, targeted prevention programmes to help make this a reality.

As part of Budget 2017 and building on last year's record investment, we're increasing Pharmac's Budget by another \$60 million, providing more New Zealanders with access to new medicines. Pharmac has begun consulting on a suite of anti-infectives including earlier access to four HIV anti-retrovirals, benefitting around 3,000 New Zealanders.

As Prime Minister, I acknowledge the positive contribution Body Positive New Zealand makes in raising awareness in New Zealand, and the work they do for New Zealanders with HIV and AIDS.

Thank you again for all of your work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill English".

Rt Hon Bill English
PRIME MINISTER