



I am sorry that I am unable to be here with you this evening for the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. I know the theme this year is Ending HIV Together.

A major purpose of the international AIDS Candlelight Memorial is to help mobilise and raise public awareness around HIV and AIDS.

I understand there are more than 33 million people living with HIV today and it is very important that we come together and gather and acknowledge those people who are living with HIV and AIDS and also those people that we have lost.

I know that there will be people here tonight who have lost loved ones, and it is a time to reflect and think of those people that we have lost.

Again, I wish that I could have been with you tonight. I continue, as the local MP for Auckland Central, to work closely with organisations like Body Positive and the New Zealand Aids Foundation to do everything we possibly can to ensure there are no new infections from HIV, but also to support to those people living with HIV and AIDS.

