

a letter for mr howe
federal minister for health

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D-DAY june 6 1991

ACT UP we can't wait.

who are act up?

ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) is an international AIDS activist organization founded in New York in 1987. Melbourne is the 37th city in the world to form an ACT UP chapter.

Melbourne ACT UP was formed on May 28 1990 at a public meeting in Fitzroy. Australia also has chapters in Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.

People with HIV/AIDS and AIDS organizations in Australia have been repeatedly let down by state and federal governments and by drug companies which have refused to make available drugs and treatments already in use overseas.

Now through ACT UP people with HIV/AIDS and their supporters are acting directly to force governments and companies to respond to the unmet needs of HIV prevention and AIDS treatments.

Tactics the group adopts to pursue its aims include a range of imaginative direct actions including direct negotiations, zaps, boycotts, education, demonstrations, industrial action, etc.

ACT UP is an open, democratic organization of people with HIV/AIDS and their supporters. We meet every Monday at 7.30pm. Ph: (03) 489 1279 for details of meetings.

ACT UP's message is that not dealing with AIDS is fatal; with AIDS Silence = Death, Action = Life.

ACT UP we can't wait.

a letter for mr howe

DEAR Mr. Howe,
I support ACT UP in demanding that you take direct and immediate action to improve access to HIV/AIDS treatments in Australia. I can't wait — for your response, and for the next election.

DRUGS needed urgently by people with HIV/AIDS of 80 in use overseas 8 are freely available in Australia
DEATHS caused by lack of HIV/AIDS treatments which have been tested and approved overseas

DELAYS in HIV/AIDS drug approvals in Australia caused by bureaucratic obstruction
DEADLINE D-DAY for mr howe to act on act-up's demands for improved drug access

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

D-DAY june 6 1991

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THE PROBLEM:

New HIV/AIDS drugs manufactured overseas take a considerable length of time before they are approved for marketing in Australia. People with HIV/AIDS are dying, waiting for drugs that are available overseas. The delays are not only killing people with HIV/AIDS, but people with other life threatening illnesses as well. In the wake of these deaths, the Federal Minister for Health, Brian Howe has released yet another report (the sixth).

THE REPORT FOUND THAT:

- delays do exist for HIV/AIDS drugs and drugs used to treat other life threatening illnesses
- drug approval methods in this country are unparalleled in their complexity
- there is no incentive for drug companies to trial and market new drugs in Australia

THE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The report recommended far-reaching reforms to drug approval processes in Australia.
- NO duplication of overseas trials
 - AUTOMATIC granting of marketing approvals once these have been granted in major western countries
 - MORE CONTROL to the consumer, the doctor, and hospitals, to explore new drugs that haven't been approved in Australia
 - MORE CLINICAL TRIALS in hospital and community settings

MR HOWE'S RESPONSE:

In response to the urgent need for these major reforms, Brian Howe has not implemented the report's recommendations, he has asked for yet another study!

ACT UP'S RESPONSE:

DEMANDS

ACT UP demands that all of the report's recommendations are fully implemented. We will demonstrate until our demands are met

DELAYS

ACT UP calls for an end to the delays in trials and marketing approvals for promising new HIV/AIDS drugs

DEATHS

ACT UP calls for an end to the needless deaths of people with AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses

DRUGS

ACT UP intends to take action to ensure that people with HIV and AIDS can get access to the drugs they need to stay alive

DEADLINE

ACT UP wants Brian Howe to remember the date June 6, 1991 as the day that people with HIV/AIDS expect him to deliver the implementation of all of the report's recommendations. This deadline is final.

DEAR MR HOWE...

If you support our D-Day campaign you can send a letter to Mr Howe yourself. We have provided one here, ready for you to tear off, stick a stamp on and post. If you want to go further you might want to phone Mr Howe personally, write a letter of your own or join ACT UP in helping Mr Howe to act. Whichever way you choose, do something. If you don't who will?

ACT UP

Mr. Brian Howe
Minister for Community Services and Health
48 High Street
Northcote VIC 3070

ACT UP *we can't wait.*