

PRESS RELEASE

MELBOURNE AUSSIE ACTUP TO BE ESTABLISHED

A public meeting has been called for Monday, 28 May 1990 at the Fitzroy Community Health Centre at 7.30 pm, to establish AUSSIE ACTUP (Melbourne).

"It is time for people living with HIV/AIDS and their friends to speak up. The appalling slow response by the Federal Government and its agencies to offer AZT free to people with T-cell counts below 500 and over 200 is one example that is creating anger ~~with~~ people HIV/AIDS. It is unsatisfactory that people with these T-cell counts in other countries have access to AZT free of cost, yet people in Melbourne are being forced to buy AZT because they do not fit existing antiquated protocols. AZT is immediately available free of cost to health care workers yet is not available to those who wish to access AZT as part of their prevention treatment. The slow procedures to get new treatments in to Australia is another area that can not be tolerated. It is time to organise and act. We cannot stay silent," said one of the organisers of the meeting.

People with HIV/AIDS have also expressed anger over other areas as well...Insensitive medical services in some of our Melbourne hospitals; Limited access points for AZT; The non-funding of a HIV educator by the Victorian State Government; Poor referral procedures from hospitals and doctors to community support services; and confidential services in regional Victoria.

The public meeting will have a speaker from Aussie ACTUP (Sydney), will identify areas for action, and will be an open forum for all interested in supporting direct action.

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