



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## Support World AIDS Day at Meridian Sunday 29 November

World AIDS Day (December 1) is an opportunity to raise awareness about HIV.

People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS. Across Australia, World AIDS Day is celebrated to encourage the community to talk about HIV/AIDS; to remind and educate us that the HIV epidemic is still a major health issue.

In a time when the focus is on the COVID-19 pandemic, it is timely to remember that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Leaving people behind is not an option if we are to succeed.

This year, the theme of World AIDS Day in Australia is "Now More Than Ever".

HIV can affect anyone. HIV does not discriminate. There is no vaccine or cure for HIV, however there are highly effective treatments. Community support is paramount.

World AIDS Day aims to encourage Australians to educate themselves and others about HIV; to take action to reduce the transmission of HIV by promoting prevention strategies; and to ensure that people living with HIV can participate fully in the life of the community, free from stigma and discrimination.

In the lead up to World AIDS Day, Meridian will host a Morning Tea event to engage as a community, to show solidarity with people living with HIV, and to remember those we have lost to an AIDS-related illness.

Sunday, 29 November 2020 10.00am – 12.00pm Meridian - Havelock House 85 Northbourne Ave (Gould Street Entrance) Turner.

"Meridian welcome communities in Canberra and across the region to our annual World AIDS Day morning tea, on Sunday 29 November from 10am" Ms Moss said.

This event is free but RSVPs are essential. Please RSVP through Eventbrite <u>worldaidsdaymeridian.eventbrite.com</u>. For more information on the event, contact the Meridian on 6257 2885.

Meridian is a not-for-profit community organisation that works to build strong, connected and supportive communities that are free of new HIV transmissions, marginalisation, discrimination and stigma. To learn more visit <u>meridianact.org.au</u>, facebook.com/meridianact or call us on 6257 2855.

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