

VAC responds to PrEP-X Victoria Seroconversion

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22 MAY 2017

VAC has learned that a person on the Victorian PrEPX study has seroconverted and become HIV positive. There are two ways that this may have occurred.

- If a person is not adherent to their PrEP regimen (taking the prescribed dose regularly) it is possible that they would not be protected against acquiring HIV;
- If a person comes into contact with a person living with HIV who has detectable viral load together with a strain of the virus that is resistant to PrEP medication it is possible (although extremely rare) that they might acquire that viral strain of HIV.

“Currently there are over 100,000 individuals who are taking PrEP globally as a way to protect themselves against HIV acquisition. To date there have been no confirmed cases in Australia of a person on PrEP being infected with a drug-resistant HIV,” commented VAC CEO, Simon Ruth.

“There have been no reported occurrences of widespread PrEP failure here or around the world where in many locations PrEP is approved and subsidised. The vast majority of people taking PrEP in this country and around the world continue to be protected by this powerful HIV prevention tool.”

Mr Ruth went on to stress the importance of continuing to consider all options when it comes to HIV prevention.

“It is important that gay men and all people at risk of HIV infection consider and decide on the best way to protect themselves from the range of safe sex options available to them,” he said.

ENDS

For more information or comment, contact:

Liam Clark
Communications Officer
liam.clark@vac.org.au Phone (03) 9865 6700

VICTORIAN AIDS COUNCIL

Peter Knight Centre
6 Claremont Street
South Yarra Victoria 3141
P 613 9865 6700
F 613 9826 2700
Toll Free 1800 134 840

Positive Living Centre
51 Commercial Road
South Yarra Victoria 3141
P 613 9863 0444
F 613 9820 3166
Toll Free 1800 622 795

Centre Clinic - St Kilda
Rear of 77 Fitzroy Street
St Kilda Victoria 3182
P 613 9525 5866
F 613 9525 3673

PRONTO!
Rapid Testing Service
175 Rose Street
Fitzroy Victoria 3065
P 613 9416 2889

ABN: 52 907 644 835