

## **Show realism on AIDS**

I REFER to the article "HIV jump as risks ignored" (*Herald Sun*, January 5). We join the chief executive officer of Vic-Health, Dr Rob Moodie, who expressed his concern for an "emerging crisis" in the rate of new HIV infections in Victoria.

We very much distance ourselves from the reportedly flip-pant response of the newly elected president of the Victorian AIDS Council, Dr Warren Russell, in dismissing the new data as a "statistical blip".

That's certainly not the voice of an HIV-infected person, nor is it the response that any HIV-infected person would want to hear.

The Victorian AIDS Council receives a very hefty amount of government funding and it needs to really lift its game, and its public comments.

As Dr Moodie rightly remarked: "There has been a major lag in HIV education." Why is this so?

As an agency that has been involved in the practical care of positive people in Victoria for 15 years, providing the only respite facilities for families either infected or affected by HIV, yet receiving a tiny fraction of the comparatively huge sums received by the VAC, one can only wonder, and demand, some real answers.

Check our website at [www.aids.org.au](http://www.aids.org.au).

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