



Today we honour and pay tribute to the lives lost to HIV/AIDS. My thoughts are with all of those who are taking part in this year's International AIDS Candlelight Memorial on Sunday the 19th of May.

I would like to recognise those who work tirelessly to help the people affected by HIV and have dedicated their lives to raising awareness and breaking down the stigma.

Organisations like the Burnett Foundation Aoteroa have done incredible work to lower the rates of transmission and provide physical and mental wellbeing support to those who are living with HIV.

Although fantastic progress has been made in New Zealand and we have a relatively low level of HIV we want to keep the work going. The National Government supports the National HIV Action Plan for Aotearoa New Zealand. Associate Minister of Health Matt Doocey has been delegated responsibility for Rainbow Health and will be leading work on eliminating HIV transmission in Aotearoa New Zealand.

On behalf of the National Party, I send my best wishes to all of those taking part in the 2024 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial.

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister of New Zealand