

## **INQUIRY INTO MANDATORY DISEASE TESTING BILL 2020**

**Organisation:** Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)

**Date Received:** 17 December 2020

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Level 3, 414 Elizabeth Street  
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

17 December 2020

The Hon. Wes Fang, MLC  
Chair, Inquiry into Mandatory Disease Testing Bill 2020  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

[www.afao.org.au](http://www.afao.org.au)

Dear Mr Fang,

**Re: NSW Mandatory Disease Testing Bill (2020) Inquiry**

I write to acknowledge and endorse the submission by ACON into the NSW Mandatory Disease Testing Bill (2020) Inquiry.

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is Australia's national peak community-controlled HIV organisation. Our [member organisations](#) are the AIDS Councils in each state and territory and peak national organisations representing key populations in Australia's community response to HIV. AFAO is recognised globally and nationally for policy expertise, health promotion and the coordination activities to strengthen our member organisations. ACON is our largest member organisation.

AFAO wholeheartedly endorses ACON's submission to this inquiry. The proposed legislation is unnecessary, highly flawed and should not proceed. As ACON states in their submission, it is "not based on evidence, is in opposition to public health objectives and is potentially harmful for people living with blood borne viruses." It is also "not consistent with multiple state, national and international guidelines, it exacerbates unfounded and decades old fears, and does nothing to educate and inform our workers about the contemporary risks associated with bodily fluids."

If the Inquiry Committee were to recommend that the Mandatory Disease Testing Bill (2020) be passed into law, despite its lack of evidence, AFAO endorses the full range of recommendations outlined in ACON's submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss AFAO's endorsement of ACON's submission.

Yours sincerely

Adj Prof Darryl O'Donnell  
**Chief Executive Officer**

*The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is the national federation for the HIV community response in Australia. AFAO works to end HIV transmission and reduce its impact on communities in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. AFAO's members are the AIDS Councils in each state and territory; the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA); the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); the Anwernekenhe National HIV Alliance (ANA); and Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association. AFAO's affiliate member organisations – spanning community, research and clinical workforce – share AFAO's values and support the work we do.*