

Howard wrong on HIV immigration

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Claims by the Prime Minister that tighter restrictions are needed to stop HIV-positive people migrating to Australia are ill-informed, misguided and unhelpful, the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA) has said.

Australian immigration law already prevents people with HIV, or any serious illness, from gaining permanent resident status – except where there are genuine compassionate or humanitarian grounds. All applicants for permanent residency visas are required to undergo a comprehensive medical assessment, and people found to be HIV-positive are routinely rejected. Only by undergoing a lengthy and expensive legal process, and providing evidence of genuine and compelling compassionate or humanitarian reasons, are positive people able to become permanent residents. NAPWA understands that only a handful of applications are approved each year.

“The Prime Minister’s comments send a confusing message and suggest that Australia has open borders for immigrants with HIV. That’s clearly not the case, and we are shocked that the Prime Minister would try to make a political issue of HIV,” said NAPWA President Robert Mitchell.

“We absolutely reject the suggestion that tighter restrictions on HIV-positive immigrants are needed. What is needed is an evidence-based, bipartisan approach to combat HIV, encourage testing and provide support and treatment for positive people.”

“It’s HIV that we should be targeting, not people with HIV.”

Attachment	Size	Type
PDF Media Release [1]	64.97 KB	 PDF

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Links:

[1] http://napwa.org.au/files/mr_20070413_immigration.pdf