# WORLD AIDS DAY - MEDIA RELEASE

16 November 2023 – News Publications

## Inclusion, Respect, and Equity at this year’s World AIDS Day

WAAC is taking over Forrest Place on 1 December 2023 for World AIDS Day.

The Perth-based non-profit organisation WAAC is using the global day of action to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, and re-commit WA towards the virtual elimination of HIV in Australia by 2030.

To commemorate this important occasion WAAC created a health campaign ‘Step Forward: Fight Stigma’, will host:

1. A remembrance sundowner on November 29.
2. A breakfast and community stall event on December 1.
3. With the WA Museum (Boola Bardip), host an exhibition of the WA AIDS Memorial Quilt, and an ‘In Conversation’ event with people living with HIV

The World AIDS Day event will commence with a free community breakfast with speeches given by HIV Community Representative **Angela Hellewell**, U.S. Consul General **Siriana Nair**, Member for Mining and Pastoral Region **Hon. Peter Foster**, Senator **Louise Pratt** and Senator **Dean Smith** who are also members of the HIV Taskforce, and the newly appointed CEO of WAAC **Dr Daniel Vujcich**.

Directly following the breakfast, community and information stalls will be held in Forrest Place by organisations in the HIV, Sexual Health, and LGBTQIA+ sectors until mid-day. The WA Museum (Boola Bardip) will display the WA AIDS Memorial Quilt from December 1 to December 3. The Quilt was first created in 1989 by people living with HIV/AIDS and allies, and consists of panels dedicated to those who died from HIV/AIDS related illness. It is a notable piece of Perth’s history and is free to view for community members the duration of the exhibit.

A special ‘In Conversation’ event will be hosted by the Western Australian Museum (Boola Bardip) on December 2. This compelling discussion set against the backdrop of the iconic Quilt, will shed light on the distinctive narratives of those openly embracing their HIV-positive status and what this has meant historically and in today's world.

This World AIDS Day coincides with WAAC’s current health campaign ‘Step Forward: Fight Stigma’, which explores the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV.

WAAC provides a wide range of services and supports that are non-judgmental, inclusive and accessible including counselling and support services for people living with HIV and LGBTQIA+ youth, a sexual health testing clinic for gay, bi, trans, gender diverse and non-binary people, and for men who have sex with men, a drop-in space for LGBTQIA+ young people, peer mentoring, health promotion and education, harm reduction services, as well as free condoms.

Recently appointed CEO of WAAC, Dr Daniel Vujcich, said about the services offered by WAAC, ***“For almost four decades, WAAC has delivered inclusive services that are evidence-informed, peer-led and client-centred. We are immensely proud of our past without being frozen in it; instead, we constantly find ways of improving and adapting our services to meet the contemporary needs of community.”***

These services are offered for free or at an affordable cost for all residents as well as international students.

**ENDS**

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