

AIDS fight to target men

SYDNEY: Future AIDS prevention campaigns will focus on men who have sex with men, after a study which shows HIV infection has levelled off at about 600 new cases a year.

The director of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, Associate Professor John Kaldor, said the report estimates between 13,000 and 18,000 Australians are living with HIV — or about one in 1000. That is less than a fifth of early estimates that 100,000 Australians were infected.

Professor Kaldor said new infections peaked at between 3000 and 4500 in 1983 and 1984, and dropped to about 600 a year, apparently balanced by the deaths of those who had developed AIDS.

The report said about 1500 Australians so far had died of AIDS, and predicted that between 700 and 900 new AIDS cases would be diagnosed each year until 1994, up from between 600 and 700 in 1991.

Professor Kaldor said the study, conducted by experts from the Australian National University, Adelaide and La Trobe universities, gave the first authoritative picture of where the HIV epidemic had started 10 years ago "and where it is likely to go".

The deputy chairman of the Australian National Council on AIDS, Professor Peter Macdonald, said the estimates, based on "back projection", were considerably lower than earlier figures.

He said the report showed more than 90 per cent of those infected were homosexual men, and the expected shift to

heterosexuals and injecting drug users had not happened.

Professor Macdonald said research and education campaigns now would concentrate on men who had sex with men, including those who did not regard themselves as gay, but he defended the original aim to warn the whole community.

"It causes me some concern when important and prominent figures come out five or seven years down the track with the wisdom of hindsight, indicating that inappropriate action was taken," he said, referring to attacks by former Australian of the Year, eye surgeon Professor Fred Hollows.

"At the time I believe the decisions were correct. In 1985, there was a legitimate belief that a spread into the heterosexual community might occur and that the mechanism for its spread was sex and needles."

Professor Macdonald said 18 per cent of those diagnosed with AIDS had not been tested for HIV, and it was important to bring them into treatment programs. It was also important to maintain the needle and syringe programs.

Other key findings included: Between 15,000 and 20,000 people, including those who have died, had been diagnosed with HIV by the end of 1990.

The rate of new infections through sex between men had dropped to between 10 and 20 per cent of the 1983-84 peak.

Infection among injecting drug users appeared steady at between 0.5 per cent and 5 per cent.

Even well-fed domestic cats a wildlife threat: study

ADELAIDE: It seems Snappy Tom and Whiskers are not enough for the average domestic cat — new research indicates each cat in Australia kills about 30 other creatures each year.

An Adelaide University zoologist, Dr David Paton, reported his findings yesterday at an Adelaide seminar organised by the South Australian Department of Environment and Planning.

The research was based on 700 responses to questionnaires sent to cat-owners in Adelaide, and shows 59 per cent of domestic cats took mammals and 62 per cent took birds.

According to the three-year study, the cats "were all well fed and properly cared for by their owners and the prey they brought home often were not eaten".

Dr Paton's study showed a cat's yearly capture rate was eight birds, 16 mammals and eight reptiles.

The research showed cities such as Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth each had a domestic cat population of about 200,000, while in the whole of Victoria there were 900,000 cats.

In a city the size of Adelaide, more than a million birds, a million mammals and a million reptiles were killed by cats each year.

A similar number would be killed each year in both Brisbane and Perth, the study said.

Dr Paton's study also found the wearing of bells around the neck made little difference to the proportion of cats taking wildlife.

Girls lack confidence: survey

SYDNEY: A national campaign to encourage girls to pursue careers in science and technology is failing because girls are not ambitious enough and have a poor opinion of their abilities, according to a leading academic.

Kay Fielden, senior lecturer at the University of Canberra, said a survey of Year 11 students showed girls poised for a career in science did not have a hard-headed attitude towards their work, preferring a sense of job satisfaction to high salary and status.

The 506 young people surveyed in March last year were from five ACT co-educational colleges and all were preparing to study mathematics at university.

Ms Fielden said also that the most striking aspect of the survey was that girls' attitudes towards their careers were quite different to those of the boys.

For example, 42 per cent of boys were likely to believe salary was important, compared with 19 per cent of girls.

Boys also regarded complicated work as more challenging and exhilarating, and were more likely to tackle difficult problems.

Girls, on the other hand, rated such factors as a sense of achievement, job satisfaction and working with people far more highly than money or status.

Ms Fielden said girls were also far less likely to ask for advice.

"I read a lot of these results as an indication that girls have a lack of self-esteem. They recognise they have the ability but they don't have any confidence. It's worrying to see that their mind sets are so fixed."

The survey revealed also that less than 3 per cent of girls planned to choose a career in computers (compared with almost 12 per cent of boys) and less than 1 per cent elected engineering compared with 9 per cent of boys.

Ms Fielden said girls, unlike boys, did not see knowledge of computers as a source of power and did not think that learning about computers was creative or fun.

Dubbo is down on 'dirt'

DUBBO: Dubbo City Council, in central western NSW, wants to ban sex shops and X-rated videos, although Dubbo has no such shop, and no-one is lusting to build one.

The council's concern is the "restricted premises" designation in relevant legislation under which a sex shop could be established in the city of 35,000.

If permission for a shop were refused, the council would be open to legal action.

"Our legal opinion is we would only stand an average chance of success in the Court of Appeal against any shop," the Mayor of Dubbo, Alderman Tony McGinane said yesterday.

On Monday night the council unanimously carried a motion petitioning the local MP, Gerry Peacocke, who is also the Minister for Local Government, to remove the "re-



Gerry Peacocke

stricted premises" section of the Indecent Publications Act.

It plans to seek support for a ban on sex shops in motions at this year's annual conference of the Shires Association.

and Local Government Association.

"We believe these sort of shops should be shut, full stop," Alderman McGinane said, pointing out that provision could be made for shops operating already — like the central-west region's only such establishment, at Orange — to remain open.

The council also voted on Monday to petition the federal Attorney-General, Michael Duffy, to ban X-rated movies and videos available in the ACT.

"They're banned in all other states, and the ACT makes up such a small proportion of the nation's population, so why should they be available there?" Alderman McGinane asked.

"The new Prime Minister is a family man, and he should be very sympathetic to our cause," he said.

Witness 'saw Polyukhovich shoot women'

ADELAIDE: The last of about 25 overseas witnesses ended his testimony at the war crimes hearing yesterday.

The hearing is to determine if defendant Ivan Polyukhovich is to stand trial for the murder of 24 people and being involved in the slaughter of up to 850 Jews in Ukraine during World War II.

Under cross-examination by defence counsel Michael David, QC, Ukrainian pensioner Stefan Kolb said yesterday he saw Polyukhovich shoot two Jewish women with a submachinegun.

Overseas witnesses from countries including Canada, Israel, the United States and Ukraine began giving evidence in March.

Proceedings have been adjourned until Monday while prosecution and defence lawyers consider what technical and historical evidence is needed.

About 10 more witnesses are expected to give testimony.

IN BRIEF

Boat captains found guilty

DARWIN: Captains of three Indonesian boats were found guilty in Darwin Magistrates Court yesterday of fishing illegally in the Australian fishing zone.

The three, of Sulawesi, pleaded not guilty to fishing commercially, and being in charge of foreign fishing boats, in the Australian fishing zone. They are believed to be the first Indonesian fishermen to have contested such charges.

Magistrate Ian Gray rejected arguments that their sail-powered fishing boats ended up in Australian waters by accident, after drifting with a current for four days.

Homeless mediators

Young homeless people will train as mediators in a program the Conflict Resolution Service is setting up.

Information sessions about the training will be held at 3pm next Thursday and at 6pm on May 13 at the Conflict Resolution Service, Acton.

Pine vandals wanted

Eurobodalla Shire has offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the conviction of whoever destroyed 32 Norfolk Island Pines at Long Beach on Friday. Information should go to the shire council's ordinance officer on (044) 74 1000, or to Batemans Bay police.

Transit link interest

MELBOURNE: Twenty-three local and overseas companies have tendered for construction of a rapid-transit link between central Melbourne and Tullamarine airport. Tenders closed on Tuesday.

CAPITAL WIN TONIGHT'S PICK PRIME ABC

VHF 7 or UHF 63 Tuggeranong

5.30 Test Pattern

6.00 Ten Eyewitness News

6.30 Good Morning Australia (News, information)

8.30 The Morning Show: With Bert Newton (Information, entertainment)

10.00 Mulligrubs (For Preschoolers)

10.30 Aerobics Oz Style

11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael: My Daughter Was Stabbed at School (US talkshow) (G)

12.00 Santa Barbara (US soap) (PGR)

1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (US soap) (PGR)

1.30 Donahue: Wife Band Forced Husband Into Swinging. She's Happy He's Bad. (US talkshow) (PGR)

2.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Real Life Hand that Rocks the Cradle (US talkshow) (PGR)

3.30 General Hospital (US soap) (PGR)

4.00 The Muppet Show: Lena Horne (Rpt) (G)

4.30 The Wonder Years: Christmas (US sitcom) (G) (Rpt)

5.00 Batman (Rpt) (G)

5.30 Neighbours: Kristian Schmidt, Simone Robertson, Scott McCheslain [S] (G)

6.00 Eyewitness News

7.00 Hinch

7.30 E Street: Tony Martin, Kate Reason, Les Dayman, Cecily Polson, Bruce Samazan, Marcus Graham, Diane Craig [S] (PGR)

8.30 Cops: Cops in London (US docudrama) (AO)

9.30 Hard Copy (Current affairs)

10.30 Ten Eyewitness News

11.00 Ten's World of Sport: The Sports Show

12.00 Dragnet Today: The Vandals (US cop series) (PGR)

12.30 Adam 12: Going Home (US cop series) (AO)

1.00 Close

UHF 31 or 86 Tuggeranong

6.00 Sanford and Son (US sitcom) (G) (Rpt)

6.30 ITN World News (G)

6.55 Business Today (G)

8.00 Today (News, information)

9.00 Here's Humphrey (For Preschoolers) (Rpt)

9.30 In Sydney Today (Information, entertainment) (G)

10.30 National Nine News

11.00 What's Cooking? (G)

11.30 Entertainment Tonight (PGR)

12.00 The Midday Show: With Ray Martin (PGR)

1.30 Days of Our Lives (US soap) (PGR)

2.30 Young and Restless (US soap) (PGR)

3.30 Kidzone (C)

4.30 Look Who's Talking (C)

5.00 Supermarket Sweep (Game show) (G)

5.30 Sale of the Century (Quiz show) (G)

6.00 WIN Nightly News

6.30 National Nine News

7.00 A Current Affair

7.30 Rescue 911 (US drama series) (PGR)

8.28 Lotto

8.30 Special: Beyond JFK: The Question of Conspiracy (PGR)

10.00 Cheers: Mr. Otis Regrets: Sam teaches Rebecca how to hold on to her man (PGR)

10.30 The World Tonight: With Clive Robertson (News, current affairs)

11.30 China Beach: Lost and Found — Pt 1 (US drama series) (PGR) (Rpt)

12.30 Movie: Barefoot in the Park (Comedy) (1967) Robert Redford, Jane Fonda (PGR) (Rpt)

2.30 Movie: Sorry Wrong Number (Drama) (1948) Barbara Stanwyck, Burt Lancaster (Rpt) (AO) (BW)

4.10 Naked City (US cop series) (PGR) (BW) (Rpt)

5.00 Carson's Comedy Classics (PGR) (Rpt)

5.30 The Sullivan (Aust soap) (G) (Rpt)

Things look pretty grim until 8.30pm when Prime weighs in with the year's first episode of Fast Forward, but the past two series have been slow starters, so anyone who wishes to catch the final instalment of the ABC's Phoenix, may be excused.

Then it's over to WIN for the rest of the night, with Cheers at 10pm, followed by Robbo and China Beach, at 11.30pm.

Night owls could do worse than take a look at a very young Robert Redford in Barefoot in the Park, from 12.30am.

— MARK WALLACE
Programs in italics recommended.

UHF 28 or 84 Tuggeranong

3.30 Novosti (News from Russia)

4.00 Temporary class

4.30 English at Work (Language lesson) (Rpt)

5.00 No One But You (Game show) (G)

5.30 World Sports

6.30 World News

7.00 Dateline (Current affairs)

7.30 FA Cup Soccer: The Road to Wembley

8.30 David Stratton's Movie of the week: A City of Sadness (1989). An epic family drama, set in Taiwan in the four years from 1945 to 1949, between Japan's defeat and Mao's victory. Against the political background, director Hou Hsiao-hsien unfolds the story of old man Lin and his four sons in a film of great scope and individuality. From Taiwan, in Taiwanese, Mandarin and Cantonese.

11.05 Eat Carpet (Experimental, avant-garde TV)

12.05 The Noise (Music)

Movie: Dim Sum: A Little Bit of Heart (1994). From the US, in English and Cantonese. (G) (Rpt)

2.40 Close

UHF 34 or 88 Tuggeranong

6.30 Agro's Cartoon Connection (G)

8.00 Mr Ed (US sitcom) (B/W) (Rpt) (G)

9.30 The Book Place (For Preschoolers)

10.00 That's What You Think (G)

10.30 Carol and Company (PGR)

11.00 Eleven AM (News, current affairs)

12.00 Midday Movie: Eric (1975). John Savage, Patricia Neal, Claude Akins. (Rpt) (AO)

2.00 Hunter (US cop series) (PGR) (Rpt)

3.00 Kingswood Country (Aust sitcom) (PGR) (Rpt)

3.30 Alf (US sitcom) (G) (Rpt)

4.00 A Pup Named Scooby Doo (G)

5.00 Family Feud (Game show) (G)

5.30 Wheel of Fortune (Game show) (G)

6.00 Seven Nightly News

6.25 Prime Local News

6.30 Real Life (Current affairs)

7.00 Home and Away [S] (G)

7.30 Family Matters: The Love God. (US sitcom) (G)

8.00 Acropolis Now: Desperately Seeking Effie. (Aust sitcom) (G)

8.30 Feet Forward (Aust comedy) (AO)

9.30 Special: Kylie — Live in Dublin. Kylie Minogue performs at The Point, in Dublin. (G)

10.40 Tonight Live: With Steve Vizard (Entertainment, news) (AO)

11.40 Freddy's Nightmares (US horror stories) (AO)

12.45 NBC Today Show (US news, current affairs)

2.45 Close

VHF 3 or UHF 66 Tuggeranong

7.00 Lateline (Rpt)

7.30 Open Learning: Statistics

8.00 Wonderful Wizard of Oz (Rpt)

8.24 Pinny's House (Rpt)

8.30 Sesame Street (Rpt)

9.30 Play School (Rpt) [S]

10.00 The Magic Library (Rpt)

10.15 Words and Pictures (Rpt)

10.30 Here's the Best (Rpt)

10.50 Grimm's Fairy Tales Concepts in Science (Rpt) [S]

12.00 The World at Noon (News, current affairs)

12.30 Quantum (Science) (Rpt)

1.00 Couchman on Family Law (Rpt)

1.30 Tasmanian Folk Festival (Rpt)

2.00 Parliament Question Time: House of Reps

3.00 Sesame Street

3.55 Ferry Boat Fred

4.00 Play School (Rpt) [S]

4.30 Gumby

4.50 Bananaman (Rpt)

5.00 The Afternoon Show: With Michael Tunney — 5.02 Alvin and the Chipmunks (Rpt) (G)

5.30 Degra's Junior High (Rpt) (G) [S]

6.00 Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle (Rpt) (G) 6.25 Roger Ramjet (G)

6.30 Classic Comedies of Lucille Ball (B/W) (G)

7.00 ABC News

7.30 7.30 Report (Current affairs)

8.00 Everybody (Health)

8.28 Newsbody

8.30 Phoenix: Hard Ball Paul Sponkies, Sean Scully, Simon Westaway, Andy Anderson, Neil Feeney. (Final) (Aust cop series) (AO) [S]

9.20 Backchat (Viewer feedback)

9.28 News Update

9.30 Big Picture: Falklands War: Trusting in Luck (G) [S]

10.30 Lateline (Current affairs)

11.00 Money Matters (Business issues)

11.40 Secret of the Sahara (Final) (British drama series) (AO)

12.30 Senate Question Time

1.30 Close

Fridge Door

Paper collection

Canberra Paper and Cardboard Recycling will collect in Farrer, Mawson, Oaks Estate and Lynham tomorrow. Leave clean paper on nature strips by 7am, even if it is raining. No plastic, wood, carbon or waxed paper, milk cartons, cloth or wire. Inquiries: 239 1863.