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CDNA Secretariat
Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA)
Office of Health Protection
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

6 July 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Draft CDNA guidelines for medical practitioners and medical students
infected with blood-borne viruses**

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) is the national federation for the HIV community response. AFAO's members are the AIDS Councils in each state and territory; the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA); the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); the Anwernekenhe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV/AIDS Alliance (ANA); and Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association.

AFAO advocates for its member organisations, promotes medical and social research into HIV and its effects, develops and formulates policy on HIV issues, and provides HIV policy advice to Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

AFAO has had the opportunity to read the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine's (ASHM) submission regarding the draft guidelines. We concur with the points made by ASHM in relation to the draft Guidelines themselves and also its comments regarding the process of the review to date. We share ASHM's concern that the concurrent reviews by the Medical Board of Australia and the CDNA of their respective guidelines/policy documents need to be properly coordinated; the separate MBA and CDNA processes are confusing and this confusion will undermine each review process.

AFAO strongly endorses ASHM's view that resolution of these issues would be facilitated by a consensus conference, ideally held during the ASHM Conference in September, in Canberra.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review.

Yours faithfully

Rob Lake
Executive Director