

ACT UP SYDNEY

ACTION = LIFE

a protest about compulsory HIV/AIDS
testing in prisons and lack of
preventative measures (ie condoms)

12.30 pm at Parramatta jail
cnr O'Connell & Dunlop St. on Sunday 27th May
train leaving Central station at 10.50 platform 18 or 19 - cost \$2.50

NO! TO COMPULSORY TESTING YES! TO CONDOMS AND BLEACH

Compulsory testing is about to be introduced on entry to jails. Yet after eight years of AIDS being in Australia condoms and bleach, the only effective measures, are still not available in the NSW Prison System.

The legislation recently introduced by the corrective services Minister Michael Yabsley does nothing to stop the spread of AIDS. It is simply a cheap political gesture resulting in compulsory testing of prisoners. This policy, combined with the non-availability of condoms and bleach is accelerating the spread of HIV/AIDS in the NSW state jail system.

The AIDS strategy issued by the federal government last year, after long consultation and review of effective programs internationally, rejected compulsory testing of prisoners in jail as counter-productive to the fight against AIDS.

Mr Yabsley has stated that people will be informed about antibody status on a "need to know basis". This basically means that there is no confidentiality at all. There is no definition of what a "need to know" is.

Mr Yabsley opposes the distribution of condoms because it may identify HIV/AIDS prisoners yet this legislation will inevitably lead to identification of HIV affected prisoners.

After eight years of AIDS in Australia we cannot afford expensive and ineffective political stunts. The time for effective programs is now.

Action

**Sunday 27th May at 12.30 pm
Parramatta jail corner of O'Connell and Dunlop St.**

Sydney ACTUP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) is a diverse non-partisan organisation committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. For further information on ACTUP write to PO Box A1242 Sydney South 2000 or phone 02-283 3550.