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**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

**24 OCTOBER 2006**

## **AFAO and NAPWA welcome withdrawal of HIV gene 'immunity' test advertisement**

The withdrawal of advertisements promoting a genetic test linked to immunity from HIV infection was today welcomed by the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) and the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA).

NAPWA and AFAO last week issued a warning in response to online advertisements, placed by a Sydney company, offering genetic testing for a polymorphism, or naturally occurring variation in a gene, known as 'delta-32 deletion'. (For further details, see NAPWA/AFAO joint press release of 20 October). The publisher of the Gaydar.com.au website, QSoft Consulting Ltd, has since announced that, until the concerns raised by NAPWA and AFAO are addressed, the advertisements will not longer appear on the site.

"Upon becoming aware of NAPWA and AFAO's concerns, Gaydar advised us that they had removed the advertisements until the company could satisfy concerns about the test. We welcome Gaydar's quick action," Baxter said.

**For more details contact:**

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