



OCEANIA

An estimated 14 000 [11 000–26 000] people acquired HIV in Oceania in 2007, bringing to 75 000 [53 000–120 000] the number of people living with the virus in this region.

Over 70% of those persons reside in **Papua New Guinea**, where the epidemic is still expanding, although at slightly lower levels than previously believed. The majority of reported HIV infections to date have been in rural areas, where more than 80% of the population lives (National AIDS Council Secretariat Papua New Guinea, 2007). Unsafe heterosexual intercourse is estimated to be the main mode of HIV transmission.

In **Australia**, HIV continues to be transmitted mainly through unprotected sex between men (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, 2007). While concerted prevention efforts controlled the epidemic

during the 1990s, new HIV diagnoses have increased by 41% between 2000 and 2005, (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, 2006), together with an increase in unsafe sex among men who have sex with men. (Prestage et al., 2006).

In **New Zealand** the main factor for acquiring HIV inside the country remains unsafe sex between men. However, the number of people diagnosed with HIV who report being infected through unsafe heterosexual intercourse is on the rise, with the majority of infections occurring outside the country, primarily in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (Ministry of Health New Zealand, 2007).