

# Bruce Burnett



Bruce Burnett was a pioneer of AIDS activism and one of those first brave people in Aotearoa who shared their own story of living with AIDS in order to educate and support others. He was the founder of the AIDS Support Network in NZ in 1983, and secured government funding to set up the New Zealand AIDS Foundation which in 2022 was rebranded as The Burnett Foundation Aotearoa in his honour.

Burnett died of an AIDS-related illness on 1 June 1985 and was active in AIDS education right up until his death. He was incredibly brave and pioneering, especially considering that homosexuality was still illegal while he was doing this work. His dedication to the kaupapa of HIV and AIDS prevention means he is still honoured to this day through memorials and health clinics that carry his name.