



Be proud and strong.
 Renew your commitment to safe sex, no exceptions.
HIV cases are increasing among Asian gay and bisexual men. Condoms stop HIV.

Photographer: Evolita Tamua

SHANGHAI LIL'S
 BAR & LOUNGE



Gay Men's Health

NEW ZEALAND AIDS FOUNDATION
 Te Tūapapa Māte Arai-kōre o Aotearoa

www.nzaf.org.nz

Asian Gay Community In New Zealand

It is very obvious that Asians are an increasingly visible part of the New Zealand population. The presence and impact of our culture is a reality. Sometimes I ask myself how many of us are gay, bisexual, lesbian, or transgender?

Yes, it's true that we can hardly tell "who is and who's not". It's understandable that many of us don't want to come out because we're scared of all the consequences it will bring. Many Asian countries are very vocal in condemning homosexuality, and religions with an anti-gay philosophy often have a strong influence on Asian cultures.

As a result of this, many Asian gay men try to migrate to another country in which they think they can live and express themselves more freely. One of the popular choices for these men is New Zealand.

What happened when we arrived here?

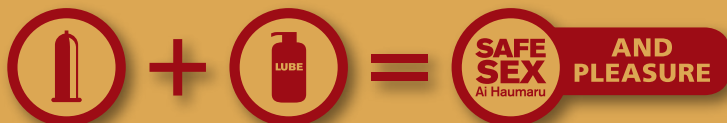
- Some of us overindulged in gay life without even thinking about the consequences of our actions (especially when it comes to practicing safe sex).
- We tried to be part of the gay community instantly even though New Zealand has different social rules, expectations and different codes of behaviour to what we are used to back home.

Those health providers who are trying to reach Asian gay and bisexual men in New Zealand with HIV prevention education - remembering that we are often deeply closeted because of the anti-gay culture we bring with us - must first ensure that they are inclusive, visibly open to issues of sexuality, and actively seeking ways of engaging within the Asian gay community.

How many of us are aware that there's an increase of HIV cases among Asian gay and bisexual men? Do we have enough knowledge about preventing HIV and remaining safe? How many of us have had an HIV test after unsafe sex? These are just some of the questions we need to ask ourselves.

Let's face it - HIV isn't confined to one particular type of gay man. We are all susceptible, wherever we're from, whatever our economic status, or our age, or our ethnicity.

Valeriano M. Incapas Jr.



Yusoff Kamal

Singaporean Malay

Sales Consultant, Fashion Design Graduate,
Postgraduate Business Law Student AUT

"Safe Sex is a recurrent agent of freedom." Just like physics, 'An object is the strongest at the weakest point.' So it's worth it to play safe rather than feeling sorry."



Valeriano M. Incapas Jr.

Filipino

Health Promoter New Zealand AIDS Foundation, Nursing Graduate

"If you value and love your life, protect it. Don't settle for a few hours of enjoyment and suffer a lifetime of regrets. No ifs and buts to safe sex."



Ivan Yeo

Malaysian

Mental Health Promoter, Social Science Graduate

"Practicing safe sex is self respect and making self-responsibility. It is ok to ask the person to use a condom and if he refuses, you have the right to say NO."



Jacky "Jay" Cheung

Chinese Hong Kong

Hair Style Guru, Hair Design Graduate

"Safe Sex is only two words that can give you a thousand reasons to be happy and proud of."



Christopher

Tahitian Chinese

University Student

"Safe Sex is a fundamental requirement if you have an active and healthy sex life."