

Stitching a quilt is an act of love, creativity and continuity. The Quilt Project is an expression of solidarity, endurance and joy. It unites a great diversity of people and backgrounds who share the experience of a devastating epidemic. Most importantly, the Quilt breathes with the hope and courage of those who have taught us not to despair.

Some people will choose to create their panel privately, while others will follow the traditions of quilting and sewing bees, involving friends and family in designing and creating the panel.

1) Designing a Quilt

When designing your panel remember that the quilt will be folded and unfolded many times. The durability of your design and materials is crucial to the longevity of your panel. Select a durable, medium weight, non-stretch fabric for the background. Cut and hem the fabric to 0.91 by 1.8 metres (3'x6'). Then paint or sew the design on your panel.

2) Materials for Quilts

Some suggestions:

Applique: Sew letters to the background. Avoid using glue alone.

Painting: Brush letters on with paint, colour-fast dye, or indelible ink.

Stencil: Using textile paint.

Collage: Sew down material to recreate objects in fabric.

3) Memorial Description

When the panel is complete, take time to write a one or two page description of the person you have memorialised, what this person meant to you and how you think s/he should be remembered. If you have a photograph of the person you are willing to part with please enclose it with your panel.

Confidentiality: All information is kept strictly confidential unless permission has been granted to do otherwise.

4) To become part of the Project

Upon completion of your panel, please send or deliver it to Darren or Jean. Your memorial panel will be catalogued and joined with 7 other panels to become a 12'x12' block of the New Zealand Quilt. Letters and photographs will be filed.

If you need help and/or materials to produce your panel, please contact Darren or Jean.

The Project relies on donations. Are you able to help financially?

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THE QUILT Project



IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO
HAVE DIED OF AIDS IN
AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND



THE QUILT PROJECT

The QUILT PROJECT is a memorial to those lost in the AIDS epidemic. It is a symbol of the humanity behind the AIDS epidemic statistics. The QUILT is composed of fabric panels, each in memory of an individual who has died of AIDS, designed and completed by their loved ones.

The QUILT PROJECT has three goals:

- 1) To provide a positive and creative means of expression for those whose lives have been touched by the epidemic.
- 2) To illustrate the impact of the AIDS epidemic by showing the humanity behind the statistics.
- 3) To encourage support for people with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones.

Panels, each 1.8m x 0.9m (3'x6'), are contributed to the QUILT PROJECT from all walks of life; from families, lovers, friends, and co-workers. Each panel is as unique as the person it memorialises. Names, dates and personal information are

often included, as well as favourite objects or special mementos. Many panels clearly show the fear of prejudice, arriving without last names or other identifying details. Perhaps most important though, creating a panel helps people confront the pain and grief of their loss.

HISTORY

Inspired by the American NAMES PROJECT, and based on folk art traditions of quilting and sewing bees, THE QUILT PROJECT: A New Zealand AIDS Memorial was founded in 1988 by the People with AIDS Collective. On 5th October 1991 the first UNVEILING CEREMONY of the New Zealand Quilts took place in Auckland in the presence of Her Excellency, Dame Catherine Tizard, Governor General, and Libby Woodhams, the Australian Quilt Project Convenor, at the Auckland City Art Gallery. Following this ceremony The Quilt was on display at the Aotea Centre.

Although the QUILT PROJECT has begun as a memorial, it will become one of the nation's

most valuable resources for promoting a compassionate and educational dialogue about AIDS. The Quilt's non-threatening nature allows people from all walks of life to view and learn about the AIDS epidemic from its human side. Its artistic and creative approach enables accessibility to all, regardless of literacy.

FUTURE

The QUILT will continue to grow as new panels are added, and will continue to be displayed around New Zealand and around the world as part of the International Quilt Project.

It is a visible symbol of the unabated growth of AIDS globally and the continued need to respond positively to this epidemic.

CREATING A MEMORIAL PANEL

You need not be an artist to create a moving, personal tribute. Whether you choose to simply use paint or sew elaborate embroidery is up to you - any remembrance is appropriate.

REMEMBERING THEIR NAMES