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AUSTRALIA KEEN TO HELP MALAYSIAN AIDS AWARENESS DRIVE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 14 (Bernama) -- Australia is willing to supply materials on AIDS prevention to Malaysian AIDS organisations, its High Commissioner-designate William Farmer said today.

He said the local culture and sensitivity would be considered before Australia extends such assistance to avoid any misunderstanding.

Farmer also said his wife, Elaine, had met Malaysian AIDS Foundation chairman Marina Mahathir to discuss possible joint programmes on AIDS.

According to him, Australia allocates RM120,000 every year for health programmes in Malaysia which could also be used in combating AIDS.

"Although the contribution is nominal, we do hope that our sincerity would help in raising awareness on the incurable disease," he said at a blood donation drive organised by the Australian High Commission.

More than 30 staff of the High Commission and other Australians including soldiers attached to the Malaysian Ministry of Defence donated their blood.

Farmer, who succeeded previous High Commissioner John Dauth, is to present his letter of credentials at the end of this month. -- BERNAMA

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