

weekend **TODAY**

we set you thinking

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MAN IN THE NEWS

**A BOSS
CALLED
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AFTER 33 heady years in sharp suits and stiff collars, this one-time waiter and dishwasher – who epitomised the American dream before ending up at the pinnacle of Singapore's banking industry – seems keen to return to his drummer roots.

In front of a hastily-assembled press pack earlier this week, Mr Jackson Tai – who played in a rock band in his teens before rising through the ranks of J P Morgan – called time on his five-year tenure as DBS' chief executive officer and promptly shed light on his immediate plans.

"I have not taken a job ... but I have thought seriously about dyeing my hair brown and getting a spiky haircut," Mr Tai, 57, deadpanned with his trademark dry American humour intact.

Although the announcement was sudden, analysts were not surprised that Mr Tai – who had said he quit to spend more time with his family in the United States – was leaving the bank.

The general sentiment is that he has taken DBS as far as he could.

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BLOOMBERG

**Know or
don't know,
it's still illegal**

Bottom line? Go for HIV test as ignorance is no longer an excuse

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THE Government doesn't want to pry into your bedroom. But it does want you to be responsible if you engage in high-risk sexual behaviour, as what you do in your most private moments may have repercussions on public health here.

Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan went to some length to make this point as he announced an unprecedented move – possibly the world's first – in the Government's fight against Aids.

As the number of HIV-positive people continue to go up in Singapore, it will soon become an offence for HIV-positive people in high-risk groups to have sex, whether or not they know their HIV status, under certain conditions. And it doesn't matter if the virus is passed on or not.

Adding this provision to the Infectious Diseases Act is the "right thing to do", said Mr Khaw, so as to protect innocent victims and encourage those who engage in high-risk behaviour to take personal responsibility for their activities.

"My job is not to get into everybody's bedroom," said Mr Khaw on Friday on the sidelines of an event. "But I think

it is to send a clear signal to those who engage in high-risk sexual activity what they need to do and it's really regular testing and use of the condom."

This legal responsibility thrust on the individual's shoulders would apply in particular to those who have unprotected sex with multiple partners, share needles with others, or have reason to believe that they might have had sex with someone who has HIV.

As with the current Act, the individual would not be liable if he had – before sex – told his partner of the risk of contracting HIV infection, and if the partner voluntarily agreed to having sex with him.

He would also not be liable if had tested HIV-negative and had not – between the time of the test and sex – engaged in activities that may expose him to the risk, or if he takes "reasonable precautions" such as using a condom.

As with the current law, which makes it an offence for those who know they are HIV-positive to have sex without informing their partner, proving guilt would be difficult. Indeed, just two individuals have been found to run afoul of this law thus far (see box).

But the statistics are worrying the MOH enough to take such strong measures.

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ALSO IN YOUR WEEKEND XTRA ...



MUM, DAD AND MARINA PAGE 18
DAUGHTER'S BLOG ON MAHATHIR'S HOSPITAL STAY

THEY KNEW BUT DIDN'T TELL ...

1 In 2005, investigations showed that a HIV-positive man from Nigeria had unprotected sexual intercourse with several women here. He did not tell them of his status before they had sex. He left Singapore before he could be charged. He will face charges if he returns to Singapore.

2 This year, investigations revealed the case of a HIV-positive man who did not inform his wife of his status before having sex with her. His wife, a foreigner, tested HIV-negative and was unwilling to testify against her husband. The husband used a condom during each sexual encounter, so he was fined instead of jailed.

3 Investigations are ongoing into a HIV-positive individual who may have had sexual intercourse without informing his partner of his HIV status.