



Enquiries: P.R Bhengu
Date: 19/03/2015

Prof Harry Hausler
TB/HIV Care Association
Suite No2 Sutton Square,
306/310 Mathews Meyiwa (Stamford hill),
Morningside,
Durban,
4051

Dear Sir

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF HIV PREVENTION SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS (PWID) IN ETHEKWINI AS PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The provincial strategic plan for HIV, TB and STI 2012/16 identified a need to escalate HIV prevention amongst key population which includes people who inject drugs as target group. Since the implementation of the strategic plan, the District has been in working relationship with TB HIV Care Association (THCA) supporting the district with HIV prevention in general population and more specifically with their successful work to help the DOH provide a package of prevention services too hard to reach vulnerable populations such as sex workers

Since THCA has proposed to pilot the demonstration project for People Who Inject Drugs (PWID), the district understands that the purpose of the proposed project will be to evaluate the feasibility of providing HIV prevention and harm reduction services for this particular group. These services will include the provision of the following services in collaboration between TBHC and district HTA roving team;

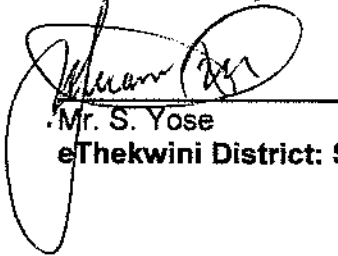
- ✓ The comprehensive mobile health out-reach services: which will include a full package of essential HIV prevention services provided to PWID, free of charge.
- ✓ Nurses and HAST counsellors who will provide services from "mobile" clinics which will include health screenings such as HIV counselling and testing (HCT) and STI, TB and viral hepatitis screening and referral.
- ✓ TBHC Peer educators, linked to mobile clinics, will provide HIV prevention commodities (inclusive of sterile injecting equipment, condoms and lubricant, etc.); educate around HIV prevention and harm reduction, and link PWID to services at mobile and wellness centres.
- ✓ TBHC Wellness centres will also provide additional health and support services including support groups for female PWID, PWID living with HIV, health campaigns (e.g. around viral hepatitis) and safe spaces.

- ✓ Specific training will be provided to key stakeholders, project team members and PWID around drug use, harm reduction and evidence-based health and psychosocial interventions for PWID.
- ✓ Findings of the project evaluation will inform future service provision for PWID.

The District is excited about this potential to integrate these new and novel HIV prevention technologies within our communities and believe this strong proposal and collaboration of organizations will be very capable to help us learn, develop and integrate these essential services at a larger scale in the future.

Therefore, support is hereby granted for TB HIV Care Association to provide HIV prevention services to People who inject drugs within the eThekweni district.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Yose', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large loop on the left side.

Mr. S. Yose

eThekweni District: South Service Area Deputy District Manager