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To whom it may concern

The South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) supports the StepUp project implemented by TB/HIV Care Association. People who inject drugs (PWID) are listed as a key population in the current National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV/STIs and TB 2012-2016 and hence this project provides mobile clinic based health services focused on HIV prevention and the reduction of drug-related harms for this key population.

The services include:

- The distribution and collection of sterile injecting equipment including needles and syringes
- Condom and compatible lubrication distribution
- HIV counselling and testing
- Referral for antiretroviral treatment
- TB, STI and Hepatitis B/C screening and referrals
- Needle Wound care
- Risk reduction counselling
- Referral to health and substance use disorder treatment services
- Peer and PWID community engagement

These services are supported by over 20 years of international research, are considered evidence based best-practice interventions and are supported by international bodies including: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through PEPFAR.

SANAC has identified the StepUp Project as an essential service that is in line with the NSP 2012-2016 and as such SANAC fully endorses and supports the services offered by the StepUp Project.

For further enquiries about services provided by the StepUp Project please do not hesitate to contact Shaun Shelly: National Advocacy and Psychosocial Co-ordinator for the StepUp Project on **076 511 0863**, or via e-mail at shaun@tbhivcare.org.

Yours sincerely,

Fareed Abdullah

Chief Executive Officer

SANAC African National AIDS Council