



To whom it may concern

TB/HIV Care Association's **Step Up** Project provides a mobile clinic-based health service which is focused primarily on HIV prevention and the reduction of drug-related harms, and involves among other services the following:

- Sterile needle and syringe distribution
- Condom and lube distribution
- HIV counselling and testing
- TB screening
- STI screening
- Wound care
- Risk reduction counselling

This is based on evidence-based best practice recommended by, among other international bodies:

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- The World Health Organisation (WHO)
- The United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The Western Cape Provincial Department of Health has identified the Step Up Project as pioneering an essential service addressing the intersection between substance use and HIV risk, in line with the National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs, and TB.

Please note:

- Sterile needles and syringes are an essential HIV and Hepatitis C virus prevention commodity, are not illegal to possess, and are given to Step Up service beneficiaries in accordance with internationally acknowledged best practice for HIV prevention.
- Taking away someone's safe injecting equipment won't help them to stop using drugs; it will only make it harder for them to stay as safe and healthy as possible.
- Service beneficiaries are asked to keep their used needles and syringes (sharps) in a plastic bottle supplied by Step Up. This is so that used sharps can be safely returned to Step Up for appropriate disposal. In this way, service beneficiaries are helping to keep used needles and syringes out of public spaces. Please support this effort.

Should you have any questions or concerns about Step Up's services or service delivery, please do not hesitate to contact the Cape Town Project Coordinator, Rudolph Basson. He can be reached telephonically at (021) 447 0565, or via email at [rudolph@tbhivcare.org](mailto:rudolph@tbhivcare.org)

Yours sincerely



Ms Juanita Arendse

Director HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB

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