



Media Release

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Contact: Michael Scott mscott@quac.org.au

0427 138 373

TGA Approval for Truvada Welcomed by QuAC

The Queensland AIDS Council (QuAC) welcomes the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)'s decision to register Truvada for HIV prevention as a major breakthrough for HIV prevention. QuAC now calls on the Federal Government to urgently list Truvada on the PBS to ensure Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) reaches as many people as possible.

Truvada can be taken once a day as PrEP by people who do not have HIV to prevent HIV transmission. PrEP is an important preventative tool for gay men and men who have sex with men who do not use condoms every time.

In addition to providing protection against HIV, PrEP is revolutionising sexual health for gay men and men who have sex with men. For many men, using PrEP provides an opportunity to have sex without anxiety, and has a positive impact on mental health broadly.

"In registering Truvada, the TGA has confirmed that PrEP is a safe and effective way of preventing HIV transmission through sex. It confirms what science and our community has held for a long time now" said Michael Scott, Executive Director of Queensland AIDS Council.

Queensland AIDS Council through Clinic 30 has been making importation of generic PrEP possible to men who wish to access PrEP up to now. On April 26th Minister for Health Cameron Dick announced a \$6 million investment in a Demonstration Project for PrEP over four years across Queensland.

Queensland AIDS Council will be integral to PrEP being made widely available to gay men and men who have sex with men across Queensland. In September 2015 QuAC launched www.comeprepd.info to provide education to Queenslanders about PrEP and how to obtain PrEP. The campaign will be significantly ramped up with the announcement of 2000 Demonstration Project places across Queensland.

Whilst registration of Truvada is a positive step, we must now work hard to ensure PBS listing for Truvada occurs as soon as possible. "Across Queensland, without PBS listing, the cost of filling a Truvada script will be prohibitive. Whilst the registration of Truvada is positive we must now make it affordable."

"Without PBS listing, this is a wasted tool for HIV prevention. The Federal Government must act decisively to fund PrEP in order to prevent many of the 1100 HIV diagnoses that occur every year" said Scott.

For further information contact Michael Scott, Executive Director, Queensland AIDS Council on 0427 138 373 or mscott@quac.org.au.

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The Queensland AIDS Council was established in 1984 and is a community-based, not-for-profit, registered health promotion charity that works to improve the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Queenslanders, prevent HIV and build the capacity of the community.