



# Media Release

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## History Making PrEP Demonstration Project Announced

Today, Mr Cameron Dick, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, announced a history making step forward for HIV Prevention at the Queensland AIDS Council.

The PrEP (Pre Exposure Prophylaxis) Demonstration Project, will provide PrEP to 2000 gay men and men who have sex with men across Queensland in what is one of the most significant steps forward in HIV prevention in many years.

The Queensland AIDS Council will play a crucial role in the Demonstration Project to ensure that the Demonstration Project reaches the people who will benefit from PrEP.

Clinic 30, the sexual and mental health service at Queensland AIDS Council is already providing opportunities for gay men and men who have sex with men to import PrEP from overseas. To date the Clinic has written scripts for over 200 men to import generic medication, however the costs associated with importation are prohibitive for some people.

Queensland AIDS Council Executive Director Michael Scott indicated the announcement was an exciting breakthrough for all Queenslanders, and a strong step forward in HIV prevention.

“In decade’s time, people will remember that it was Minister Dick who made PrEP available across Queensland. Through this Demonstration Project, 2000 men will be able to take control of their sexual health and prevent HIV transmission. We applaud the Minister for his foresight, and his investment in sexual health” Scott said.

The PrEP Demonstration Project will be more complex than encouraging men to take a pill a day to prevent HIV. The program will involve regular testing for HIV, STIs and kidney function, and importantly it brings men who have sex with men in contact with an LGBTI friendly GP to discuss sexual health beyond HIV.

Men accessing PrEP through Clinic 30 are reporting improved mental health. “For the first time in their lives, some men are reporting feeling less anxious about having sex, particularly after times where condoms are not used. By accessing PrEP these men are taking control of not only their sexual health, but also their mental health,” said Scott.

The Queensland AIDS Council is ready, willing and able to be involved in the PrEP Demonstration Project, with staff ready to go now. Clinic 30 has made importation possible for hundreds of men, and we look forward to the challenge of expanding this to 2000.

For further information contact Michael Scott, Executive Director, Queensland AIDS Council on 0427 138 373 or [mscott@quac.org.au](mailto:mscott@quac.org.au).

**ENDS**

*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.*