



HIV/AIDS Newsletter

Newsletter from the national HIV/AIDS Programme, Pretoria

26 January 2001

News from the Editor

The last 3 weeks since sending out the first newsletter has been very busy! So, the newsletter may be a little late, but it does contain some interesting news.

Thank you to everyone who sent messages saying that this is a good initiative. Now I only need everyone else with good ideas and news to share to contribute to the newsletter by submitting items for future editions. So, please start writing and submit any suggestions to me at serenc@health.gov.za.

Celicia M. Serenata

Staff Matters

We are proud to announce that Thembela Masuku has given birth to a baby girl. Mother and baby are doing well, and we wish the Masuku family well.

Dikeledi Tshukudu is leaving on 31 January 2001 to assume her new position as Director: HIV/AIDS and STDs in the Western Cape. We thank her for her work over the last year, especially in terms of the Mother-to-Child Transmission Programme. Fortunately we will still see her on a regular basis!

MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION PROGRAMME

The Mail & Guardian reported today 26 January 2001 on the Mother-to-

Child Transmission expansion programme (MTCT). This has provided us with tremendous media exposure, but unfortunately also contained some erroneous information. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some of those.

The most important is to note that the project will not be implemented in all health facilities as has been reported in some radio reports, but only in those facilities that have been selected by the provinces for this specific project.

The MTCT Steering Committee met on 26 January 2001 and provinces reported good progress in preparing for this programme. The focus within the next month is on training of healthcare professionals as well as lay counsellors. This process is in varying stages within the different provinces, and thus the date of implementation differs. In the next newsletter more information will be provided.

Operational Planning for 2001/02

The entire Chief Directorate was away from the office on 18-19 January to do operational planning for the 2001/02 financial year. This was a very fruitful exercise, and all of the various programmes within the Chief Directorate are finalising their plans for submission to the Director-General on 5 February 2001.

Watch this space for more details!



Progress Report of the Chief Directorate

The other major activity that most of the Unit was involved in for the last few days was the compilation of a report for the Director-General on the activities of the Chief Directorate in the present financial year, looking at achievements, but also obstacles.

This report was submitted to the Deputy Director-General, and in the next newsletter it is hoped that extracts from the report can be included. So, please look out for the next edition for much more on this!

I am also looking forward to inputs from provinces on some of their major achievements. Let's share our successes!

This has been a short newsletter, but hopefully informative! The next newsletter should contain a lot of useful information, so, look out for it!

Partnership Against AIDS



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