

HIV/AIDS Newsletter

Newsletter from the national HIV/AIDS Programme, Pretoria

03-Apr-2001

Best wishes for 2001 to everyone working in HIV/AIDS programmes!

The last year has been very challenging, and we hope that we can build on some of the successes of 2000 (like the Strategic Plan), and look forward to the implementation of some very important programmes, such as the long-awaited Mother-to-Child Transmission programme.

Staff Matters

In the last few months we have seen several comings and goings in terms of staff.

The most significant was the promotion of **Dr. Nono Simelela** to Chief Director: HIV/AIDS and STDs. This left a vacancy for a Director: HIV/AIDS, and in December 2000 **Mr. Collen Bonnecwe** was appointed to this position. We wish him well in this challenging position.

Most of you have also by now met **Marian Burley**, the NGO Coordinator. However, did you also know that she now has two colleagues assisting her in the task of coordinating the NGO funding. They are **Osborne Hlatshwayo** and **Walter Tsoetsi**. Good luck with a difficult task!

Unfortunately **Gustav Wilson** left the Department to assume another position in the SA Police Services as from 2 January 2001. Fortunately he is not lost to the HIV/AIDS field, and will continue his efforts there. His position will hopefully be filled soon. However, the Care and Support Unit has been

strengthened by the appointment of a Care and Support consultant, **Zuki Pinini**, who started work on 2 January 2001. Mrs. Pinini is appointed by MSH, and seconded to the HIV/AIDS Programme.

Another person that left the national office was **Eddie Mohoebi**. He was promoted to Director: Communication in the Department of Labour. His post was filled by **Sonja Martin** who joined the Department in November 2000. She is ably assisted by **Dr. Kwame Amporah**, a consultant, and **Nokuthula Prusent** (Assistant Director).

Someone who will be leaving soon is **Dikeledi Tsukudu** who has been appointed as Director: HIV/AIDS in the Western Cape. Good luck to her!

Other exciting staff news is that **Rentia Agenbag** gave birth to a lovely baby boy in mid-December 2000, and that **Themabela Masuku** is due any day now. We wish our two mothers peace during their maternity leave!

Other news is that two staff members have been promoted within the programme. The first is **Emsie Grundling** to Assistant Director (SANAC), and **Letsholo Mojanaga**, Assistant Director (Training). Congratulations!

The secondment of **Adrie Stephansen** from the Civil Military Alliance ended in December. The new secondment is **Zanele Ndlovu**. Best wishes to her.

Most of you have also met **John Wilson** by now, the Barrier Methods Consultant. He is working hard to finalise the condom logistics system. Good luck.

The last good news is that in December 2 of our staff members got married. **Ernest Saila** is now the proud husband of Xoli, and Christinah Phaka is now **Mrs. Christinah Ledwaba**. May their married bliss continue!

We will keep you informed of further developments in our staff situation! We would also love to hear of staff changes in the Provincial AIDS Programmes!

2001: Time for Delivery

The year 2000 provided us with the opportunity to reflect on our HIV/AIDS interventions and plan for the future. Some of the important achievements in this regard were the development of the *HIV/AIDS/STD Strategic Plan for South Africa, 2000-2005*. From that strategic framework we have:

- ⓧ Hosted sectoral summits to popularise the Strategic Plan
- ⓧ Launched nine HIV/AIDS related guidelines, including the treatment of opportunistic infections
- ⓧ Developed a framework for the implementation of the MTCT programme in all nine provinces
- ⓧ Developed business plans relating to Home-Based Care, Voluntary Counselling and Testing, and Life Skills Education as part of the Integrated Plan for Children Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS (2000 – 2003).
- ⓧ Finalised negotiations with Pfizer on the Diflucan programme to provide

Fluconazole to HIV/AIDS patients with cryptococcal meningitis and oesophageal candidiasis.

2001 now marks the time for delivery on these plans developed in 2000. All of these programmes are due for implementation within the next 3 months. This is a very exciting development, as it provides for an opportunity to make a real meaningful intervention into the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang clearly stated that we need to shift our emphasis from prevention activities only, and focus much more on care and support programmes. These programmes allow us to deliver on that instruction.

Useful information

For those with access to the Internet, there are several useful sites to visit. These include the following:

www.redribbon.co.za

www.gov.za (very useful for government documents, including the Strategic Plan)

www.unaids.org (there are very good graphics on the site to be used in presentations)

www.hivnet.ch

www.ias.se

www.unicef.org

www.ahi.co.za (for documents on how to compile HIV/AIDS workplace policies and programmes)

If you have come across some other sites that you think may be of interest, please let us know.

Also note that the Department has changed servers, and that in future our e-mail addresses are **@health.gov.za**. For most of use the user ID has remained the same, so it should be

easy to contact us. Please note however that Dr. Simelela's address is now simeln@health.gov.za.

That is it for the first newsletter of this year. We hope to be able to distribute this short newsletter every 2 weeks to provide you with some feedback on what is happening from the national office. If you would like to have provincial activities added to this letter, please feel free to submit them for inclusion. The more information we can share the better we will be able to be effective and efficient in our service delivery.

Best wishes



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