



HIV/AIDS NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER FROM THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND TB PROGRAMME, PRETORIA

1 June 2001

EDITOR'S NOTES

For contributions, please submit contributions and suggestions to serenc@health.gov.za.

STAFF MATTERS

Happy birthday to Dr. Ayanda Ntsaluba, Director-General, who celebrated his birthday on 31 May.

FOCUS ON FREE STATE

Today the focus is on the Free State province, and some of the work that has been going on in the HIV/AIDS unit in that province. Thank you to Sam Mohata for the information.

The following section thus provides only brief details of progress in HIV/AIDS in the Free State. For further information please contact Sam Mohata, Deputy Director: HIV/AIDS on e-mail mohatas@doh.ofs.gov.za.

IEC

The unit is finalising the media strategy that will include information on VCT and the ABC message. The main radio stations and community radio stations flight regular HIV/AIDS messages.

Also, over 200 000 posters and other promotional materials have been distributed.

More than 300 000 condoms have been distributed in the first 3 months of 2001 via the medical depot, the 3 ATICCs and 4 other sites.

Government AIDS Action Plan (GAAP)

This unit provides secretarial support to the Free State Provincial AIDS Council (FSPAC), the Inter-Ministerial Committee on HIV/AIDS as well as the Interdepartmental Committee on HIV/AIDS.

This unit also provides support to campaigns of other departments, such as the Public Works Taxi Drive Against HIV/AIDS.

NGO Funding

Aside from the NGOs funded from the national Department, the province has set aside R1 million for the funding of 83 provincial NGOs. In addition training and capacity building workshops have been held with 40 NGOs.

STDs and Condoms

The new Logistics Management Information system for condoms is being implemented in the province. No shortages of condoms were experienced in the first 3 months of 2001.

District Coordinators are trained in syndromic management of STIs and drug availability is monitored closely.

VCT

Master trainers have been selected and trained, as well as 25 lay counsellors. These lay counsellors will support the MTCT programme.

Integrated Plan

The unit provides secretarial and coordination support for the elements of the Integrated Plan (HBC, VCT and Life Skills). These meetings are attended by Health, Education and



Welfare to ensure proper integration in planning and implementation.

DIFLUCAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Diflucan Partnership Programme came into being on 1 December 2001 when the Minister Of Health and Pfizer entered into an agreement for the donation of the drug Diflucan (Fluconazole) for the treatment of cryptococcal meningitis and oesophageal candidiasis in the public sector. This donation programme also extends to Correctional Services and the SA Medical & Health Services (the armed forces).

The drug has now been made available in all provinces. In this first phase it is only distributed in selected facilities, until such time as healthcare workers are trained in the diagnosis and management of these 2 conditions in the smaller health facilities.

The Minister of Health was very keen for the donation programme to not only focus on the drug alone, but also that it should also address broader issues of healthcare delivery. Thus, Pfizer, as part of the agreement, also funds this training. Training is taking place in all of the provinces.

This Diflucan Partnership Programme is now gaining momentum, and the Minister of Health is very happy about the very real benefits it has had up to now, as well as the future benefits to be gained.

If anyone would like further information on this programme, please contact the tollfree number for questions (0800 343 582), or visit the website www.dpp.org.za

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

May saw the conclusion of phase one of a comprehensive initiative to build

the capacity of Local Government to manage HIV/AIDS. In phase one two master trainers per province were trained on HIV/AIDS awareness and advocacy. For phase two a training plan was developed according to which by November 2001 in each local authority one councillor and one official will be trained.

To ensure a successful rollout, the HIV/AIDS Chief Directorate works closely with the South African Local Government Association on this project. The project prepares the ground for two other important initiatives, firstly, the development of planning guidelines by the Department of Provincial and Local Government, which integrates HIV/AIDS in development planning. The second is the initiative by the National Population Unit to train 1500 key government planners on HIV/AIDS planning.

The HIV/AIDS Chief Directorate has spent much effort to improve coordination between the national role players. More work needs to be done to involve provincial HIV/AIDS programmes.

For more information, contact Niko Knigge on (012) 312-0022.

SAD FAREWELL

This may be the last newsletter before the departure of Ken Yamashita from USAID for South America.

Ken has been a very dear friend to the Department of Health, and the HIV/AIDS programme specifically. His willingness to assist the programme, often at short notice, was commendable. We look forward to working with his replacement, but in the meantime bid Ken a sad farewell!!



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