



Professor Brian O'Connell, Chairperson of the HESA-HEAIDS Strategy Group, and Mr Chief Mabizela, Chief Director for University Policy and Development at the Department of Higher Education and Training, launch the *HIV Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Higher Education* at a summit of HIV programme leaders on 29 August. The M&E Framework is designed to measure progress against the objectives of the *Policy and Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS for Higher Education*, which was launched on 29 November 2012, and provides for 23 routine indicators and 10 periodic indicators. These were finalised at a national consultation workshop of institutional programmes in April. "The M&E Framework represents a significant milestone in the development of a cohesive sector response to HIV," Professor O'Connell said on its launch.

## Boost to integrate HIV/AIDS in curricula

HEAIDS has received a grant of close to R25 million from the National Skills Fund to skill academic staff at public universities and Further Education and Training (FET) colleges to integrate and address HIV and AIDS issues in curricula.

The funding was announced by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduduzi Manana, at a strategy summit of higher education HIV programme managers in August.

"Our universities and colleges, like all other institutions of society, cannot escape the social responsibility to engage with the challenges of South Africa," the Deputy Minister said.

"It raises the role and responsibility of our teachers in the pressing matters of our society and in the lives of our students," he said.

"Through this intervention our graduating students will also be equipped to make a difference in the productive sectors of our economy and society as a whole in relation to HIV and AIDS," he added. HEAIDS research has shown that graduates do not feel that their education prepared them to deal with HIV and AIDS in the workplace.

The National Skills Fund grant will be used to assist lecturers to incorporate modules of HIV and AIDS into teaching programmes across disciplines. This builds on the work undertaken by

HEAIDS since 2008, which has included a teacher education pilot project in 2008; an investigation in 2009 into the role of educators in mitigating HIV/AIDS and the skills and knowledge required; and an assessment of curricular responses in 2010.

"We are delighted to now be in a position to practically build on what many faculties, schools and departments have already been engaged with and to ensure this important intervention on a systematic basis right across the higher education and training sector," Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia, Director of HEAIDS, said.

Professor Naydene de Lange, Research Chair of HIV and AIDS Education at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, said addressing HIV/AIDS through the academic curriculum required moving from efforts that only include stand-alone modules, and called for the introduction of "appropriate pedagogies" across a wide variety of disciplines.

"The transformation of the curriculum to integrate HIV and AIDS issues will require academics to seriously rethink how this can be attained in a way that will promote the critical engagement of young people around these topics, and in ways that will enable academics to cope with the challenges of teaching in the age of AIDS," she said. ■

## FROM THE HEAD and the heart



Fresh from Harris Manchester College in Oxford, England where I was invited to present a paper on the impact of BRICS nations to a global health response at a time of decreasing Western funding on Health Innovation, I was pleased to hear of the support of the National Skills Fund, as was announced by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training on 29 August, to capacitate academics to integrate HIV/AIDS in curricula. This fulfils the findings of a HEAIDS study that was undertaken in Phase 2 of the programme and is proof certainly of our own Government's commitment, within the BRICS bloc, to a comprehensive response to the pandemic.

It has always been my vision that two million young South Africans within higher education, if capacitated with knowledge of HIV and AIDS, can help transform the nation. This knowledge is not to be limited to just communication messages, but to deeper knowledge of the disease that learning and curricula may address. A simple example is of a young engineer, newly out of varsity, who through our teaching will be able understand his or her construction workers who may be living with HIV or be affected in some form. One graduate could engage at least 25 people from his family, neighbourhood and work place. Imagine the two million of our students each making this individual impact.

Allow me to call on all the stakeholders of our sector to project this vision by supporting the initiative to integrate HIV/AIDS in our curricula for a wide ranging and long term impact on the pandemic.

*Ramneek*

The Higher Education HIV/AIDS Programme (HEAIDS) is an initiative of the Department of Higher Education and Training that is undertaken by Higher Education South Africa (HESA), the representative body of South Africa's 23 public Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

HEAIDS' mission is to support the Higher Education sector in responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to mitigate its impact on HEIs and correspondingly on society as a whole.

# Higher Education Health and HIV/AIDS National Strategy Summit

At the request of some institutional programmes for assistance with implementing the sector's *Policy and Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS for Higher Education*, which was launched on 29 November 2012, HEAIDS convened a strategy summit of the leaders of institutional programmes on 29 and 30 August to discuss needs and priorities and the available support facilities that HEAIDS has recently secured.

The Policy and Strategic Framework reaffirms the sector's policy commitment to respond to HIV and AIDS on a comprehensive, effective and human rights basis and practically guides institutional programmes in this through the declared mission of higher education institutions: teaching and learning; research and innovation; and community engagement.

While the Policy and Strategic Framework projects a comprehensive range of interventions, its implementation is dependent on institutional programme capacity and priorities. The summit workshop aimed to identify institutional and sector programme needs on the basis of local situational analyses – including epidemic drivers, programme priorities, challenges and successes.



Summit delegates discuss HIV risks to students at universities, including sex without a condom, multiple sexual partnerships, and intergenerational sex - underpinned by factors like gender inequalities and drug and alcohol abuse.

The summit also advised on the in-kind and grant support that HEAIDS has recently secured to promote some aspects of institutional programmes. These include the National Skills Fund grant to support academics to integrate HIV and AIDS in curricula, and a Nacosa (Networking

HIV/AIDS Community of South Africa) supported initiative to develop programmes to address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexed (LGBTI) students and staff at higher education institutions. (See report below on the *Nacosa programme*). ■

## March for LGBTI rights

About 100 students from Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) marched in support of their constitutional right to sexual orientation in May, presenting a memorandum at the Umlazi police station that called for the training of police to deal with hate crimes and for the promulgation of anti-hate crimes laws that “clearly define” hate crime and that considers “correction of sexual orientation” an aggravating factor in rape cases.

The march took place as South Africa continues to experience brutal attacks against gay persons because of their sexual orientation. “We want to send a loud message to those that discriminate and abuse lesbians and gays that it will not be tolerated,” one marcher said.

Receiving the memorandum the Acting Station Commander, Colonel Soobrathi, assured the students the South African Police Service (SAPS) took their demands very seriously.

“Nobody has the right to discriminate against another on the basis of sexual orientation,” he said.

“Any member of SAPS that discriminates against anybody who comes to report a crime will be subject to disciplinary action.



Mangosuthu University of Technology students march in support of their constitutional right to sexual orientation.

“We encourage members of the LGBTI community to report any victimisation to us and assure you that we will do our best to bring perpetrators of corrective rape to justice,” he said.

The demonstration was organised by the university's Peer Educators under Student Health Services to raise awareness around the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersexed (LGBTI) persons.

HEAIDS Director, Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia, said the action contributed to creating an enabling environment that ensures a response to HIV and AIDS free of stigma and discrimination. ■

## MSM/LGBTI programme gets underway

A number of universities have begun with an electronic based Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey that forms Phase 1 of a Global Fund supported programme to promote an enabling environment and access to appropriate HIV treatment, care and prevention services for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersexed (LGBTI) persons at universities. This is in terms of a partnership HEAIDS has established with Networking HIV/AIDS Community of South Africa (Nacosa) for the roll out of the programme at 13 select universities. NACOSA, a network of some 1200 organisations working in the HIV, AIDS, TB and related social development fields, is a Principal Recipient of Round 9 of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Based on the KAP survey results, MSM/LGBTI friendly health services will be strengthened and established. This is to be driven by a funded full time Campus Programme Officer at each of the select universities.

Funding constraints presently allow for only a limited number of institutions to participate in the three year programme, but NACOSA has agreed to seek additional funding in the next Global Fund round to sustain the programme beyond March 2016 and to extend it to include the balance of public universities and possibly Further Education and Training colleges as well.

The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and TB identifies MSM/LGBTI persons as a key population to engage for a successful response to HIV. ■

# Advocacy workshops support Medical Male Circumcision roll out

Following the launch to promote the uptake of Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) as an HIV prevention measure at public universities and training colleges in May, some 14 institutions are already promoting the procedure, either at established facilities on campus or at government health facilities off campus. The programme is rolled out as part of the HIV prevention strategies at institutions, including through ongoing HCT programmes and the First Things First HCT campaign, or as a “stand-alone” intervention.

The programme is being rolled out with the partner support of the Department of Health (DOH), DramAidE, the Centre for HIV/AIDS Prevention Studies (CHAPS) and John Hopkins Health and Education in South Africa.

Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia, the Director of HEAIDS, calculated the cost to partners for each circumcision to be R950, excluding marketing material and other administrative costs.

The MMC promotion campaign is being supported by intensive regional advocacy workshops that address MMC as an HIV prevention measure;



Participants at a recent Medical Male Circumcision advocacy workshop in the Western Cape.

the promotion of demand at institutions; and the clinical and other capacities required for MMC.

“Medical Male Circumcision has been acknowledged to reduce the risk of contracting HIV by up to 60%,” Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia, the Director of HEAIDS said.

“As the Minister of Health has said, it is a key intervention that may help to achieve future HIV free generations.

“But consistent condom use is still necessary,” Ahluwalia cautioned, “because MMC is not totally

protective against HIV”.

Two weeks before MMC is to be made available at an institution, health promoters, with the support of DramAidE, mobilise students through a variety of activities. Individuals who wish to undergo the procedure are pre-booked by on-campus facilities and entered into queuing systems at the campus health facility or a nearby public health facility. The Department of Health may also set up campus MMC sites and provides roving MMC teams that include a doctor, professional nurse, assistant nurse

and lay counselors.

MMC takes place within a context of HIV prevention messaging and services that include HIV counselling and testing; STI assessment and treatment; post-operative wound care; HIV prevention counselling; and the provision of male and female condoms.

The advocacy workshops have stressed the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to record uptake and to improve the intervention for the future. ■

## Emotive testimonies at HEAIDS session in Durban

The HEAIDS Satellite Session on “key populations” at the 6th South African AIDS Conference in Durban on 19 June, themed “Being Key”, was driven by critical student testimonies that were as emotive as they were thoughtful. Panel respondents said there was a need to go beyond the “banality” of concepts like “transactional sex” in HIV/AIDS research and connect with deeper emotional realities. Other propositions arising from discussion included the following:

- key populations cannot be addressed in isolation of broader social, structural and institutional transformation issues like gender, poverty, pedagogy and diversity.

- programmes need to address formative socialisation processes related to masculinity, young women's sexuality, relationships and critical thinking.
- programmes need to be inclusive in approach and avoid heterosexual assumptions.
- the potential for stigmatisation of key populations calls for a strengthening of the human rights basis of HIV mitigation work and, the focus on key populations calls for the simultaneous addressing of all in society.
- young people's lives do not begin at university or college, and is on a continuum from school. Programmes should appreciate and bridge this. ■



Mondli Ngesi, student at Mangosuthu University of Technology, on MSM/LGBTI



Faith Busika, student at Wits University, on transactional sex



Nazo Tunzi, student at University of Pretoria, on young women



Xola Ngwenya, student at Durban University of Technology, on alcohol abuse

## Students offer New Hope

A remarkable forum in the Western Cape to address the concerns of students at university and further education institutions, the New Hope Summit (NHS), invited HEAIDS to its 2013 summit in August to facilitate a session on the collaboration between university and Further Education and Training (FET) college student leaders in implementing the national HIV/AIDS programme.

Initiated in 2010, NHS involves Boland College, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, False Bay College, Stellenbosch University, University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape. The theme of its summit was “Collaboration and partnership between institutions of Higher Education and Training in advocating for students' rights and responsibilities”.

HEAIDS received a host of ideas on the role SRCs could play in helping to mitigate HIV on campuses. ■

# First Things First for Western Cape FETs

The roll out of the First Things First HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign to Further Education and Training (FET) colleges in the Western Cape gained strength with a consultation meeting hosted at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) in July.

Student support managers from all six FET colleges in the Western Cape were invited to the meeting and responded positively to activating the campaign at their institutions, believing it would enhance the ongoing HIV prevention programs they implement. An evaluation in 2012 showed that the First Things First campaign added value to health initiatives on campus and contributed to students adopting a more responsible attitude to knowing their HIV status. Noticeable increases in

health seeking behaviour and uptakes in HCT, Health education and STI services were visible.

Among other objectives, the campaign provides a focus for the large scale mobilisation of institutions around HIV/AIDS, unites tens of thousands of students and staff across the country and improves scale, and helps create an environment for a stigma free response.

The campaign will be rolled out at the FETs as part of existing testing programs or as a "standalone" initiative. Partners to the campaign will provide assistance with mass communication materials and training in HCT and rapid finger testing. ■



## IN BRIEF

■ HEAIDS has been requested by the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) to facilitate nominations and elections of Higher Education sector representatives to the following structures:

- one representative for the National Civil Society Sector Forum;
- one representative each for the nine Provincial Aids Councils.

The Western Cape has already elected Ms Cal Volks, Director of the University of Cape Town's HIV/AIDS Institutional Coordination Unit, as Provincial Sector Leader to the Provincial AIDS Council.

■ The HIV and AIDS Education Community of Practice (COP), established in 2010 under the auspices of HEAIDS to foster inter-institutional collaboration and sharing of experiences between professional networks, is to convene a colloquium in Durban on 7 and 8 October to discuss "Digital Spaces and HIV and AIDS Integration".

■ The Sebokeng campus of the Sedibeng College for Further Education and Training in the Vaal successfully launched the First Things First HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign in August. It added a "talk" programme to the campaign to improve communication between lecturers and students. "Lengthy discussions were held on sex, crime and drug and alcohol abuse," said Pakiso Thulo, a Student Counsellor at the college. ■

## Creative CUT

Over 7 500 students took part in creative daily events at Central University of Technology's (CUT) 9th annual Wellness Week recently, which included HIV Counselling and Testing under the First Things First campaign banner.

Involving fun and games, Monday stretched the muscles with a focus on Physical Wellness; Tuesday, the mind, as it focused on Mental Wellness; Wednesday invoked drama, song, dance and poetry for Emotional Wellness; Thursday encouraged healthy social interaction amongst students and staff for Social Wellness; and Friday drove a powerful motivational message of responsibility by well-known actor and singer Loyiso Bala for Spiritual Wellness. ■

## Welcome Miriam Behrendt



HEAIDS welcomes Miriam Behrendt on a two year placement as Technical Advisor in Media and Communications.

Miriam's placement at HEAIDS is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), an agency that supports the German government in international

cooperation for sustainable development. Among its wide range of activities is a multi-sector HIV prevention programme.

Miriam is contracted to specifically explore a campus radio production training initiative and the development of social media strategies. She has worked as a journalist, presenter and presenting coach for campus radio stations for more than seven years, and gained extensive knowledge in social media, blogging and SEO content writing with one of Germany's biggest online publishing companies. Miriam holds a Master's Degree in Journalism and Culture Studies from Leipzig University in Eastern Germany and was a journalism exchange student at Stellenbosch University in 2009.

HEAIDS looks forward to the sector benefiting from Miriam's placement with HEAIDS. ■