

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

During 2002 the NPPHCN continued to persevere its vision of promoting the health and well-being of South Africans, a healthy environment and a public health care system shaped by, and responsive to, the health and development needs of communities. A difficult operating environment including severe financial constraints and the loss of key personnel represented challenges that tested the organization.

The health sector

The main feature that characterized involvement in the health sector in 2002 was the ongoing consultation and engagement with NGO and civil society organization by the NPPHCN in role of health sector representative at the WSSD for SANGOCO. This involved NPPHCN in a range of public hearing and consultations that are described in more details in the body report. This work will move forward in 2003 through WHO programmes like the World Health Day and health cities initiative.

Governance issues

Following the resignation of Hazy Sibanyoni as director, the National Executive Committee requested Frayne Furniss Mathijs to fill the position of director in a caretaker capacity for duration of the transformation process. I would like to acknowledge the leadership and support provided by my fellow board members:

Dr. Thobile Mbengashe – Deputy chairperson Eleanor Kunene – Treasurer Dr. Thabo Sibeko – General Secretary Frayne Furniss Mathijs - Director

Looking forward

While we appreciate our years of involvement and the many relationships we have been privileged to enjoy as trustees over the years us looking forward to the re-launch of the NPPHCN in its new incarnation and to welcoming the new trustees. Many of them have been part of the development of progressive primary health care in South Africa.

The Church Youth

The NPPHCN has used lesson learnt in its long history of working with youth and faith based organisations to develop the Church Youth HIV/AIDS project.

HIV/AIDS Project

In our rural areas if you have HIV/AIDS most of the people think that you have been having more than one sexual partner. They discriminate against and isolate you and do not want to accept you. So you end up being an outcast. This project helped to turn peoples mind not to judge you, instead they must give their support. Lubabalo Mpukula, Madladleni, Eastern Cape

Dance and a positive self-image, and developing communication and interpersonal skill to help young people to take control of their sexual and reproductive health. They also received training on providing care and support to infected individuals and affected households. Organic techniques were chosen for their sustainability and low input requirements, and their ability to recycle domestic waste, conserve water and energy, and improve soil fertility. Volunteers received comprehensive training covering basic

principles of organic agriculture, soil fertility, pest control, household food security, preventive nutrition and health care environmental issues.

People in the community welcomed the food security initiative and NPPHCN has held a number of four-day training courses on organic food gardening in association with the food gardens foundation.

The project engage in a range of other activities to increase awareness including Youth Day, World AIDS Day and an interfaith seminar. It has also produced a newsletter, track suits for peer educators and stakeholder representatives and a video to inform people about the project.

A mid-term evaluation of the project conducted during 2002 provided a valuable assessment of progress far.

Advocacy

Advocacy for health rights, primary health care and increased equity in health services is a key area of the NPPHCNs work. Highlights for 2002 included its ongoing relationship with the National and Gauteng department of health and its involvement in the preparations for the WSSD as the civil society representative for the health sector on the South African NGO coalition (SANGOCO).

NPPHCN has an ongoing engagement with the national department of health. During the course of 2002 it provided training on health rights for the Directorate of Quality Assurance. The organization continues to attend some meetings of the health portfolio committee of the Gauteng Provincial assembly, and to participate in the Gauteng Programme of Action for Children (incorporating A World Fit for Children).

In addition the NPPHCN represented the health sector on the South African NGO coalition (SANGOCO) in the preparations for the WSSD and, at the invitation of the national department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism gave a presentation to parliament on civil society Priorities for the health sector at the WSSD.

NPPHCN has tried to compensate through its participation in a wide range of government and non-government forums to promote health rights and primary health care. In addition to those already mentioned, NPPHCN collaborated with a variety of other organisations and structures including the Reproductive Rights Alliance, the Aids Consortium, and the Women's National Coalition. NPPHCN has also used these forums to continue its advocacy work on health rights and on promoting the Health Rights Chapter.