



COHSASA NEWS BULLETIN

The Council for Health Service Accreditation of Southern Africa Winter 2004

Mpumalanga DOH enters all its hospitals into COHSASA programme



Lead players in the effort to improve the quality of service provision in Mpumalanga are (from left): Dr Keith Michael, Chief Director: Hospital Services, Mr Hussain Verachia, Head of the Department of Health and Professor Stuart Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA.

The Mpumalanga Province Department of Health has entered all 26 of its hospitals into the Council for Health Service Accreditation of Southern Africa (COHSASA) Facilitated Accreditation Programme.

The Facilitated Accreditation Programme (FAP) was introduced to all facility managers at a function at the Witbank Hospital recently. Welcoming delegates to the meeting, Dr Keith Michael, Chief Director of Hospital Services, said that the decision to enter Mpumalanga hospitals into the COHSASA programme was "a milestone in the history of our department. It is the start of a three-year relationship with our partners, COHSASA, and we are embarking

on this programme with a specific goal: to improve the quality of services available in our facilities." He said the journey to an improvement in services would not necessarily be "a sweet one but a necessary one".

Head of the Health Department, Mr Hussain Verachia, also described the entry of Mpumalanga into the accreditation programme as an historical turning point in the department's history and away from its "traumatic past".

"It appeared that this Department of Health had reached a dead end. When I came here, almost everything we investigated revealed a festering sore. But a lot has changed: we have advertised over 1000 posts and we have appointed 800 members of staff, including 150 doctors. Our Community Health Centres now function optimally as 24/7 facilities and at Shongwe Hospital – where only nine doctors had once been available – there are now 25." ☞

Keeping you in touch with us

The COHSASA Bulletin is designed to keep you up to date with developments at the Council and with healthcare quality issues in general. It is also hoped that you will give us feedback on what you would like to see in the Bulletin. Please let us know what you think about the Bulletin as a means of keeping you in touch with COHSASA.

If you wish to have the COHSASA Bulletin sent to you, please let us know at info@cohsasa.co.za

We are also collaborating with the National Department of Health to develop an assessment tool for the district sites where HIV and AIDS patients will receive treatment.

The aim of the AHDP is to develop a methodology, based on continuous quality improvement processes, that will assist and enable healthcare facilities and services to meet organisational standards aimed at the holistic management of HIV and AIDS patients.

It will also measure the impact of the antiretroviral programme on HIV and non-HIV patients, the facilities and services that provide their care, and on the staff who run them.

He emphasised that Mpumalanga's journey into the provision of quality care meant that there would be a concerted drive to ensure that people would be treated with dignity at the provincial facilities, where the principles of the *Batho Pele* programme would be taken seriously – and implemented seriously.

"To achieve quality means that we will all have to work hard and commit ourselves to this process. We will need to perform beyond the call of duty so that we leave a legacy behind us. We have a tremendous opportunity to improve the quality of service provided in this province if we work with COHSASA," he said.

The programme for the day featured several speakers, including Professor Stuart Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA. Professor Whittaker gave an outline of the Facilitated Accreditation Programme and emphasised that the hospitals – in tandem with COHSASA – needed to take ownership not only of the accreditation programme itself but also of the concept of continuous quality improvement.

Professor I Moodley, director of the Health Outcomes Research Unit School of Family and Public Health Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, gave an outline of the MESOL component of the Health Executive Training Programme, one of several training modules that staff in Mpumalanga would undergo to supplement their learning and knowledge in order to implement the COHSASA programme as effectively as possible and derive full benefit from it. ■

COHSASA part of international HIV/AIDS standards initiative

Professor Stuart Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA attended a meeting at the World Health Organisation Headquarters in Geneva recently. The international forum was planned by the HIV care team of the HIV and AIDS Department at WHO HQ to establish accreditation guidelines and standards for HIV/AIDS care across the continuum of care.

COHSASA has been an active contributor in this international initiative to develop a set of standards and guidelines for the management and treatment of HIV and AIDS. Our Accelerated HIV and AIDS Development Programme (AHDP) has been piloted at two KwaZulu-Natal hospitals and it is hoped that the standards will be published towards the end of the year.



A doctor examines a baby at one of the hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal where COHSASA is piloting standards for the management of HIV/AIDS patients across the continuum of care. ■

Work in progress ...



Representatives from the NDOH, North West, Free State and Mpumalanga Departments of health at the COHSASA workshop in Cape Town.

SIXTEEN hospitals in North West Province undergoing COHSASA's Facilitated Accreditation Programme have been surveyed to assess their compliance with the National Department of Health's Norms and Standards for District Hospitals. This assessment has so far excluded the competencies of professional staff, which is still being piloted. The required evaluation criteria were discussed at a workshop attended by representatives from the National Department of Health, the North West, Free State and Mpumalanga provinces and COHSASA's technical consultants. The outcome hoped for in assessing competency is to provide health authorities with some idea of the current extent and level of skills available in local hospitals.

Nala Hospital accredited



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

ME SC Mofokeng - Chief Professional Nurse, ME M Ruiters - Chief Professional Nurse and Steering Committee Drywer, ME K Maloisane - Head of Nursing, Nala District Hospital, ME B Molehe - Elementdrywer of Housekeeping and Laundry, DR. C.A.K. Makada, General Manager NFS, MR Johannes Machatola - Chairperson of Hospital Board, ME ND Jordaan, CEO: Thusanong, Nala and Mohau Complex. MR AMJ Van Der Merwe - Head Administrative Support, Thusanong, Nala and Mohau Complex. MR MC Maoba - Senior Admin. Officer, Nala District Hospital, Prof Stuart Whittaker, ME MD Mokotjo Head of Nursing, Thusanong, Nala and Mohau Complex. ME Makappa - Hospital Board Member.

Over 200 guests and members of staff assembled at Nala Hospital to celebrate its accreditation on 28 May 2004. In his speech Professor Whittaker said that this momentous achievement was the result of teamwork at a number of different levels. He said that the accreditation had come about due to an initiative of the Free State Department of Health, under the inspired leadership of Dr Victor Lithakanyane, which demonstrated the Department's commitment to quality and excellence in health care.

Nala Hospital and Bongani Hospital are two hospitals in a batch of 12 (19 more hospitals

have since been entered into a second contract with the Free State Department of Health) to be accredited by COHSASA since

COHSASA News Bulletin is keen to publish Quality Improvement Programmes that have helped you in your facility operations. If you believe you have a QIP worth publishing, please send it to info@cohsasa.co.za for consideration. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive this Bulletin, please send a request to this same address and we will add you to our list.

Death of a distinguished doctor

Dr Ivan McCusker, Chairman of the Board of Directors of COHSASA, passed away on Sunday 4 April 2004 after several months of ill health. He had been Chairman of the Board since 27 November 1998 and had served as a Board member from November 1995.

Dr McCusker had a long and distinguished career in medicine in South Africa. He was Chairman of the Committee for Professional Development of the Professional Board of Medicine and Dentistry of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and Chief Surgeon and Head of Clinical Care at No 2 Military Hospital in Cape Town from 1987 to 1998.

He was also a Member of the National Council and Board of Directors of the South African Medical Association and the Past Chairman and President of the Northern Transvaal (Limpopo) and Western Cape Branches of the South African Medical Association.



"Dr McCusker's commitment and dedication to COHSASA went far beyond the call of duty and his untiring support over the last eight years will be greatly missed," said Professor Stuart Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA. ■

the Province first entered the programme in June 2001.

Paying homage to various leaders who had made the accreditation at Nala Hospital possible, Professor Whittaker said, "My work in different countries around the world has made me realise that South Africa is one of the world leaders in using the power of quality improvement and accreditation processes to improve service delivery in hospitals as they strive to meet standards.

"The certificates that are being awarded reflect an evolutionary process, not only in South Africa but throughout the world. Your hospital is a pioneer in the quality revolution spreading around the globe and which is likely to gather momentum. I salute you and the leadership in this province. You are indeed at the forefront of excellence within this country's healthcare system." ■ - 2 -

COHSASA develops standards for the management of HIV/AIDS

Dr Steve Andrews has been appointed as the Director of the HIV/AIDS programmes for COHSASA.

Dr Andrews MBChB (UCT) MCFP (SA) is a leading Southern African HIV clinician with extensive experience in the research, design and implementation of the clinical, industrial and policy aspects of HIV management. He is an elected member of the Southern African HIV Clinicians Executive Committee and a senior medical advisor to various AIDS interventions, including the AID for AIDS Program, The Open Society Foundation, the Road Freight Association Roadside Clinic Programme, Médecins sans Frontières Khayelitsha Antiretroviral Programme and many others.

Dr Andrews and a COHSASA team have developed a set of standards for the management of HIV/AIDS across the continuum of care, which is being piloted in KwaZulu-Natal.

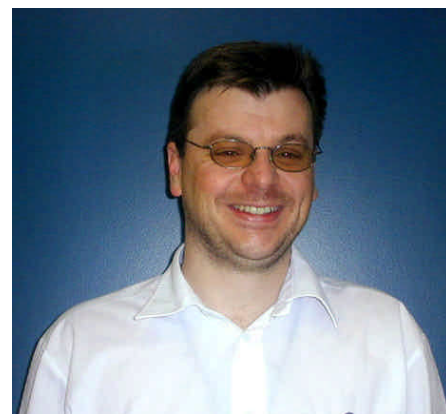
The standards are being developed with the support of, and in consultation with, the National Department of Health and provincial health departments. Funding for the standard development process is being provided by the German Society for

Technical Co-operation – Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH. The initiative is being co-ordinated by the World Health Organisation.

The aim of the AHDP (Accelerated HIV/AIDS Development Programme) is to develop a methodology, based on continuous quality improvement processes, that will assist and enable healthcare facilities and services to meet organisational standards for the holistic management of HIV and AIDS patients, based on the National Department of Health's Operational Plan for Comprehensive Care and Treatment of HIV and AIDS, including the Antiretroviral Rollout Programme.

The AHDP will also measure the impact of the antiretroviral programme on HIV and non-HIV patients, the facilities and services that provide their care, and on the staff who run them.

Dr Andrews has held a series of intensive training workshops for COHSASA facilitators who will soon be going out into the field to assist with the implementation of the AIDS/HIV Development Programme (AHDP).



Dr Steve Andrews, one of the country's most experienced HIV/AIDS clinicians

The training modules covered the following areas:

- Introduction to HIV and AIDS in South Africa – epidemiology and impact
- Natural history of HIV/Virology/Immunology
- Introduction to the management of HIV and ARV drug classes
- Using ARVs in therapy and in post-exposure prophylaxis and prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
- Adherence to ARVs and resistance
- Roundtable on the AHDP standards ■

improvement will be catalogued in COHSASA's database.

Models for excellence are to be established and, using COHSASA's comprehensive data, areas of care across regions will be identified for improvement.

COHSASA will provide regular reports that will evaluate the quality improvement efforts and identify indicators for measuring impact. The two organisations will combine their efforts to develop a palliative care monitoring and evaluation system via a pilot study.

The initiative has begun with the standards workshop conducted recently at COHSASA HQ in Pinelands, which was attended by the Chairman of the HPCA, Professor JP van Niekerk, Emeritus Professor of the University of Cape Town Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Frans Taljaard, COHSASA's Standards Developer, Professor Stuart Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA, and members of the national board of directors of the HPCA. ■

Work begins on the development of standards for the palliative care of HIV and AIDS patients



Attending the one-day workshop at COHSASA were (from left): Kath Defilippi, Sue Cameron, Professor Stuart Whittaker, Dr Liz Gwyther, Claire Wylie, Joan Marston, Josef Lazarus, Andre Wagner and Professor JP van Niekerk, Chairperson of Hospice Palliative Care Association

Representatives of the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA) attended a one-day workshop at COHSASA head office, "Using Standards to Improve the Quality of Hospice Care", to take the process of improving palliative care to AIDS patients in South Africa yet another step further.

The Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA), founded in 1988 and now supporting and co-ordinating the activities of 55 hospices in the country, has embarked on an ambitious programme to set standards for auditing the quality of care delivery among its individual members.

The HPCA has entered into a memorandum of agreement with COHSASA to assist with the development of standards for the palliative care of patients and families facing terminal illness. The set of standards will be piloted at various member hospices around the country.

A recent R35-million grant awarded by President George Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) – which is providing \$15-billion to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in 14 of the world's most affected countries – means that within five years the HPCA will be reaching 800 000 people (as opposed to 153 000 in 2002) via a range of services that include community-based home care, augmented by palliative day-care centres and in-patient units for terminal patients, bereavement counselling and education and training.

The HPCA and COHSASA will develop standards for palliative care, including the care of children, and for the management and good governance of hospices, and will conduct an audit of member hospices to assess levels of compliance and award accreditation. In the process of undergoing an accreditation programme, strengths and weaknesses will be identified in individual hospices and recommendations for

"There is no doubt that this is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and it's going to require constant and concerted commitment from everyone if we're going to have a chance to defeat it. I think the limits of what we can accomplish in eradicating AIDS and its consequences are defined only by the limits of our collective moral imagination." –
Ambassador Randall L Tobias, Global AIDS Co-ordinator

COLLABORATION BETWEEN NHS AND COHSASA



(From left): CEO of COHSASA, Professor Stuart Whittaker, Ms Catherine Hannaway, Dr Michael Porte, Ms Jan Harry, Dr Michael Deakin and Mrs Penny Humphris

Four senior doctors and managers from Britain's National Health Service (NHS) arrived in South Africa recently to spend approximately three weeks participating in projects in hospitals currently undergoing accreditation programmes with the Council of Health Service Accreditation of Southern Africa. After an intense day's briefing at the

Council's Cape Town head office, the group split up, with two members headed for Bloemfontein and two for Durban.

Dr Michael Deakin, Director of Public Health of Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, and Ms Jan Harry, Director of Clinical Standards, Mid Staffordshire District General Hospitals NHS Trust, joined COHSASA members of staff who were piloting standards for the Accelerated HIV and AIDS Development Programme at King Edward Hospital in Durban.

Dr Michael Porte, Medical Director and Consultant Radiologist to the York NHS Trust, and Ms Catherine Hannaway, Programme Director of the Leading Modernisation Programme of the NHS Modernisation Agency, went to the Free State where they took an in-depth look at the External Survey results and familiarised themselves with the accreditation process at Pelonomi Hospital.

On their return to Cape Town (and between sightseeing tours of the Free State Golden Gate and Cape Point), the group reassembled to meet with Penny Humphris, director of the NHS Leadership Centre for a 'lessons learnt' feedback session.

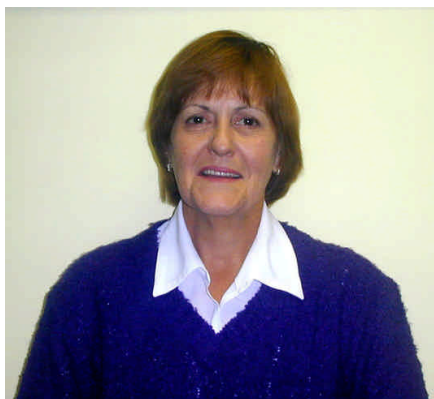


It began with an idea: Penny Humphris of the NHS Leadership Centre, Stuart Whittaker and a young patient at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Provincial Hospital.

After 18 years at Groote Schuur she moved into a nursing management position in the private sector until she joined COHSASA in 1999. She has facilitated the COHSASA accreditation programme in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo and has been responsible for training COHSASA facilitators and members of the DOH quality assurance units in various provinces.

"Lyn has made an important contribution to the improvement of health facilities in South Africa. Her tireless wanderings to all corners of this country, on very bad roads at all hours of the day and night to empower facility staff to meet standards has been commendable," said Professor Stuart Whittaker, CEO of COHSASA. ■

Not quite retired ...



Lyn Rayment

Chief Facilitator of COHSASA, Mrs Lyn Rayment (née Stanford), has decided that she has had enough bushwhacking and airline food and will be setting up her easel above Kommetjie beach on the Cape Peninsula to channel her artistic energies onto canvas.

COHSASA, however, will not be losing her invaluable expertise and experience altogether, as she has plans to continue with external surveys and to produce resource manuals and guidelines for facilitators and healthcare facilities.

For those of you who were not quite sure why Lyn came across with such confident authority, here's some background. After training as a general nurse at Grey Hospital, Kingwilliamstown, she did her midwifery training at the Peninsula Maternity Hospital. She worked with Prof Chris Barnard and was in charge of his ward and intensive care units at Groote Schuur Hospital.

By the tender age of 26 she was appointed as Nursing Service Manager in charge of all the intensive care units at Groote Schuur Hospital and went on to obtain her Nursing Education Diploma at the University of Cape Town. She then tutored post-basic intensive nursing science diploma students at Groote Schuur Hospital and was promoted to Principal Matron for Intensive Care Units at this hospital.

Lyn transferred to the Planning and Commissioning Unit for the New Groote Schuur Hospital to liaise between heads of departments and architects and, during this period, spent time in the United Kingdom studying the commissioning of hospitals.

Are you aware that:

- ★ COHSASA has worked with over 400 health facilities in Southern Africa
- ★ Works in six of the nine provinces of South Africa
- ★ Is accredited by ISQUA



The NHS blows in ...



UK guests from the National Patient Safety Agency visit Tafelsig Clinic with City Council officials. From left: Dr Helene Visser, Manager of Quality Assurance and Specialised Services for the City of Cape Town, Dr Brian Chute, District Manager, and visiting UK guests, Susan Burnett and Martin Fletcher

Collaboration with the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS) has increased in the past six months and there have been several visits from the northern hemisphere. Representatives from the National Health Service's National Patient Safety Agency paid a two-day visit to the COHSASA head office. During this time Martin Fletcher and Susan Burnett were updated on COHSASA's work and visited

Medi-Clinic's Panorama Hospital and Tafelsig Clinic in Mitchell's Plain – both COHSASA - accredited facilities. The visit was part of an information-gathering exercise to forge potential links between this special body of the UK's National Health System and COHSASA, with the ultimate aim of creating a viable reporting system for adverse events in South African hospitals. ■

Meet our field staff

Every issue we will introduce you to one of our field staff members so that when they arrive at your hospital you will have some idea who they are!



Basil Bloch, Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Cape Town, is COHSASA's Director of Clinical Audit Programmes and has been instrumental in encouraging

doctors to become involved in the accreditation process at participating hospitals.

Professor Bloch has held distinguished posts in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Cape Town, where he was head of the department.

He is a former regional Chairman and is a fellow and member of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, a former chairman and member of the South African College of Medicine, Founder and Chairman of the Gynaecological Oncology Society, President of the Cancer Association of South Africa and Council Member of the International Union against Cancer.

Professor Bloch is an international guest lecturer, principal author and co-author of 58 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and editor-in-chief and contributing editor to some nine books on gynaecology/oncology. ■

New Board members



Mr Albert N Ramukumba, B.Dent. Ther (Hons), AMP (Manchester), PDH (UCT), PG Dip. in HIV/AIDS (Medunsa) –

representing the Hospital Association of South Africa (HASA) – has recently been appointed to the COHSASA Board of Directors. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of HASA and President of the Dental Therapist Association of South Africa.

Also invited to serve on the COHSASA Board of Directors in view of his skills in the field of quality assurance is **Dr Louis D Claassens**, Director of Quality



Assurance for the National Department of Health. His appointment was approved at the Annual General meeting in March 2004.



Thami Bolani

Another recent appointment is Mr **Thami Bolani**, Chairperson of the National Consumer Forum (NCF), who will serve as this organisation's representative on COHSASA's Board. ■

Three-year accreditations for Cape Town City clinics

In a first for the City of Cape Town, three clinics and one environmental health office have been awarded three-year accreditation. They are Chapel Street Clinic, Tafelsig Clinic, Hanover Park Clinic and the Green Point Environmental Health Office.



Staff of the Chapel Street Clinic celebrate their three-year accreditation award. They are (from left): Glynnis Schreuder, Clinic Manager; Ms Beverley Phillips, Administrative Assistant; Mrs Brenda van Niekerk, Area Manager; Mr Alex Godden, Sub-district Manager; Eugene Basson, General Assistant; Dr Ivan Toms, Director: City Health and Dr Helene Visser, Manager: Quality Assurance and Specialised Services. ■ - 5 -

Meet our facilitators

Petro De Beer rejoined COHSASA as a facilitator after a short break. Throughout the 1980s and 90s, she gathered extensive nursing experience and has held senior positions in both provincial and private hospitals. She was the manager for the Donor Division of the SA Blood Transfusion Services, Community Health Nurse and Occupational Health Nurse for the City Council Of Pretoria, Clinical Manager and Call Centre manager for Access Africa and Clinical Manager and Call Centre manager for Sanlam Health. She has been a product specialist for the medical software company, ICM, and was Manager of the AIDS Training and Information Centre in Pretoria. ■



British health VIP visits Tafelsig Clinic



Dr Dame Kalene Davis

It's not often that the Tafelsig Clinic in Mitchell's Plain, accredited by COHSASA for three years, gets to host a Dame Commander of the British Empire, but that is precisely what happened recently when Dr Dame Kalene Davis, General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives (RCM), made a whistle-stop tour to Cape Town and included the clinic as part of her itinerary.

She was accompanied by her Director Learning Research and Practice Development of the RCM, Frances Day-Stirk, who co-ordinates the College's international affairs and represents the College on national and international forums.

The two visitors were escorted around Tafelsig Clinic and introduced to members of the staff who showed them the work being done in the community to manage TB, HIV and AIDS and other chronic conditions.

Dame Karlene was impressed by what she saw and in conversation with senior staff it emerged that, despite resource constraints, the clinic has set up an excellent TB-monitoring service and has a vision to spread its health-promotion activities more widely in the surrounding Mitchell's Plain community. ■

New COHSASA Board Chairperson appointed



COHSASA's new Chairperson, Ms Grissel Ncedana

Ms Grissel Ncedana (RN BA Cur), the Deputy Director of Nursing Services at the Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital Complex and COHSASA's Technical Adviser for Hospital Nursing Services, has been elected as the Chairperson of the COHSASA Board.

Ms Ncedana, who believes that COHSASA has a significant role to play in the transformation of hospital services and equity of access, has served on COHSASA's Board and the Technical Committee since 1996.

Her qualifications include general nursing, a diploma in Midwifery and Intensive Nursing Science and a BA Cur, with majors in Nursing Administration and Community Health Nursing Science.

She was the Nursing Service Manager at provincial head office in Pretoria from 1990 to 1993 and transferred to Tshepong Hospital in June 1993 as the Senior Nursing Service Manager. In 1996 she became the Deputy Director: Nursing for the Klerksdorp/Tshepong Hospital Complex, the position that she currently holds.

She served in the Provincial Bargaining Council from 1996 to 1998 and was a member of – and chairperson from 1999 to 2000 – of the North West Provincial Clinical Investigating Committee.

Her vision for the role of COHSASA is to ensure that optimal quality of service delivery at health facilities is achieved and maintained. ■

Snippets

- A workshop on the National Norms and Standards Programme was held at COHSASA recently and was attended by COHSASA staff and delegates from the Free State and North West Province Departments of Health.
- Prof Whittaker attended a meeting at the National Department of Health and delivered a presentation on the AHDP to Dr Louis Claassens, Director: Quality Assurance, a number of senior officials, as well as delegates from the USA University Research Corporation Quality Assurance Project (QAP).
- Free State doctors and medical staff participated in an ICAM presentation on "Developing quality improvement programmes to improve patient care", which was delivered by Professor Stuart Whittaker. Professor Whittaker also delivered a presentation on adverse events at the Department's recent Clinical Risk Workshop.



ABOVE: Professor Stuart Whittaker and Lyn Raymert presented the work of COHSASA at a one-day workshop at the Graduate School of Business at the V&A Waterfront. The workshop was attended by senior health managers in the public health sector as part of their postgraduate Diploma in Health Management, offered by the Oliver Tambo Fellowship Programme (OTFP) of the Department of Community Health at the University of Cape Town. ■

Streamlining reports

A new facilitation report database, designed to ensure that reports are objective and professional, has been developed to improve COHSASA's overall performance. The computerised reports, both qualitative and quantitative, will identify shortfalls in hospital performance so that trends in deficiencies can be reported to the provincial departments of health.

The new facilitation visit database will provide a means of identifying areas of deficiency that are not being addressed, thus keeping Steering Committees informed and enabling them to take the necessary remedial action. The reports include information about meeting attendance, progress in the development of policies and

procedures, the status of tasks allocated to staff members, and outstanding deficiencies that need to be addressed in order to achieve compliance with the accreditation standards.

At a staff-training workshop held at COHSASA head office recently to obtain feedback and discuss problems identified during the piloting phase of the new reports, facilitators were shown how the database would provide indicators of performance to enable the provincial departments of health to judge their hospitals' readiness for External Survey. ■

Bouquets ...

Here's a case of being proactive: Elim Clinic, a sub-acute psychiatric facility near Kempton Park that specialises in eating disorders and the treatment of alcohol and substance abuse, has re-entered the

COHSASA Accreditation Programme *before* the current period of its accreditation expires!

Murchison Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal has become the first public sector hospital in the country to be accredited on the 6th edition of COHSASA's *Standards for Hospitals* without undergoing a facilitation process. This is the second time that Murchison has been accredited.

One of our accredited facilities, Stepping Stones, scooped up the national Hospital Association of South Africa Award for Excellence in Healthcare at a grand Johannesburg ceremony.

Well done to Nala and Bongani hospitals in the Free State on achieving their accreditation and congratulations to those that achieved pre-accreditation awards. For the speech and pictures, see the Newsflash Section of the COHSASA website, www.cohsasa.co.za ■