

# Care with dignity

The Tapologo Hospice is a 24-hour in-patient facility in Rustenburg that caters for AIDS, cancer and other terminally ill patients.

Xstrata Alloys adopted the hospice for three years as part of its corporate social responsibility programme and donates a sum of R1.2 million each year for the ongoing management of the facility.

The hospice works with home-based caregivers and nine satellite clinics around Rustenburg to assist with the management of patients who need the support of the hospice facility. The home-based caregivers identify those in the local communities who are very ill and send them to the hospice for a maximum of two weeks to receive the care they need. Other patients are referrals from hospitals which can no longer provide the assistance needed by the terminally ill patients.

Xstrata's funding covers the day-to-day costs of running the hospice, from payments for cleaning services, electricity and water bills and the maintenance of the building to providing patients with the correct medicine.

Nursing manager Hilda de Bees runs the hospice with the help of four caregivers and three registered nurses.

"Xstrata has given us an opportunity to run this hospice at no cost to the patients. This has helped a great deal in taking care of people who have no means of managing their illnesses from home," said de Bees.

The hospice is situated in a remote and peaceful area away from the noise of the city. De Bees said this helps not only to give the patients the rest they need, but also helps to keep them away from the stigma associated with people living with HIV/Aids.

"The hospice offers our patients a sense of peace and they don't have to deal with roving eyes from people who judge them based on their illnesses. It's been great working with Xstrata in making sure that we uphold our patients' dignities," said de Bees.



Hilda de Bees, nursing manager at Tapdogo Hospice

# HIV&Me showing results amongst the youth



In 2009, Xstrata Alloys went into partnership with HIV&Me to bring HIV and Aids prevention and management training skills to teachers at 17 schools in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces.

The aim of the programme was to help educators communicate messages about HIV and Aids so that young people between the ages of 12 to 15 years are empowered to make responsible and informed choices about their health and sexual behaviour.

The programme also uses the Outcomes Based Education approach and provides lesson plans, learner worksheets and assessments that are easily included in the existing school curriculum.

Natural Science (NS) and Life Orientation (LO) teachers are trained on the programme and are also coached and monitored during their in-classroom delivery of the lessons to their learners.

The feedback received so far from the training has been encouraging with very constructive responses from the learners. However, an independent assessment was done to confirm if the programme is having a positive impact on the learners.

Out of the schools that were trained in 2009, 15% of them were chosen for the assessment. The assessment was based on a study by the Human Sciences Research Council which found that some individuals, including the youth, might not believe they are at risk of HIV because they do not have correct knowledge with regards to HIV transmission.

The results of the assessment showed that of the 158 learners that responded to the statement "You can protect yourself from HIV by using a condom during

sex", 82% said the statement was true. 83% of the learners responded positively to the statement that "After attending the HIV&Me lessons I now understand that girls can carry condoms too and think it is a good thing" while 78% of the learners felt more confident to ask a partner to use protection.

The focus group sessions highlighted a definite shift in attitude towards people living with Aids as a result of a better understanding of how HIV is transmitted.

In March and April 2010, Xstrata again partnered with HIV&Me in 10 schools in the area surrounding Bethanie in the North West Province.

Teachers themselves are grateful for the knowledge, skills and content they now have to train their learners on HIV and Aids. While the skills level of some of the teachers in the region can still be developed further, the teachers' ability to follow the lesson plans and deliver the information has been encouraging.

The Head of Department of Ba-Mogopa Middle School said they felt honoured to be included in the list of schools which participated in the programme. He said the programme has also helped teachers to deal with HIV/infected learners in their classrooms.

Principal Paile from Makopole II Secondary School said he hopes that the programme will help to change the mindsets of people in the community. "I believe that this is the beginning of great and good things to come," he said.