

Case study No. 5

Champion of wellness

A recent knowledge and perception survey has confirmed that, regrettably, a significant stigma is still associated with being HIV-positive. In a bid to deal with this, the Group's well established HIV/Aids programme has been taken to another level.

Sister Marina Deneys



Under the banner of Siyaninakekela ("We show we care"), Sister Marina Deneys of Chemical Services Limited spearheaded the extension of the programme to deal with all issues of wellness rather than dealing with HIV/Aids-related matters in isolation. Because its employees are a crucial asset, the AECI Group is committed to their health and safety.

Sister Marina explains:

"Rather than focusing separately on HIV/Aids, wellness is catered for in a holistic way. Other conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and cancer are included, together with lifestyle matters such as diet and exercise."

"Siyaninakekela is driven at grass roots levels by our Champions of Wellness," she says. "It is most satisfying that the programme has gained wide acceptance and is now being implemented throughout the AECI Group. Buy-in by unions has been particularly gratifying."