



health

Department:
Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Bethesda hospital on the Move!

The recent report from Mail & Guardian newspaper has shown that Bethesda hospital is committed to save the lives of the local people. The recognition of the hospital was noticed after a very close monitoring by Mail & Guardian when they issue their newspaper "200 Young South Africans 2013". The valley of Ubombo was recognized through the dedicated Dr Kelly Gate. Follow the article below:



Kelly Gate

Medical Manager: Bethesda Hospital

When Dr Kelly Gate arrived at Bethesda as a medical manager in 2010 the rural hospital was on life support. Three junior doctors held the fort, making do with limited resources, and the patient population was dwindling rapidly. Two years later, 20 doctors work at the small rural facility in the northern KwaZulu-Natal district of Umkhanyakude, where more than 40% of all pregnant women are HIV positive. Gates and his team have succeeded in providing 7 500 HIV-infected patients with antiretroviral treatment. Since his arrival at Bethesda, the maternal and perinatal mortality rates have halved and the rate of HIV transmission from mother to child has been reduced to less than 2.5%. And things can only get better because the 2012 Rural Doctor of the Year and his wife intend to stay put. "Bethesda's become my life's project and I would love to stick around to see it go from strength to strength," says Gate. — *Fatima Asmal*



Website: kznhealth.gov.za/bethesdahospital.htm

Website: rudasa.org.za