



NEWCASTLE PLATFORM

NEWS

October – December 2025

Marching on together.....

Sweet smell of success at Newcastle Hospital.....



In the 1.1 Million closing the gap campaign awards ceremony held in Ladysmith on the 25th November 2025, Newcastle Regional Hospital scooped 5 certificates and 1

trophy of achievement under HAST unit headed by Sr. Lindiwe Mthembu. The certificates won by this unit are for: (1) being the 3rd in Amajuba

to achieve 100% for viral load done (rate with 3/3), (2) or being 1st facility in Amajuba District to find and link 20 HIV + children....

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(3) For being the 1st facility in Amajuba District to achieve “finding 11 HIV + children per month”, (4) for being the 1st facility in Amajuba District to excel in TB case finding with 15 chil-

dren per month. (5) for being the 2nd facility in Amajuba District to achieve the total remaining on ART target with 93.5% and one trophy for Paeds TB/HIV case finding

“Be a washing hand hero in 2025 and beyond”



On the 15th October the world celebrated “Global handwashing day”, this multi-year initiative focuses on empowering individuals to take actions, promote hand hygiene with soap in their communities and combat the spread of diseases, highlighting that everyone can be a champion for clean hands.

Newcastle Regional Hospital was part of this global cele-

bration. Speaking on the day of the event, Sr Omitha Singh (IPC Co-Ordinator) said the 2025 campaign emphasizes that handwashing with soap is a simple, effective, and affordable way to prevent illness.

“The theme encourages everyone to promote clean hands in schools, workplaces and communities. The campaign also highlights the need for continued improvement in infection prevention and control (IPC)” she said



SANC invest in future skills during Newcastle Hospital inspection



SANC representatives engaging with hospital management during the inspection visit



Some of the South African Nursing Council's responsibilities is to Champion Nursing Standards, Recognize Excellence and Improve Patient Care. On the 23rd October 2025 Newcastle Regional Hospital was visited by the

Council to check if the hospital meets the requirements to train 3rd year students (R171), and also if the hospital is working according to the regulations and acts of South African Nursing Council. The council was impressed with all what they saw during the walkabout.





TIPS TO STAY SAFE DURING THE HEATWAVE

- Stay hydrated
- Seek shade
- Keep pets hydrated
- Monitor weather updates
- Keep emergency numbers on hand in case of medical emergency

ENSURE

children, babies and the elderly are in a good condition as they are the most vulnerable during these times



DRINK MORE WATER



AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT



SEEK SHADE



WEAR HAT, SUNGLASSES



WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING



USE SUNSCREEN



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Give preterm babies a strong start for a hopeful future



It is said that 1 in 10 babies worldwide is preterm—born before 37 weeks of pregnancy. Without effective care, they are at risk of life threatening health conditions like respiratory distress, infections and hypothermia which together lead to hundreds of thousands of preventable deaths each year.

On the 17th November 2025, Newcastle Regional Hospital celebrated prematurity day together with all the mothers of preterm babies. Dr Mzimela (Paeds Consultant) said a strong start isn't just about survival but its about honouring the promise of every tiny life.

Paeds Specialist Dr Busi Mahlaba told the mothers that they must take extra care for their babies in order to live longer.

“Failing to provide special care to these tiny babies needs means a huge loss of big potential. Some of history’s greatest minds were born too soon” she said

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Stop the scroll, Stop the abuse. 16 days for digital safety



Staff from Lion's club in Newcastle celebrated the day with patients of Newcastle Regional hospital



The 2025, 16 days of Activism Campaign was celebrated under the theme **“Unite to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls”**, Newcastle Hospital was visited by staff from Lion's Club to commemorate this International day. Speaking with young mothers Mrs. Aleta Botha from the club said violence against women and girls affects one in three women. She went on to say this is a global human rights emergency that must stop.

The event was coordinated by the hospital Social Services under the leadership of Ms. N. Nxumalo who is a Social Worker of the hospital.

Addressing the mother Ms. Nxumalo said online and digital spaces should empower women and girls, yet every day, for millions of women and girls the digital world has become a minefield of harassment, abuse and control. Lion's club staff end the event by splashing out the gifts to all the mothers.



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages



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Sign language has been endorsed as the 12th official language which is an important step in recognizing the rights of more than four million deaf and hard of hearing people in South Africa. Newcastle Re-

gional Hospital heeded the call and sent three employees to attend a sign language training that was arranged by Amajuba District on the 4th November 2025 at Madadeni Regional Hospital



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Quality Day 2025: Think Differently.....



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Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response



Siyakhula clinic staff posing for a photo with hospital management on World AIDS Day



2 025 World AIDS Day theme focused on sustaining progress despite funding crises, strengthening community-led services, ensuring human rights, and overcoming barriers to HIV and care.

Newcastle Regional Hospital participated on this annual global commemoration. The mini event was coordinated by Siyakhula Clinic which is under the leadership of Sr. Lindiwe

Mthembu, which is the very same clinic that scooped 5 certificates and 1 trophy in the 1.1 Million closing the gap campaign awards that were held in Ladysmith on the 25th November 2025.

Senior Medical Manager Dr J.J.N Duze reminded all the attendees that AIDS awareness is crucial because HIV has no cure yet, but it can be effectively controlled with proper treatment.

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