



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Republic of South Africa

FOREWORD

It gives me pleasure to introduce these guidelines on home-based care and community-based care.

Over the last decade, there has been a significant increase in the overall burden of disease in South Africa. Communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, infectious diseases like malaria, non-communicable diseases like hypertension and diabetes, and various other health problems all impact on families and communities throughout South Africa. And it is poor families and poor communities that are hardest hit. It is therefore imperative that we use our limited health care resources as optimally as possible.

One of the best ways of doing this is through home-based care and community-based care. These guidelines are intended to assist in the development and implementation of nationwide home-based and community-based care programmes.

Home-based and community-based care programmes cannot be accomplished by only one sector of society working in isolation from the others. Although they are frequently spearheaded by members of the health sector, in order for home-based and community-based care programmes to be truly successful, the support of members of other sectors like education, social development, local government, traditional leaders, traditional healers, faith-based organisations, non-governmental organisations and community organisations are all vitally necessary. It is the intention that these guidelines should help members of all sectors to become involved with confidence and energy.

Our thanks go to all those dedicated people who contributed to the development of these guidelines. Your work has been invaluable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Tshabalala'.

DR MANTO TSHABALALA-MSIMANG
MINISTER OF HEALTH



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