















HIV/AIDS & Our Elementary School

What do we need to do to implement the HIV/AIDS Policy?

-  Train all staff in HIV/AIDS/STI for at least 2 days
-  Give all staff the HIV/AIDS/STI Resource Book
-  All staff must read and discuss the HIV/AIDS Policy
-  Have a First Aid kit (including bleach and latex gloves for cleaning up blood spills)
-  Train your Board of Management and your P&C in the HIV/AIDS Policy, gender equity and basic HIV/AIDS/STI information (including ABC, how to fight stigma and discrimination and how to support staff and students who are affected by HIV)
-  Talk to your community about the HIV/AIDS Policy. Offer basic HIV training. Discuss how to protect staff and students from HIV. Lead community HIV activities.
-  Put up posters for students and staff about HIV/AIDS. These must include where to get an HIV test and where to get more information. Translate this poster into Tok Ples.
-  Teach your students about Home Based Care, Christian messages of love and care, and how to fight stigma and discrimination. **Do not teach about sex or condoms at Elementary school.**
-  Be a health promoting school. Are there separate toilets for boys and girls? Are there water and soap for washing and clean water for drinking? Are girls and boys treated equally? Do students have a healthy lunch? Are there strict rules on behaviour, respect and not bullying? Are both girls and boys encouraged to come to school?
-  Male and female condoms and lubricant must be available for all staff
-  Build links with your Church HIV services, Provincial or District AIDS Committee and community health workers
-  Zero tolerance for teachers and students who abuse or harass others. Teachers must be role models for behaviour at all times.



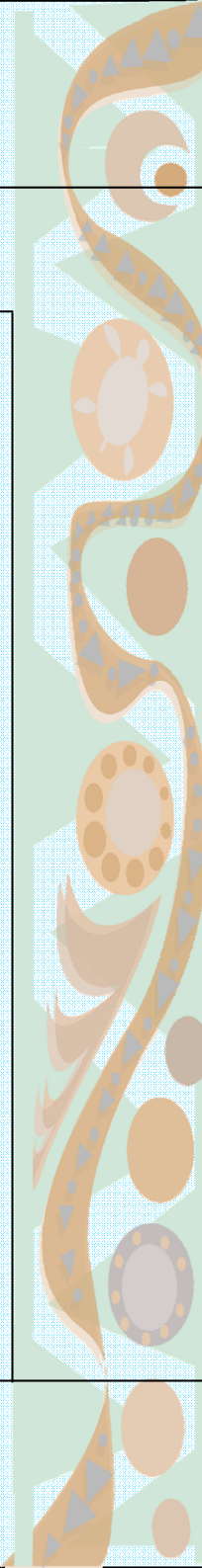
Department of Education

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of the Secretary

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SECRETARY'S CIRCULAR NO. 49/2007

SUBJECT: ON THE NEW HIV/AIDS/STI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND ABC APPROACH

The HIV/AIDS/STI Implementation Plan for the National Education System 2007-2012 was launched at the Senior Education Officers' Conference, Lae, on Wednesday 23rd May 2007. This was a major achievement for the Department and will guide us all in the response to the HIV and STI epidemic. We are all at risk of HIV and we must all work together to prevent the spread of the virus and care for and support those affected and infected.

All Provincial Education Advisers, Inspectors, Primary, Secondary and tertiary institutions will be sent a copy of the Plan. On the reverse of this Circular are guidelines for all schools to help you implement the HIV/AIDS Policy in your school.

ABC – Abstain from sex, both be faithful and both be tested, use a condom

ABC is essential to protect young people and teachers from risk. This is the national response to the HIV epidemic and Department of Education Policy. Vital life skills include saying "no" to sex, resisting pressure to take risks, critical thinking, strong values, negotiating safer sex, being assertive and the correct use of male and female condoms.

Schools are expected to begin teaching life skills for HIV/AIDS from Grade 5 in Health and within Personal Development in Grade 6-10. This includes teaching about male and female condoms and should be in consultation with your local community.

Male and female condoms should be available to all staff and all boarding students as stated in the HIV/AIDS Implementation Plan (1.5.2 ii page 11 and 3.1.3 ii page 18). Condoms and life skills are proven and effective strategies for saving lives.

I encourage all teachers and officers to have an HIV blood test. They are free, fast and confidential. Your nearest testing centre can be found through your Provincial AIDS Committee or your Church agency.

I remind all staff that no student or teacher or officer must be discriminated against because of their HIV status. Stigma and discrimination are against the law and against Christian principles of love and care.

Our challenge

The HIV/AIDS/STI Implementation Plan 2007-2012 is challenging and ambitious. It is also practical and based on the needs of our students and our teachers. Please take the time to read and discuss the Plan and the Policy. You should develop your own HIV/AIDS plan for your school. Many of you are writing School Learning Improvement Plans and HIV/AIDS activities should be part of these.

The HIV epidemic is a major challenge for all Papua New Guineans but we can make a difference if we work together. Education is the key to protecting our country.

God bless your work.

DR. JOSEPH PAGELIO
Secretary of Education

Who can help?

Your local primary and secondary school

Recent graduates from Teachers Colleges

Teachers Colleges and your Inspectors

Your local church and health services

Basic Education Development Project and District Women Facilitators

Your Provincial AIDS Committee

NGOs like VSO, UNICEF, Anglicare, Save the Children, Family Health Association, HELP Resources and others

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