



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**HIGHER HEALTH**

Higher Education & Training: Health, Wellness and Development Centre

# PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF HIGHER HEALTH

**Dr (Prof) Ramneek Ahluwalia**

MBBS MBA (UCT) PhD (Public Health)

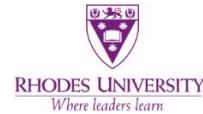
Chief Executive Officer - HIGHER HEALTH

Professor of Practice, Faculty of Health Sciences,  
University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Adjunct Faculty Fellow, Dahdaleh Institute of Global Health  
(DI), York University, Canada

[www.higherhealth.ac.za](http://www.higherhealth.ac.za)

# UNIVERSITIES PARTNERSHIP



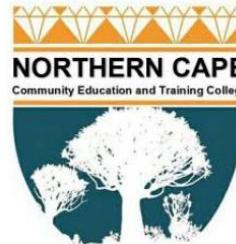
Inspiring thought. Shaping talent.  
A NODE FOR AFRICAN THOUGHT



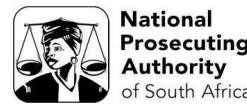
# TVET COLLEGES PARTNERSHIP



# CET COLLEGES PARTNERSHIP



# FUNDERS AND PARTNERS



# HIGHER HEALTH ACADEMY LOGO



# HIGHER HEALTH ACADEMY

# HIGHER HEALTH'S SOFT SKILLS ACADEMY

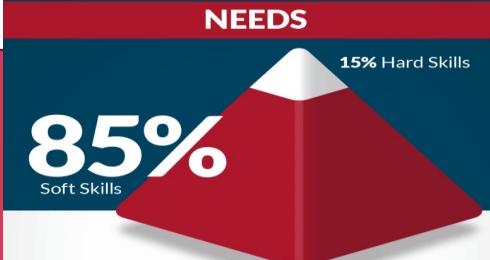


OF JOB SUCCESS  
COMES FROM SOFT  
SKILLS!

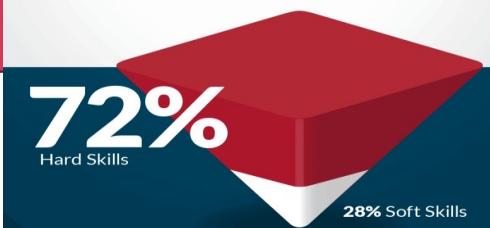
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## The Soft Skills Disconnect

Research conducted by Harvard University, the Carnegie Foundation and Stanford Research Center, has all concluded that **85% of job success comes from having well-developed soft skills and people skills**, while only 15% of job success comes from technical skills and knowledge (hard skills).



In 2010 employers spent **\$171.5 billion** on employee training and **27.6%** of those training dollars was on soft skills.<sup>1</sup>



# QCTO-ACCREDITED CIVIC AND SOFT SKILLS PROGRAMME, NQF LEVEL 5

Built at basic literacy level – youth centric

Online with automated certification for CV and Linked-In profile

Global endorsement

Accredited NQF Level 5 Skills Programme



Can be made available in SA in different languages

**MODULE 1**  
Civic education and global citizenship  
10 Credits

**MODULE 2**  
Gender equity and inclusion  
7 Credits

**MODULE 3**  
Mental and emotional intelligence  
5 Credits

**MODULE 4**  
Disability inclusion and accessibility  
4 Credits

**MODULE 5**  
Physical and sexual health  
5 Credits

**MODULE 6**  
Substance, gambling, & gaming abuse and addiction  
5 Credits

**MODULE 7**  
Just Energy Transition and Climate change  
14 Credits

**MODULE 8**  
Financial literacy  
10 Credits



IN DEVELOPMENT:

# 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



## Module 9: Digital Literacy & AI

10 credits



Digital literacy



Critical thinking in a digital world



Social Media and gaming



Digital safety



Ethics and AI

# HIGHER HEALTH SPECIALISES IN BUILDING THE TOP 10 SOFT SKILLS OF THE WORKFORCE (GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES)

① Empathy, Listening and Counselling

② Civic Responsibility and Peer Education

③ Conflict Resolution

④ Creativity, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

⑤ Decision Making

⑥ Digital Literacy

⑦ Presentation Skills, Public Speaking & Communication

⑧ Resilience, Confidence & Self-Motivation

⑨ Teamwork, Organizational Skills & Leadership Skills

⑩ Time-Management & Goal-Setting



# Linking & Integrating SDGs

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# HIGHER HEALTH'S PROGRAMMES

## Civic and Health Peer Education Programme

30 credits

NQF Level 5

6 modules

## Civic and Soft Skills Programme

60 credits

NQF Level 5

8 modules

## Digital Literacy and AI

Micro-credential

Single module

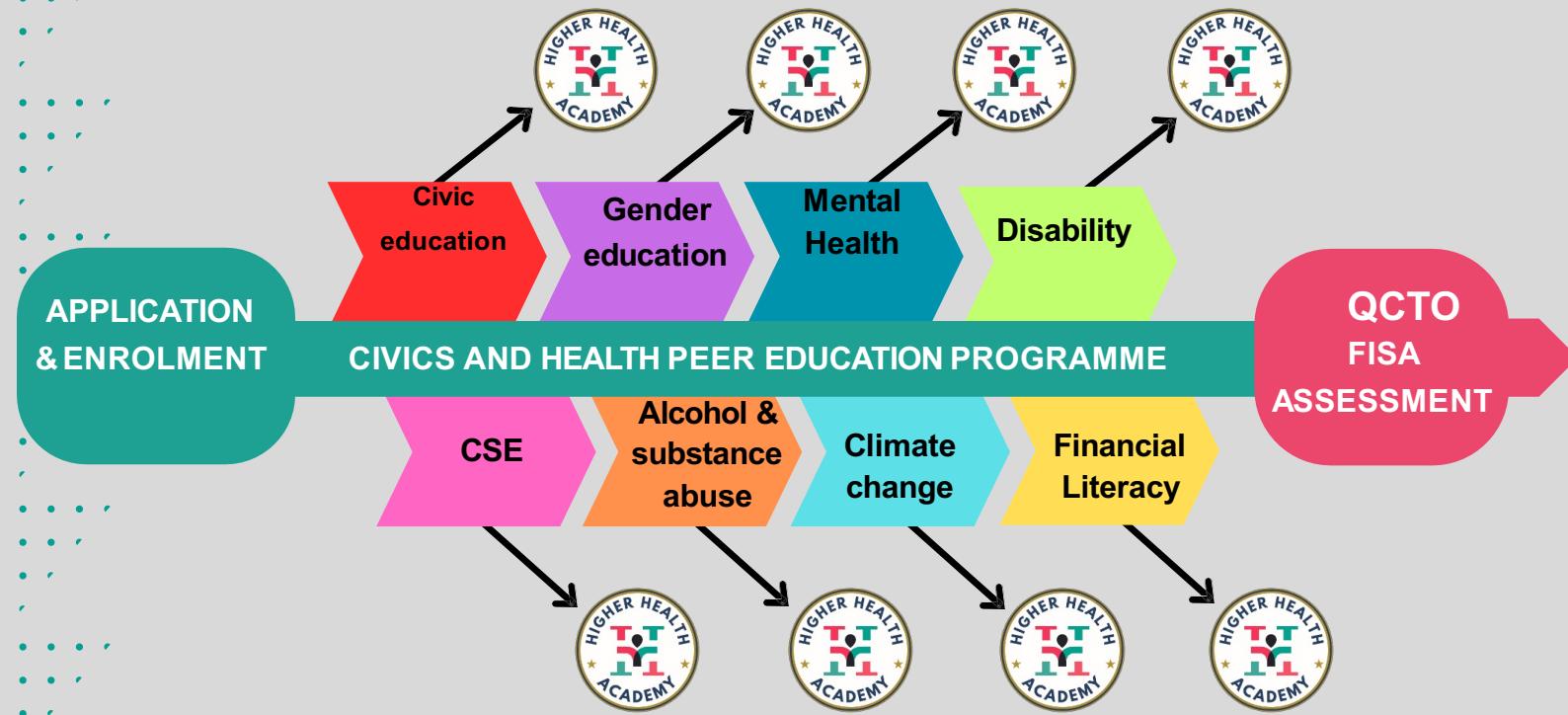
## COMING SOON Skills for Life

15 credits

NQF Level 5

7 modules

# END TO END DIGITAL PLATFORM SOLUTION



**Micro Credential**  
to be added to  
CV and Linked-In  
profile

# BLENDDED LEARNING - DIGITAL POVERTY ON RURAL CAMPUSES



# MEASURING IMPACT



## Throughput Rates

Have student marks improved?



## Student Employability

Do students find employment earlier?



## Job Success

Do students perform better in their jobs?

- Higher Health has established a data science lab at Stellenbosch University.
- Employing Post-Doctoral students for longitudinal research looking at the impact of the Civic & Soft Skills programme on the 3 indicators above.

# NO. OF STUDENTS COMPLETED MODULES/FISA (FEB-JULY 2025)



# IMPACT ALREADY SEEN IN SOUTH AFRICA (2021–2024)

**CO-CURRICULUM  
SKILLS PROGRAMME  
ON GBV =**  
**367 079**

**RISK ASSESSED ON  
GBV=**  
**316 591**

**19 943**

**REFERRED FOR GBV  
PSYCHO-SOCIAL  
COUNSELLING &  
LEGAL SUPPORT**

**CO-CURRICULUM  
SKILLS PROGRAMME  
ON MENTALHEALTH  
=**  
**421 799**

**RISK ASSESSED ON  
MENTAL HEALTH =**  
**353 727**

**112 627**

**MENTAL HEALTH  
CRISES MANAGED**

# HIGHER HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS

**1**  
**LEARN**

## PRIMARY LEVEL Knowledge Transfer

HIV, Mental Health, GBV second curriculum resource manual

**2**  
**DO**

## SECONDARY LEVEL Practical Learning

Self-Administered HIV, Mental Health, GBV Risk Screening

**3**  
**ACT**

## TERTIARY LEVEL

Linkage to Youth Friendly Services

**Students Supported =** **1 081 765**

	Jan-Dec 2024	2019 - Dec 2024
Reach	<b>582 985</b>	<b>2 815 193</b>
Co-Curriculum Enrolment	<b>235 174</b>	<b>2 092 822</b>
Students enrolled in CSSP (QCTO)	<b>10 209</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Risk Screening Support	<b>327 714</b>	<b>1 334 052</b>

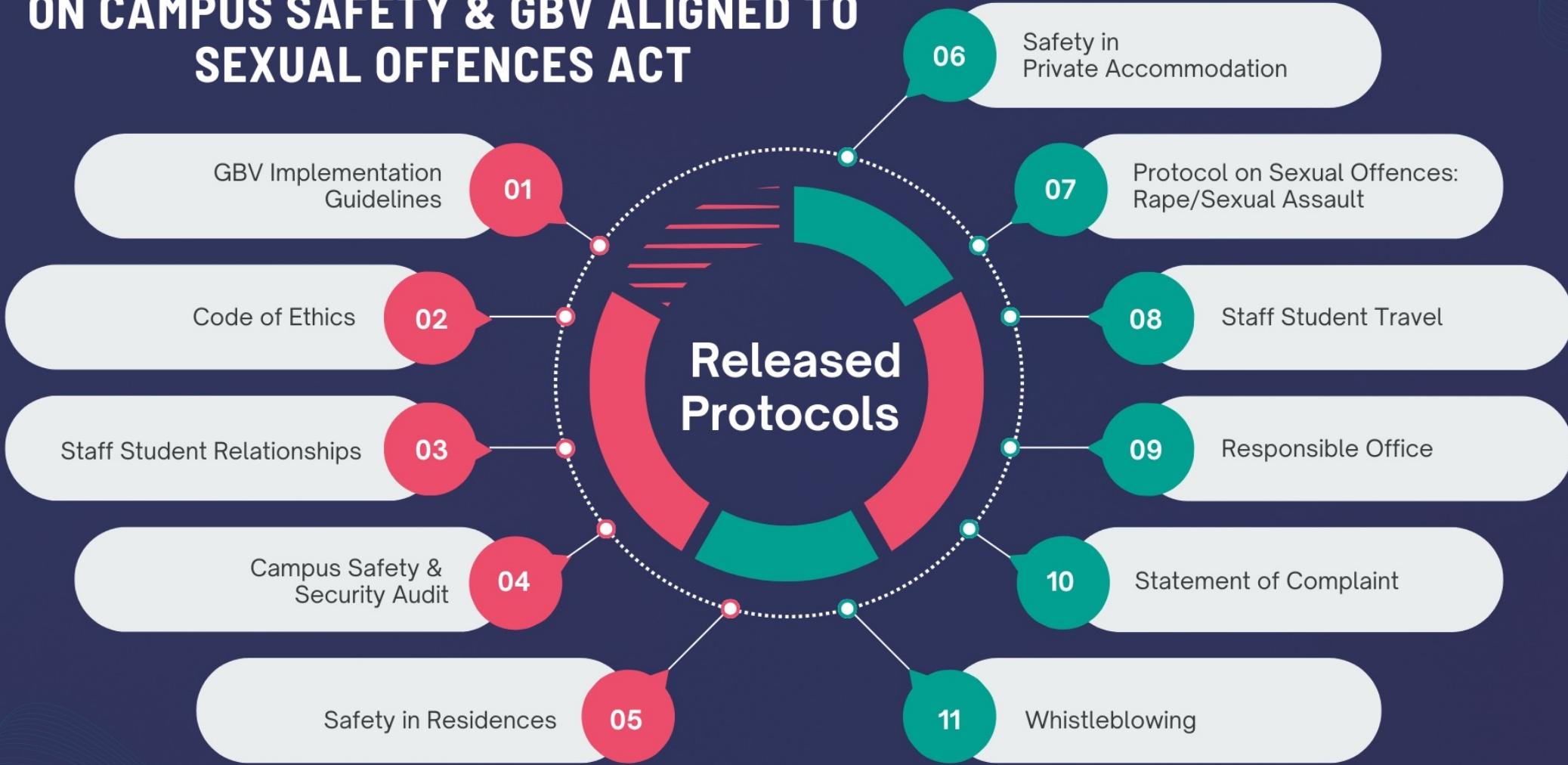
- Higher Health Toll-free Crisis Helpline
- Psychosocial support provided by mental health professionals
- Referral to professionals outside the PSET facility
- Referral to Specialized Clinical Services through Higher Health Mobile Clinics for HIV, TB, STI, SRHR, NCDs

Jan-Dec 2024

2019 - Dec 2024

**4 602 684**

# HIGHER HEALTH RELEASED PROTOCOLS ON CAMPUS SAFETY & GBV ALIGNED TO SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT



# PROTOCOLS AND CHECKLISTS STILL BEING PREPARED / FINALISED



- PROTOCOL ON THE LAW**
  - Deals with amendments to Criminal Procedure (Sexual Offences & related matters) Act, Domestic Violence Act & Harassment Act
  - Thuthuzela Care Centres
  - Special Police Units

COMING SOON
- PROTOCOL ON FEMICIDE**

COMING SOON
- PROTOCOL ON ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

COMING SOON
- THE ROLE OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

COMING SOON
- MEN AND BOYS**

COMING SOON
- M & E MINIMUM STANDARDS CHECKLIST**

COMING SOON
- CYBER BULLYING**

COMING SOON

# STUDENT WELLBEING AND SAFETY

- Every entrance at all TVET, University, and CET campuses will proudly display the HIGHER HEALTH 24-hour Toll-Free Helpline number.
- Campus Safety Audits performed as well.

**HIGHER HEALTH**  
Higher Education & Training: Health, Wellness & Development Centre

**STUDENT WELLBEING & SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY!**

**Higher Health 24-Hour Tollfree:**

**0800 36 36 36**

For GBV, Mental Health or HIV support. Free, confidential and available 24 Hours

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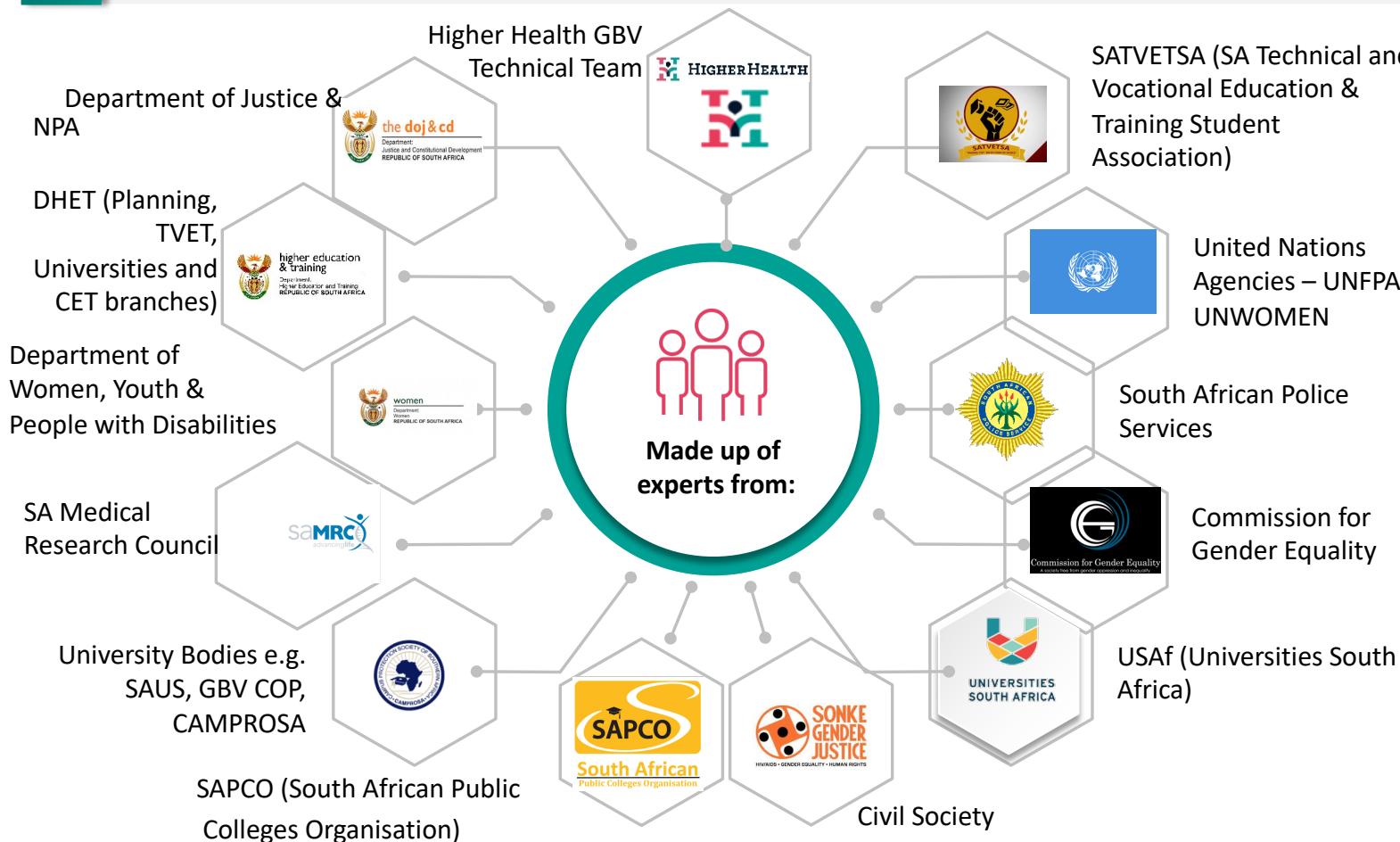
 EWC  
Ekurhuleni West TVET College  
"Empowering Students"



# PSET GBV TECHNICAL TASK TEAM



We set up a PSET Technical Task Team (TTT), chaired by Prof. LenkaBula, under HIGHER HEALTH which is a consultative team of experts, to advise on the work required to implement the DHET framework



- The TTT provides inputs on draft Implementation Guidelines, protocols and other work on GBV undertaken by HIGHER HEALTH for the sector
- The TTT will continue to oversee and provide support to HIGHER HEALTH in its work to implement the DHET GBV Policy Framework

# RELATIONSHIP WITH NPA



National  
Prosecuting  
Authority  
of South Africa



All victims of sexual offences (rape, sexual assault, sexual intimidation, etc.) must be reported to SAPS through a Thuthuzela care centre.

SAPS takes statements and collects evidence for the NPA to prosecute perpetrators under the Sexual Offences Act.

Higher Health has a MOU with NPA to refer all victims of sexual offences to the nearest Thuthuzela care centre

An Internal Quasi-judicial system exists at all PSET institutions.

All PSETs must have SGBV, and conduct internal disciplinary hearings

# THE POWER OF HIGHER HEALTH WITH ITS STRENGTH IN PEER EDUCATION

- Building a strong foundation through Peer Education.
- Over 10,000 trained Peer Educators - our foot soldiers and unsung heroes of South Africa.
- Peer education is the heartbeat of HIGHER HEALTH.
- We believe in it as every initiative draws its strength from it.



# WHAT CAN PEER EDUCATORS DO TOWARDS STUDENT SAFETY?

- Peer Educators have the power to influence, inspire, and mobilise their peers.
- They can play a key role in establishing Campus Policing Forums.
- Campus Policing Forums empower students to take ownership of their safety and security.
- Together, we can launch a national campaign and build a system of student safety through the Peer to Peer movement.



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET)

- Our Peer Educators can help enrol NEET youth (Not in Employment, Education or Training) through door-to-door outreach.
- Through this outreach, HIGHER HEALTH in partnership with CET Colleges can offer community education accredited programmes via its Life, Civic & Soft Skills Programmes (15-, 30- and 60-credit options).
- Higher Health will integrate its Civic & Soft Skills programme with National Senior Certificate for Adults (NASCA) as part of the reforms and work that has already started with the CET Branch.
- Through the 1 Day Training programme on the Civic Education module in Communication Education – can assist towards local government elections in saving our democracy.



# CREATING JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED ENTRY LEVEL PROFESSIONALS IN OUR COMMUNITIES (PSYCHOLOGISTS, COUNSELLORS, NURSES AND SOCIAL WORKERS)

- Higher Health in partnership with Department of Health, Social Development provides mentorship through our established campus service programme for all entry-level professionals
- Building skills and career pathways by creating job opportunities in rural, peri-urban and urban communities via our established campus service programme to the creation of sustainable jobs in areas with high demand
- Creating job opportunities for unemployed professionals strengthen healthcare and social support services for young students across our campuses
- Economic growth by creating entry-level job opportunities in communities





## PROMOTING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT THROUGH MENTORSHIP OF ENTRY LEVEL PROFESSIONALS (PSYCHOLOGISTS, NURSES, CARE-GIVERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS)



**Builds skills and career pathways for individuals from underrepresented areas**



**Contributes to the creation of sustainable jobs in areas with high demand.**



**Strengthens healthcare and support systems in local communities**



**Economic growth by creating entry-level job opportunities**

# FIRST THINGS FIRST WELLNESS DAY



## KEY SERVICES: Peer to Peer Testing, Screening and Treatment Campaign

- HIV testing, screening and linkage to care;
- TB screening and linkage to care;
- STI testing, screening and linkage to care;
- Long-acting contraceptives
- Hypertension, diabetes and/or cardiovascular risk factors testing, screening and linkage to care;
- Cancer screening and linkage to care;
- Condom distribution programme;
- Male medical circumcision;
- Oral hygiene
- Eye testing
- Psychosocial support

# COMFORT/SAFE ROOMS

- At every campus we are establishing a youth friendly Comfort Room / Safe Room.



# 0800 36 36 36



## Psychologist

Links students to our professional psychologists and counsellors, available 24 hours a day and 365 days a year, at no cost.



## Thuthuzela Care Centre

These centers unite professionals – doctors, nurses, social workers, police, and forensic specialists – under one roof to provide holistic support to GBV or rape survivors.



## Nurse

Students are directly connected to Higher Health nurses, ensuring they receive the necessary primary health care services whenever they need them.

**THANK  
YOU**

