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## **HIV/AIDS TRAINING**



The HIV/AIDS pandemic can be seen not only as a human tragedy but an economic time bomb, and while most companies in South Africa have failed to respond, considering HIV/AIDS to be a long term and not a current threat to their business, time is running out.

AIDS is very likely to have far reaching economic effects for employers, employees and South Africa as a whole. This is already evident in the depletion of the economically active population and in the growing numbers of HIV+ workers in all spheres of the workplace. AIDS is having an increasing affect on the workplace because of its impact on productivity, costs and the national economy. Productivity is being reduced by absenteeism and low morale. Costs are increasing as the employer finds itself paying for additional employee benefits. The loss of skilled workers to the disease means there is an urgent need to train new workers. No organisation can afford to ignore the growing threat of HIV/AIDS on the workplace.

It thus becomes the responsibility of each person in the workplace to become involved in the vital task of education regarding HIV/AIDS. Contributing to the distribution of information regarding HIV/AIDS in the workplace will have the following benefits:

- ◆ increased awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- ◆ increased sensitivity towards those infected and affected with HIV/AIDS
- ◆ a better quality of life for employees with HIV/AIDS
- ◆ increased productivity
- ◆ increased awareness and knowledge of the possible impact of the epidemic on the workplace

This learning programme will assist you in making this very important contribution towards your workplace and towards your colleagues. Many organisations have already taken a step in the right direction by implementing education and awareness programmes. Should your organisation not have done so yet, this will be the ideal opportunity to initiate some form of information distribution within your workplace.

This learning programme will help you acquire a broad introduction to HIV/AIDS in the workplace. You will then also learn how to become a caring colleague for those of your co-workers who are infected or affected by the pandemic. The programme also provides the learner with skills to identify needs in the workplace and to develop and implement programmes to address those needs.