

# Drug Detox Unit at Stikland Hospital



**W**estern Cape Department of Health is continuing its aim to improve access to quality health services especially at psychiatric hospitals. Now, Stikland Hospital is set for a boost with the opening of its new Opiate Drug Detoxification Unit. (Detox Unit)

The hospital recently opened the doors of its new unit to the communities of the Western Cape. The Unit opened with 10 beds, but there is capacity for it to expand to 20 beds if the need demands it. The unit's staff, a multi-disciplinary team, consisting of 12 nurses, a psychiatric registrar, a part-time social worker, part-time psychologist and a specialist psychiatrist.

The unit will take referrals from registered substance rehabilitation facilities and the team will conduct telephonic interviews with clients prior to admission.



The information gathered will be used to estimate the client's level of tolerance and duration of stay. The duration of stay at the unit may vary between three and 10 days, which could be expanded in certain clients if clinically indicated (due to for example pregnancy, high levels of tolerance, complicated poly-substance



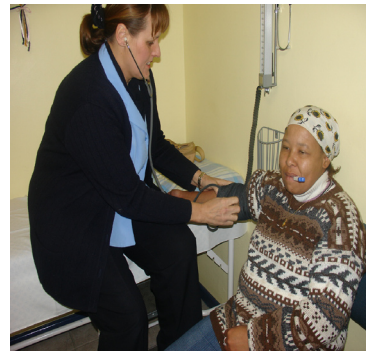
abuse. With the opening of this much needed new unit, our Department aims to deliver an improved quality health care service to the affected patients and to rehabilitate them to become self-respected members of community and family life again" said Pierre Uys, Minister of Health for the Western Cape.

## Provincial Government and SALGA sign HISTORIC FRAMEWORK Agreement

**T**he Western Cape Minister of Health, Pierre Uys, and the Chairperson of the South African Local Government Association Western Cape (SALGA WC), Councillor William Mxolose, signed an historic framework agreement in Cape Town governing the transfer of Personal Primary Health Care (PPHC) services previously provided by non-metropolitan municipalities to the Western Cape Government. This agreement relates to PPHC services provided by local and district municipalities, and does not include these services in the City of Cape Town at this time.



The agreement flows from the National Health Act No 61 of 2003, that defines municipal health services as environmental health services, transferring responsibility for all other aspects of the primary health care to the Province. The process of assuming responsibility for PPHC services started in March 2005 with a joint announcement by SALGA



Western Cape and the Minister at a meeting attended by Western Cape mayors and municipal managers. From 1 April 2005, the Province fully funded PPHC services and on 1 March 2006, took operational control of these services in the rural areas as stipulated in the framework agreement. This means the Department of Health is now

responsible for PPHC services in rural areas operationally managing:

- Staff at clinics
- Assets and liabilities
- All communications and other records
- Financial administration
- Standard operating procedures
- Budget control and delegations
- All other aspects of the primary health care services that will ensure the uninterrupted provision of the services.

A joint technical working group will manage the details of the staff transfer process that involves more than 900 staff members.