

Child Rights and Child Law for Health Professionals



Aiming to equip health professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to realise children's rights in their daily practice

This project has developed materials to support a child rights curriculum for South Africa's health professionals, and aims to promote the use of these materials by

tertiary institutions across the country. The curriculum examines the relationship between children's rights and child health and was developed in partnership with the International Institute for Child Rights and Development, University of Victoria, Canada, and CRED-PRO International.

The project targets nurses and doctors in the public health care sector at primary, secondary and tertiary level. The aim is to deepen health professionals' understanding of children's rights in international and national law to enable them to apply these rights in their practice.

The course is structured into six modules:

- Child health and children's rights.
- Child rights in international law and the South African Bill of Rights.
- Laws, policies and programmes that give effect to children's rights in South Africa.
- Making children's rights a reality: in individual professional practice.
- Making children's rights a reality: within the health care system.
- Making children's rights a reality: addressing the social determinants of health.

The course will be piloted in January 2011 with 30 educators from a number of health faculties and nursing colleges.

There are plans to offer the course as a short course accredited by the University of Cape Town. Other tertiary institutions will also be encouraged and supported to integrate the materials in undergraduate and postgraduate curricula for health professionals.

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