

# ANCYL contraception shock

The ANC Youth League proposes that the government give contraception to girls as young as 12 to stop teenage pregnancies, City Press reported yesterday.

The league supports the "mandatory initiation into contraception for all adolescent girls from the age of 12 to curb teenage pregnancy", according to the organisation's education and health discussion paper for its 24th national congress in June.

It describes teen pregnancies as having reached alarming proportions.

Responding to the proposal, Katharine Hall, senior researcher for the Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town, was quoted by City Press as saying: "I suspect it would be in contravention of the new Children's Act... It smacks of an authoritarian approach which is contrary to promoting safe sex behaviour that will not only curb teen pregnancies, but also HIV/Aids infections."

Hall said data on teen pregnancies showed the trend to be on the decline. – Sapa