

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

**FOR ORAL REPLY
QUESTION 55**

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Ms H Lamoela to ask the Minister of Education:

Whether, in light of the growing need for social workers to manage the consequences of the HIV/Aids epidemic, it is required that degrees and diplomas for social work include a specific component on palliative care; if not, (a) why not and (b) what steps are being taken to rectify this situation; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

(a) and (b) The curricula for all higher-education programmes, including social work, are determined by the universities, in conjunction with the relevant professional bodies, as appropriate. Consequently, I do not determine the content of academic programmes. However, I am aware that most institutions are increasingly responding to the need to include issues relating to HIV and AIDS in all programmes. In this regard, my Department and the higher-education sector, through Higher Education South Africa (HESA), are running a donor-funded programme, HEAIDS, which is addressing the matter of HIV and AIDS in the curriculum.