



Your reference:

7/2/1/85

Our reference: (Mrs A-M Havenga)

8 August 1997

Dear Sir / Madam
The House
P O Box 18557
Hillbrow, Johannesburg
2036

HIV/AIDS AND DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON DISCUSSION PAPER AND DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON HIV/AIDS FOR SCHOOLS

We attach a discussion paper for your consideration and comment.

The Commission in its Working Paper 58 of 1995 made preliminary recommendations on HIV 1 AIDS in schools. These were based on the negligible risk of transmission of HIV in the school setting and the principle of non-discrimination. The Commission at the time emphasised the lack of a uniform national policy dealing with HIV/AIDS in schools. Responses received to these recommendations were generally supportive and reflected that a large measure of consensus on the need for, and contents of such a policy exists.

The recent well publicised crisis caused by the application by Nkosi Johnson, an eight year old boy with AIDS, to be admitted to a public school in Johannesburg, the reaction of some members of the public and the apparent need for a national education policy on this issue, underscored the lesson that the situation has not improved since 1995. In view of the Commission's initial work on the matter the project committee offered the Department of Education its assistance in advancing resolution of the matter. The present proposals and policy have been developed in a joint consultative process with the Department. The Department will also be included in the project committee's work when comment on these proposals is processed and final recommendations formulated

A draft national policy, precisely directed and clearly targeted, with the object to create legal certainty and prevent injustice to learners with HIV, is attached to the discussion paper for comment. The contents of the policy need to be debated thoroughly. The Commission will therefore greatly appreciate any views you might have on its recommendations. As an interested party we regard your response, if any, as of vital importance.

Written comments or suggestions should reach the Commission by 30 September 1997 at the address given below. Further information and contact numbers appear on p (i) and (iii) of the paper.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'E. Cameron'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

MR JUSTICE E CAMERON
CHAIRPERSON: PROJECT COMMITTEE ON HIV/AIDS

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