

# Rotary Event In the Spotlight

## Rotary Family Health Days – 2021 National Launch

This exciting event was held on 5 November and saw the National Launch of the Rotary Family Health Days 2021, and the announcement of the World Aids Day Theme for 2021.

The Melusi Holistic Health Hub welcomed South Africa's Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla to site, where he gave the key note address, and emphasised the focus points for the day:

- Announcement of the 2021 World AIDS Day Theme
- Emphasise the Call to Action for COVID-19 Vaccination rollout
- To have a disability-specific focus by including people with disabilities in all activities and ensuring that those with special needs are not excluded

The Department of Health together with Rotarians and other stakeholders have strived to reinforce the importance of regular health screening and testing, which leads to early detection of preventable and manageable diseases to save lives and reduces avoidable treatment costs.

Dr Phaahla confirmed the importance of the Department of Health / Rotary partnership – which continues in 2021 for the tenth consecutive year – and said, “we value the day as we see it as part and parcel of the provision of comprehensive health services we offer.” Dr Phaahla appreciates that Rotarians are able to identify disadvantaged communities and looks forward to continuing the valuable partnership as we try to regain some ground that was lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Community Health Workers on site  
at the Melusi Holistic Health Hub*



The Rotary Health Family Health Days Campaign is one of the critical vehicles to improve access to, and extend the reach of, comprehensive health care services which include health education, health screening and testing for a variety of conditions such as HIV/AIDS, Blood Pressure, TB, Diabetes, Hepatitis B and C, and a number of cancers. Dr Phaahla expressed his appreciation of the role that Rotary plays in this health initiative, as well as in other health programmes such as Polio vaccinations.

To end off his address, Dr Phaahla announced the theme for commemorating World Aids Day on 1 December –

**“Working together to end inequalities. To end AIDS, TB, and COVID-19.  
Get tested! Get vaccinated! Adhere to Treatment!”**

This aligns to the Global Theme of “ending inequalities”.

The event was rounded off with Dr Phaahla unveiling a plaque at Melusi, and vaccinating one of the guests who had not yet had the opportunity to receive the Covid-19 vaccine!

In addition to this keynote address, we were honoured by a number of remarkable speakers, including RIPE Jennifer Jones (virtual address), Dr John Blandford (CDC), Ms Sandra Khumalo (representing Civil Society: People with disabilities), and SANAC CEO Dr T Xulu.



*DG Stella Anyangwe and Global Grant Champion  
PAG Carolyn Khoury with Minister of Health Dr  
Joe Phaahla and the plaque unveiled at the launch*



*Ms Sandra Khumalo*

The site of this year’s launch, the Melusi Holistic Health Hub, is sponsored and supported by The University of Pretoria, Department of Family Medicine and Rotary. Rotary’s involvement is by way of a Global Grant managed by the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400 and the Rotary Club of Edina Morningside D5950. We appreciate the Department of Health and the Community Health Workers whose efforts ensured that a number of people who do not have easy access to health services were accommodated at this event.

Sue Paget, Global CEO of the Rotarians for Family Health & Aids Prevention Action Group, took the time to thank all members of the E-Club for their outstanding support of this commemoration launch of the Rotary Family Health Days, with a special expression of gratitude for IPDG Annemarie, PAG Carolyn Khoury, and D9400 Public Image Chairperson Shereen Hunter.



*DG Stella Anyangwe, IPDG Annemarie  
Mostert, and RFHA CEO Sue Paget*

