

Dr Kenneth Leonard Jacobs
Chairperson Portfolio Committee on Health
National Assembly
Cape Town

Dear Dr Jacobs

The SA Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (SANCD A+) request a meeting

The SANCD A+ hereby requests an opportunity to address the Health Portfolio Committee on the sub-optimal status of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). It is our contention that this cluster of diseases is not prioritised (political and overall health funding) like communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS and TB are.

Who is the SANCD A+?

The SANCD A+ is an advocacy community of 100 civil society organisations committed to the realisation of the health and human rights of people living with NCDs+ (PLWNCDs+). Our mission is to ensure that people living with NCDs+ have regular, affordable, quality and evidence-based access to NCDs+ treatments and services. We maintain that people afflicted and affected by NCDs+ (including families and communities) must receive essential care without suffering financial hardship.

NCDs+ equity is benchmarked with the care provided to people living with communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, TB and STIs. The benchmarking criteria are found in existing policy and resourcing.

NCDs+

NCDs+ are the leading cause of death in South Africa with 59.9% as opposed to 21.6% for communicable diseases. ([StatsSA 2018 causes of death](#)). NCDs+ is an inclusive term and covers mental health, disabilities and all non-infectious causes of death like self-harm and accidents.

The Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024 does not allocate national or provincial funding for NCDs+ prevention and control. We implore the government to urgently change this status quo.

Our human rights and policy advocacy

1. The SANCD A+ has filed a **complaint with the SA Human Rights Commission** for the neglect of people living with NCDs+'s health and health-related human rights (ref no GP/2122/0026/BJ/K). In terms of our complaint, failure to act on NCDs+ goes beyond the National and Provincial Departments Health – to include the Presidency and National Planning Commission. The link to [the complaint is here](#) and the [evidence and timeline is here](#).
2. The [3rd NCDs+ National Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#) launched yesterday is an unfunded compromise policy. It was recently approved by the National Health Council and the National Council of Provinces. Within the NHI there is no clear plan to include NCDs+ as a priority.
3. The SANCD A+ requests that **chapter 10 of the National Development Plan** should expressly make NCDs+ a national priority and not limit the national response to the prevention of "lifestyle" diseases. We have requested interventions with the Presidency and National Planning Commission since 2021.

Kind regards



Dr Vicki Pinkney- Atkinson, PhD
Director and person living with NCDs+ since birth

1 June 2022