

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

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WELCOME

We are delighted to bring you the latest news from Mediclinic Private Higher Education Institution. This special edition celebrates the second anniversary of our Alumni Newsletter – a wonderful milestone in our journey together. Our newsletter is dedicated to keeping us all connected and shining a spotlight on our graduates' incredible achievements, dedication and hard work. Your inspiring stories continue to motivate not only us but also fellow alumni across the community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

From the office of Frances Hutchinson – outgoing Learning Centre Manager at the Tshwane HDO Learning Centre

Reflection on my journey at Mediclinic

As I reflect on my time at Mediclinic, I am filled with deep gratitude and a profound sense of pride. What began in October 1991 at Medikor Vergelegen (now known as Mediclinic Vergelegen) as a registered nurse in the operating theatre has grown into a career rich with professional growth, meaningful relationships and treasured experiences.

My journey through Mediclinic Southern Africa has led me through various roles and facilities – from my early days as a scrub sister in theatre to Unit Manager roles at both Mediclinic Louis Leipoldt and Mediclinic Sandton. Thereafter, I was fortunate to transition into the Higher Education and Training team as an educator. The final chapter of my career as Learning Centre Manager at the Tshwane Learning Centre has been especially significant. It is with a heavy yet proud heart that I now take my leave, carrying not only the knowledge and experience gained over the years but also countless memories of collaboration, laughter and an unwavering commitment to quality care and learning.

I have been incredibly privileged to study through and work for Mediclinic Southern Africa – an organisation that truly invests in its people and fosters a culture of compassion, excellence and lifelong learning. I will continue to fly the Mediclinic flag high as I step into the next phase of my life: Retirement!

Each step of this journey brought new challenges and opportunities but, more importantly, introduced me to some of the most remarkable individuals – colleagues, mentors and friends – who have profoundly shaped the nurse and the person I am today.

To every one of you who shared this journey with me: THANK YOU. Your support, inspiration and camaraderie have left a lasting mark on my heart. I will always carry the spirit of Mediclinic with me.

I hope to keep in touch and perhaps cross paths again. Until then, continue to shine and make a difference, as you always have.

RECENT NEWS AND INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

Results of the alumni survey

The Mediclinic Private Higher Education Alumni Survey was distributed via email to those on the alumni database. The survey was open for a period of 14 days. Twenty-nine (29) unique responses were collected. Most responses (n=11) were received from alumni who completed their training at the Mediclinic Learning Centre Tshwane Region. Graduates of the Diploma in Nursing provided the most responses to the survey (n=15).

Most respondents completed their studies (final year) in 2024 (n=19), followed by 2023 (n=9). At the time of responding to the survey, most alumni were employed (n=26).

Of the 29 responses received, twenty-three (n=23) indicated that they obtained employment within one month of completion. The remaining six (n=6) respondents indicated that they waited between 6-36 months to secure employment.

Of those who obtained employment, twenty-seven (n=27) are employed at a Mediclinic facility. When asked if the programme prepared them for the workplace, 97%

of respondents indicated 'yes'. The single respondent that answered 'no' to this question highlighted challenges related to reading and interpreting medical records.

Prepared by: Ryan Wills

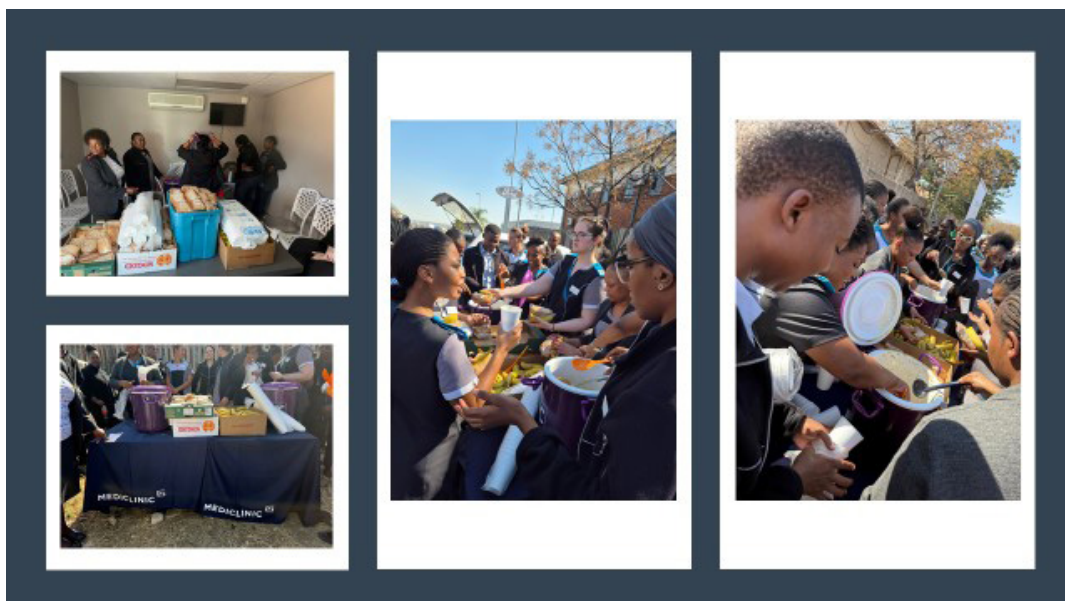
Date: 26 May 2025

Community projects

At Mediclinic Higher Education, we take great pride in our commitment to giving back to the community through meaningful initiatives. Each academic year, students across our six learning centres develop and submit community project proposals. Once approved, these projects are brought to life through dedicated implementation by the students. At the conclusion of the year, students reflect on their experiences, sharing insights into the value and impact of their projects both personally and within the community. Students at the Limpopo Learning Centre hosted a community health screening campaign in Polokwane, offering free blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index (BMI) and blood glucose testing. They also participated in and supported the Mandela Day Soup Kitchen Drive, reaching out to unemployed and homeless individuals in the dusty streets of Polokwane. The team successfully served warm vegetable soup, bread and fruit to approximately 100 people, bringing comfort and nourishment to those in need.



Community health screening



Mandela soup kitchen drive

At the **Central Region Learning Centre, Higher Certificate in Nursing** students, along with an educator, actively engaged in community-wide projects, spreading hope, care and empowerment throughout their communities. The female students collected sanitary pads and personal hygiene products and facilitated health education sessions focused on personal hygiene and menstrual health. They also encouraged girls to take on leadership roles within their schools and communities, advocating for better hygiene practices. By addressing these critical issues, the initiative aimed to improve girls' health, reduce school absenteeism and enhance their overall quality of life. Additionally, the students participated in a street store community project, where donated pre-loved clothes are carefully sorted by size, packed into bags and labelled according to item type and size. This effort helps provide essential clothing to those in need within the community. At **Welgedacht Retirement Village**, students provided companionship to elderly residents in palliative care, offering mental and emotional support through interactive board games, shared meals and heartfelt conversations. They also assisted nursing staff and promoted hydration and overall care.



The **Diploma in Nursing** students at the **Central Region Learning Centre** hosted a wellness campaign for the Bloemfontein community. They also managed water points and promoted safety awareness among drivers and pedestrians by assisting with flag signalling, assisting athletes with signs of hypoglycaemia or hypotension, supplying water, raising awareness about the health benefits of marathon participation and helping with post-event clean-up. Additionally, the students visited The **Engo Youth Care Facility**, where they hosted creative activities such as arts and crafts, games, and storytelling for young children while providing teenagers with valuable health education focused on reproductive and mental health. Mothers were pampered with hand care treatments and thoughtful personal gifts.



Girls project



Street Store project





At **Boikhucco Old Age Home**, the team assisted with residents' basic needs and engaged them through conversation, games and reading, helping to reduce loneliness and promote wellbeing. Together, these projects showcase the Central Region's dedication to nurturing healthier, stronger and more connected communities.

At the **Cape Learning Centre, Higher Certificate in Nursing** and **Higher Certificate in Emergency care** students made meaningful contributions to the Bright Star Safe Home. They spent time engaging with the children through games, assisted with cleaning around the home and taught the younger children basic hygiene practices such as handwashing, personal cleanliness and toothbrushing.

Additionally, students from **Mediclinic Hoogland** supported the initiative by helping with hand hygiene and assisting in serving prepared soup and bread as provided by the soup kitchen.

In addition to their work at the safe home, the students also supported an environmental health initiative at the Blouberg beachfront, helping to clean and maintain the area while promoting environmental awareness.



The Diploma in Nursing and **Diploma in Emergency care** students contributed to the Stellenbosch Animal Welfare Society of South Africa, the Ladles of Love Foundation and the MES Safe Space step-down shelter by assisting with food preparation and distributing essential items such as socks. Students from the **Northern Region Learning Centre** made a heartfelt impact across various community institutions, sharing their time, care and nursing skills.

At **Mediclinic Sandton**, they supported Marang House with daily nursing tasks and taught hygiene practices at Hotel Hope Ministries. At **Mediclinic Vereeniging**, they brought joy to children at the Destiny ECD Centre through games and health education, and shared valuable wellness tips on nutrition and exercise at the Busy Bees Home for the Aged.

Students in **Mediclinic Emfuleni** assisted at the Sedibeng Children's Home and helped Meals-on-Wheels prepare and serve meals to those in need. At **Mediclinic Potchefstroom**, they offered health check-ups and companionship at Khayaletu Old Age Village while **Mediclinic Morningside** students supported residents and shared health education at San Sereno Retirement Living.

Finally, the **Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre** students brightened the days of children at the **Teddy Bear Clinic**, helping staff, organising games and teaching the importance of handwashing.

Through their compassionate service, the students showed true dedication to community wellness and the spirit of caring that defines their profession.

Students and staff from the **Tshwane Region Learning Centre** and Mediclinic facilities continue to make a meaningful difference in their communities through acts of kindness, compassion and care.



At Pretoria Secondary School, students raised awareness about hand hygiene and donated personal hygiene items and sanitary pads to learners in need.

At Magaretha Ackerman Retirement Home (Pretoria), they spent quality time with elderly residents – offering hair and nail care, reading aloud and enjoying gentle walks together.

The **Mediclinic Kloof** team visited a nearby children's home, where they played games, taught basic hygiene habits such as handwashing and toothbrushing, and led a clean-up around the hospital and Wolwespruit. In celebration of Mandela Day, Mediclinic Legae and Mediclinic Muelmed hosted a fun wellness walk and provided hand-and-nail care for elderly community members.

Volunteers from **Mediclinic Brits** and **Mediclinic Medforum** joined forces with Wollies Animal Shelter NPC, where they washed and groomed dogs, walked them and assisted at adoption events. At Mediclinic Midstream, the team collaborated with EMS to deliver valuable health education to the local community.

To conclude their outreach, students participated in the **'Jars of Hope' for Mandela Day** initiative, preparing jars filled with nutritious, non-perishable items to help feed families in need.

These efforts highlight the spirit of compassion and service that defines the Northern Region, proving that small acts of care can create a big impact.

In **Nelspruit**, students from the **Mediclinic Learning Centre** partnered with Kamagugu Inclusive School, where they cleaned the school yard and donated paint to brighten and repaint the playground – creating a more welcoming and joyful space for the learners. Students also did their part to help feed families in need by participating in the **'Jars of Hope' for Mandela Day** initiative.

Career days

The **Cape Learning Centre** recently partnered with **ER24** to participate in the Somerset College Career Day in Somerset West, Western Cape. The event brought together learners from Somerset College as well as surrounding public schools, offering them the opportunity to explore a wide range of career paths. A big thank-you to Dylan Gale and the dedicated ER24 team for their support and participation in making the day such a success.



Fostering team spirit through student team building

At Mediclinic Higher Education, we recognise that Mediclinic's core value of teamwork is a cornerstone of both academic and professional success. To nurture this essential principle, **the Central Region Learning Centre Diploma in Nursing second year** students organise dynamic team-building activities. These activities strengthen the bonds between peers, building confidence, leadership and encouragement. Through teamwork, our students learn to support one another and harness their collective strengths, preparing them to excel in their future careers and beyond.

At the Mediclinic Learning Centre Central Region, the students used specific themes for each day of their team-building event to showcase their creative ideas, celebrating everyone's participation. While all were winners, each day's standout team was rewarded with a small prize, fostering healthy competition and camaraderie.



Funky hair day



Something blue



Injury on duty

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Since registration as a private higher education institution by the Department of Higher Education and Training in 2008, the Mediclinic Private Higher Education Institution has remained an important role player in private healthcare training. Our six learning centres, located in Bellville (Cape Town), Bloemfontein (Mangaung), Sandton (Johannesburg), Pretoria (Tshwane), Polokwane (Limpopo) and Nelspruit (Mbombela), currently provide opportunities for studies in the following higher education training programmes:

Programme	Qualifications	Regulatory Information	Duration	Learning Centres Where Offered	Notes
Health Service Management & Leadership	N/A	DHET, CHE & SAQA NQF 7 (120 credits)	Two years, part-time	Cape Town	Internal candidates only
Diploma in Nursing (R171)	Registered General Nurse	DHET, CHE, SANC & SAQA NQF 6 (360 credits)	Three years, full-time	Bloemfontein Cape Town Nelspruit Pretoria Polokwane Sandton	A limited number of bursaries are allocated annually
Diploma in Emergency Medical Care	Paramedic (ANT), Independent practice	DHET, CHE, HPCSA & SAQA NQF 6 (240 credits)	Two years, full-time	Cape Town	
Higher Certificate in Nursing (R169)	Registered Auxiliary Nurse	DHET, CHE, SANC & SAQA NQF 5 (120 credits)	One year, full-time	Bloemfontein Cape Town Nelspruit Pretoria Polokwane Sandton	
Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care Emergency Care	Assistance (ECA), Supervised practice	DHET, CHE, HPCSA & SAQA NQF 5 (120 credits)	One year, full-time	Cape Town	

Programme	Qualifications	Regulatory Information	Duration	Learning Centres Where Offered	Notes
Postgraduate Diploma Adult Critical Care Nursing (R635)	Registered Clinical Nurse Specialist	DHET, CHE, SANC & SAQA NQF 8 (120 credits)	One year, full-time	Bloemfontein Cape Town Pretoria Sandton	Internal candidates only. Must be in possession of a degree / diploma in Nursing (R425) and Midwifery (NQF 7) or a Diploma in Nursing (R171) and an Advanced Diploma in Midwifery (R1497)
Postgraduate Diploma in Perioperative Nursing (R635)	Registered Clinical Nurse Specialist		One year, full-time	Bloemfontein Cape Town Pretoria Sandton	
Postgraduate Diploma in Emergency Care Nursing (R635)	Registered Clinical Nurse Specialist		One year, full-time	Bloemfontein Cape Town Pretoria Sandton	
Advanced Diploma in Midwifery (R1497)	Registered Midwife	DHET, CHE, SANC & SAQA NQF 7 (120 credits)	One year, full-time	Polokwane	Internal candidates only
Advanced Diploma in Management of a Healthcare Unit		DHET, CHE & SAQA NQF 7 (120 credits)	Two years, part-time	Cape Town	
DHET: Department of Higher Education and Training CHE: Council on Higher Education and Training SANC: South African Nursing Council HPCSA: Health Professions Council of South Africa SAQA: South African Qualifications Authority NQF: National Qualifications Framework					

For more information on these programmes, the entry requirements, the costs and other information, please visit the following website:
<https://www.mediclinic.co.za/en/education-corporate/home.html>

IN CONCLUSION

By embracing teamwork and community spirit, our students are laying a strong foundation for successful careers and fulfilling lives. Education at Mediclinic Private Higher Education institutions extends beyond the classroom, fostering essential skills and meaningful connections that prepare students to become compassionate, competent healthcare professionals.

We are proud to watch them grow together, ready to make a positive impact on the world.

STAY CONNECTED

We invite all our alumni to stay connected and engaged with the institution. Follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn for the latest news and updates. Should you have exciting news to share, email us at ryan.wills@mediclinic.co.za and we will feature it in our next newsletter.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Your achievements and contributions continue to inspire and shape the future of nursing. We look forward to staying connected and seeing you at our upcoming events.