



Western Cape Health Minister gets behind Movember

15 September 2014 –Thousands of men are diagnosed with prostate and testicular cancer in South Africa each year, but there is still a stigma around these men’s health issues and men often find these issues difficult to talk about and avoid seeking timeous medical help, says Western Cape Minister of Health, Theuns Botha.

This year, to start the conversation about men’s health issues and encourage men to go for regular health checks, Minister Botha will lend his support to the Movember campaign, which aims to change the face of men’s health by raising funds and awareness for men’s health issues, including prostate and testicular cancers.

“We have several initiatives in South Africa which support women’s health, but men’s health is often overlooked as the issues that affect men – such as testicular and prostate cancers – seem embarrassing to talk about. There is a definite need to make men more aware of their health and remove the stigma associated with these men’s health issues,” says Minister Botha.

“I support Movember as it reiterates the Department’s stance that testicular and prostate cancers do not have to mean the end of your life if they are detected early enough. I would like to encourage South Africa to get behind the campaign and sign up for Movember this year.”

Movember raises funds by getting men or Mo Bros – as supporters of the campaign are affectionately known – to sign up on www.movember.com, to grow and groom a moustache, or mo, for the month of November and to get people to pledge money towards their efforts.

Women can also get involved by registering as Mo Sistas on www.movember.com and by encouraging the men in their life to sign up and grow a mo, showing their support by pledging funds and opening dialogues about men’s health issues.

The funds raised by Movember fund survivorship and research programmes that are developed in conjunction with Movember South Africa’s men’s health partner, the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA). These programmes provide men with the best choices and treatment options available.

The rules are simple, once registered or reregistered (as required each year), Mo Bros start clean shaven on 1 Movember and grow a mo for the month, getting those close to them to pledge funds and support towards their mo, helping them spread Movember’s health messages.

Mo Bros and Mo Sistas can sign up or reregister for this year's Movember campaign on www.movember.com between 15 September and 1 November.

ENDS

Note to editors:

CANSA: Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) is a community-driven and volunteer-based organisation that has been fighting cancer for the past 80 years. Started in 1931 by a group of medical professionals concerned about the high incidence of cancer, CANSA has grown to become one of the leading cancer NGOs in the South Africa with 45 offices around the country and more than 12 000 volunteers and 260 staff members.

Movember is an annual awareness & fundraising campaign in 21 countries around the globe to "Change The Face of Men's Health" that started in Australia in 2003. With the support of their Mo Sistas, Mo Bros start 1 Movember clean-shaven and for the rest of November (Movember), groom, and grow their moustache to become walking, talking billboards raising awareness and funds for the often ignored issue of men's health. Mo Bros seek out sponsorship for their Mo-growing efforts and at the end of the month, celebrate by hosting their own Movember party or attending one of Movember's Gala Partés. Individuals, groups and corporates are encouraged to register on www.movember.com from 15 September 2014 and start clean shaven on 1 Movember. Join in the fun or follow the campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Social media channels:

#tag: #MovemberRSA

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MovemberSouthAfrica>

Twitter: @MovemberRSA

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