

Community rehabilitation for schizophrenia patients

To the Editor: I read the editorial entitled 'Community rehabilitation for schizophrenia patients: Is it feasible in South Africa?'¹ with interest, but was very surprised to see that no mention was made of the Assertive Community Treatment Programme that has been running in the Western Cape since 2007.

The ACT teams (one team based at each of the three state psychiatric hospitals) have now been functioning for nearly 4 years, utilising a cost-effective model adapted to the South African situation. A research programme also ran concurrently during the first 2 years of the initiative, with results clearly supporting the efficacy of the ACT programme.

To date four articles have been published²⁻⁵ describing the *modus operandi* as well as reporting on the successful outcomes. From our side we therefore fully support the concept of a hospital-based

community outreach programme, and believe that the Western Cape ACT initiative has already shown that such a system is very appropriate to our setting.

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