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6 July 2005

The Principal  
SEK Mqayi Senior Secondary School  
NU 8 Mdantsane  
5219

Dear Sir/Madam

### REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH STUDY

I am an MA (Public Health) student at the University of South Africa, presently engaged in a research project entitled "THE EXPERIENCE OF INDIGENOUS CIRCUMCISION BY NEWLY INITIATED XHOSA MEN IN EAST LONDON IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE", under the supervision of Professor TR Mavundla of the Department of Health Studies.

The objective of the study is to explore and describe the experience of newly initiated Xhosa men undergoing circumcision rites in East London and to formulate and describe guidelines for public health professionals to support newly initiated Xhosa men undergoing circumcision rites.

In order to complete this study I need to conduct interviews of approximately 45 to 60 minutes' duration with nursing students who meet the eligibility criteria. These interviews will be audiotaped and the findings verified by an independent expert in qualitative research. In this study I undertake to safeguard your identity by omitting the use of names and places. Confidentiality will be assured by erasure of taped material on completion of transcription of the tapes. Only an independent expert on qualitative research and I will share the transcribed material. Informed consent will be obtained before the proceedings and participants reserve the right to withdraw at any stage should they so wish.

The direct benefit for the institution is that a summary of the research findings will be made available to the hospital. The long-term benefit is that the research findings will be used to formulate guidelines to support newly initiated Xhosa men undergoing circumcision in East London in the Eastern Cape Province.

I trust this request will receive your favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely

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B BOTTOMAN  
Researcher: B CUR, RN

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TR MAVUNDLA  
Supervisor: D CUR, RN