



Turning Victims into Survivors

CORPORATE SOCIAL INITIATIVE

We are giving Ntabiseng Thuthuzela Care Centre
a facelift on **Sunday 9 November 2014**

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Their **wish list** is available at reception
or download it from our website

skin•body•health

renewal

a non-surgical solution

THUTHUZELA

C A R E C E N T R E

Turning Victims into Survivors

Improving the investigation of rapes
and the treatment of survivors!



ABOUT

The Ntabiseng Thuthuzela Care Centre bears the name in memory of Nthabiseng Lorraine Khumalo, who was gang-raped in June 1994, identified her attackers to the police and was killed by them in her hospital bed.

But the centre's history actually goes back to 1992, when there was an outcry by the community over the increasing number of rapes in the Soweto area. Low conviction rates were leading to frustration, anger and vigilante action. Another approach was needed. Various government departments, led by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), designed a new anti-rape strategy with civil society. Adopted by parliament last year, it proposed merging police and prosecution services with the Nthabiseng Thuthuzela Centre, which up to then had provided only health care and counselling.

The centres offer the following:

- medical examination and care
- reporting the rape and opening a case
- counselling

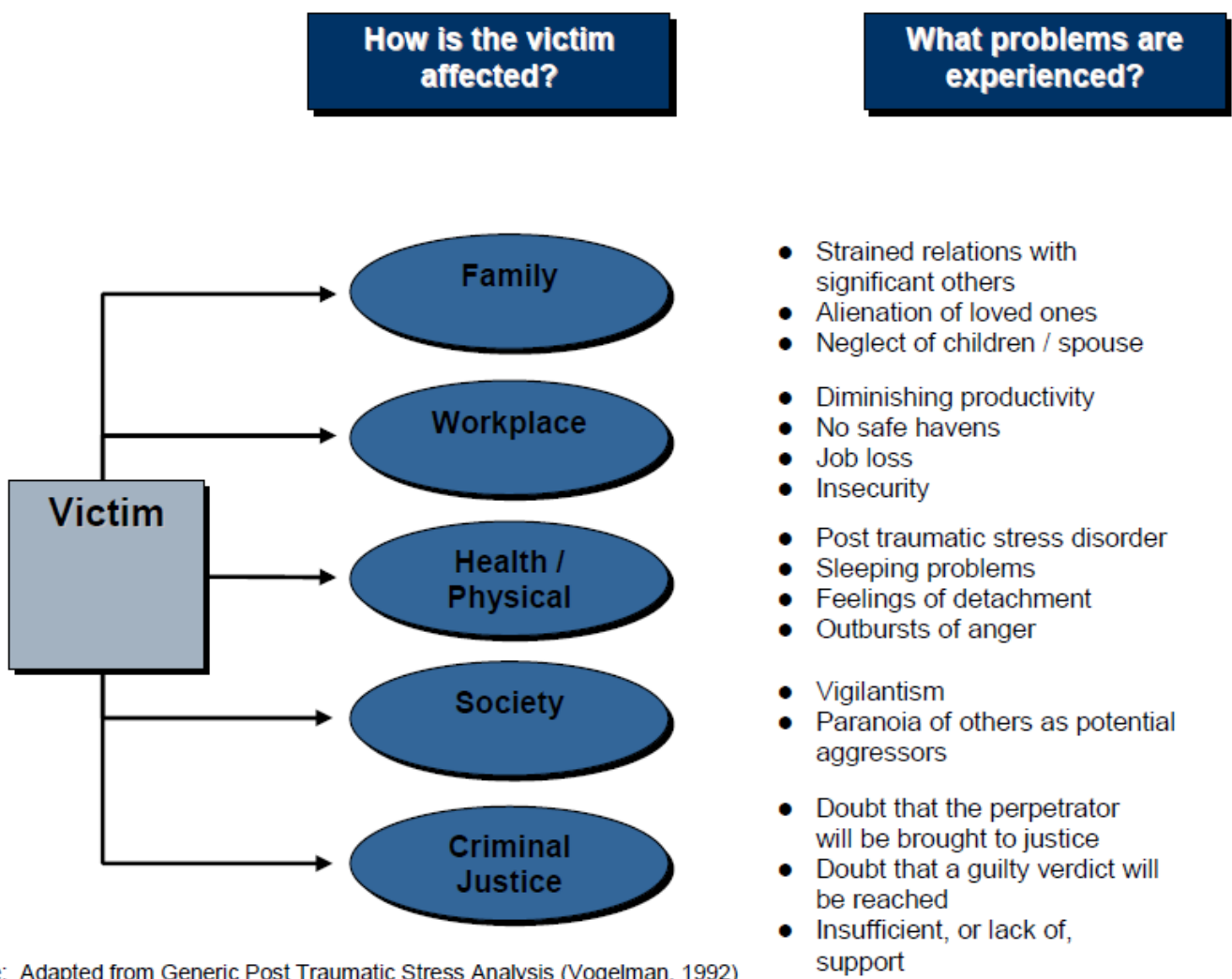


Thuthuzela Care Centres are one-stop facilities that have been introduced as a critical part of South Africa's anti-rape strategy, aiming to reduce secondary trauma for the victim, improve conviction rates and reduce the cycle time for finalising cases.

The *Thuthuzela* project is led by the NPA's **Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit (SOCA)**, in partnership with various donors as a response to the urgent need for an integrated strategy for prevention, response and support for rape victims.

Since its establishment, the **SOCA Unit** has been working to develop best practices and policies that seek to eradicate victimisation of women and children, while improving prosecution, particularly in the areas of sexual offences, maintenance, child justice and domestic violence.

The context: Rape is complex and has a wide impact in society ...



Note: Adapted from Generic Post Traumatic Stress Analysis (Vogelman, 1992)

Workings of the *Thuthuzela Care Centres*?

Thuthuzela Care Centres are in operation in public hospitals in communities where the incidence of rape is particularly high. They are also linked to sexual offences courts, which are staffed by prosecutors, social workers, investigating officers, magistrates, health professionals, NGOs and police, and located in close proximity to the centres.

The centres are managed by a top level inter-departmental team comprising Justice, Health, Education, Treasury, Correctional Services, Safety and Security, Local Government, Home Affairs, Social Development and designated civil society organisations.

Thuthuzela's integrated approach to rape care is one of respect, comfort, restoring dignity and ensuring justice for children, women and men who are victims of sexual violence. When reporting, the rape victim is removed from crowds and intimidating environments, such as at the police station, to a more victim-friendly environment before being transported by ambulance to the *Thuthuzela* one stop care centre at the hospital. Enroute, the victim receives comfort and crisis counselling from a trained ambulance volunteer.

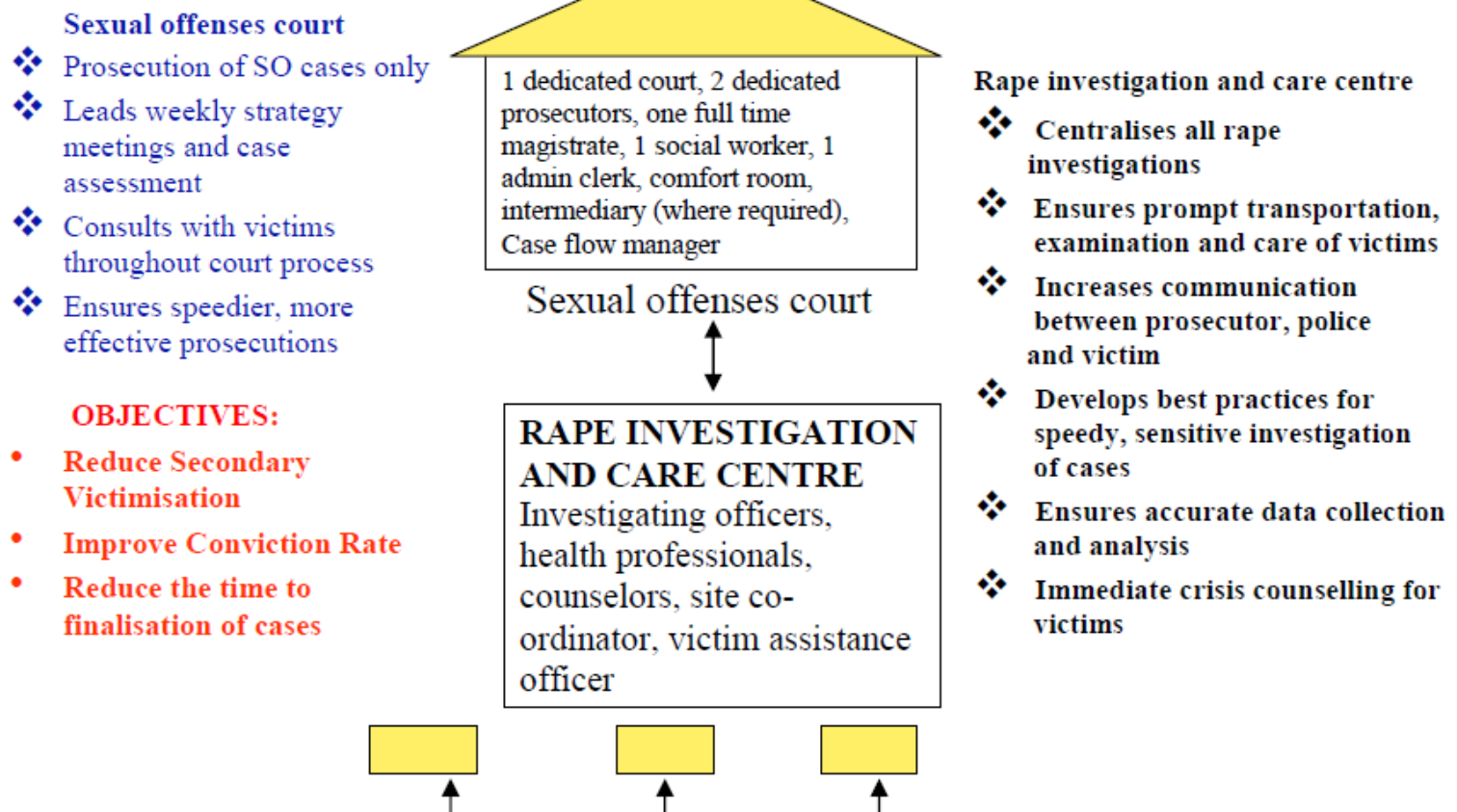


Victim friendly waiting rooms at courts

Once at the *Thuthuzela Care Centre*, the victim is ushered to a quiet, private space, welcomed by the site-coordinator. A doctor is immediately summoned to conduct a medical examination. The victim is then given Information on the procedures to be performed. The victim (patient) signs a consent form for medical examination and blood specimens. If the medical examination happens within 24 hours of the rape, after which the victim is offered the opportunity to take a bath or shower and to change into clean clothes. After that, the investigating officer on call at the centre takes the victim's statement. Thereafter, the victim receives appropriate medication and is given a follow-up date for further medical treatment, before being transported home.

“This process ensures that service providers are available to a rape survivor in one location, rather than her being shuttled around throughout the criminal justice system”, says Advocate Thoko Majokweni, Head of the SOCA unit.

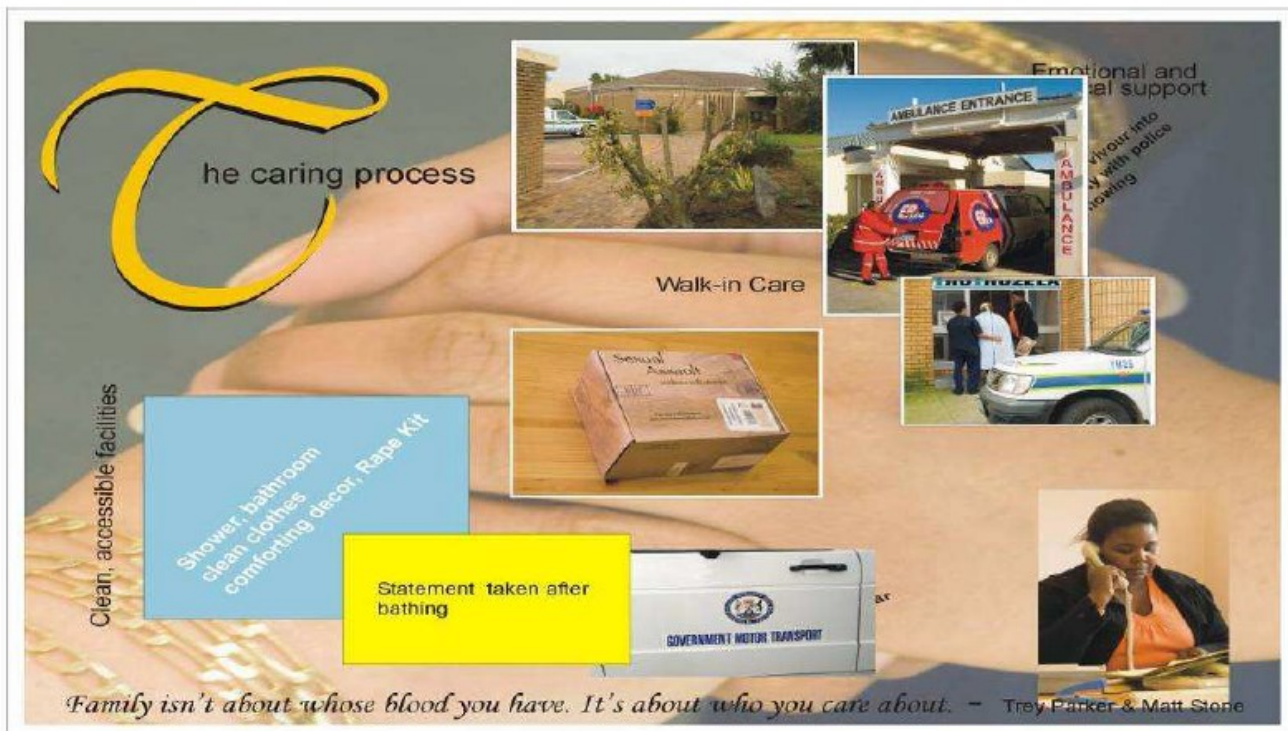
Thuthuzela Model



RAPE VICTIMS REPORT AT LOCAL POLICE STATION, CLINICS, HOSPITALS OR OTHER CBOs

BLUEPRINT Thuthuzela Care Centres

Specially trained staff, access to variety of professional services...



Caring for the young victims of rape

Doctors at *Thuthuzela Care Centres* have reported seeing increased numbers of child victims. Sadly, some of them are as young as three months. Accordingly, the need for specially trained child-friendly nurses or care-givers to receive and comfort children before they are taken for examination is critical.



Baragwanath Thuthuzela Care Centre, child friendly environment

Various donors have also contributed to making the centres child-friendly, through offering technical expertise for the installation and availability of special tools. These include two way-mirrors, posters, drawings, and anatomically correct dolls comprising five family members, to help prepare children to appear in court, should that become necessary.



Play therapy in child friendly Thuthuzela Care Centre facilities

Impact of the *Thuthuzela Care Centres*

The *Thuthuzela* model has already improved the process of reporting and prosecuting rape and other sexual offences, and reducing secondary trauma to survivors as the entire process takes place in a dignified and friendly environment.

According to Advocate Majokweni, “At the heart of the success of the *Thuthuzela* approach is the professional medical and legal interface and a high degree of cooperation between victim and service providers from reporting through investigation and prosecution of the crime, leading up to conviction of the offender. Offender conviction rates are up too. Higher levels of awareness have resulted in an increased numbers of cases reported at police stations and taken immediately to a *Thuthuzela Care Centre*”.

Services offered at the *Thuthuzela Care Centres(TCCs)*

- Welcome and comfort from a site co-ordinator or nurse.
- An explanation of how the medical examination will be conducted and what clothing might be taken for evidence.
- A consent form to sign that allows the doctor to conduct the medical examination.
- A nurse in the examination room.
- After the medical examination, there are bath or shower facilities for the victims to use.
- An investigation officer will interview the survivor and take his/her statement.
- A social worker or nurse will offer counselling.
- A nurse arranges for follow-up visits, treatment and medication for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV and AIDS.
- A referral letter or appointment will be made for long-term counselling.
- The victim (survivor) is offered transportation home by an ambulance or the investigating officer.
- Arrangements for the survivor to go to a place of safety, if necessary.
- Consultations with a specialist prosecutor before the case goes to court.
- Court preparation by a victim assistant officer.
- An explanation of the outcome and update of the trial process by a case manager.

**TCC Soweto, Gauteng
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Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital
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The National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa
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Die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag van Suid-Afrika