

# The challenges and needs of older people as HIV and AIDS caregivers in South Africa

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# **The challenges and needs of older people as HIV and AIDS caregivers in South Africa**

## Propositions

1. Although they are willing, older people in South Africa are limited in providing care for sick children and orphaned grandchildren because of financial, emotional, social and physical conditions (this dissertation).
2. Stigma related to HIV and AIDS induces feelings of grief in older people and is one of the most important limiting factors in providing care (this dissertation).
3. Determining the relative importance of social cognitive constructs in understanding care-giving related behaviour adds relevant information to existing (mostly qualitative) research on older HIV and AIDS caregivers (this dissertation).
4. Vital needs that older caregivers experience can be alleviated and prevented by a targeted health education intervention (this dissertation).
5. Understanding beliefs on HIV and AIDS in the wide community is essential to successful programme implementation.
6. The needs of older caregivers should be taken into account when designing programmes and policies to assist families affected by HIV and AIDS.
7. To fully address the socio-economic impact of HIV and AIDS, collaboration among different sectors in society including health, social development and community organisations is required.
8. The long term effectiveness of programmes designed to assist older people as providers of care depend on the extent to which they are supported at community and policy levels.

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