

A little bit of Care brings peace to ailing people

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Mona Mogomotsi finally managed to sleep peacefully this week after a thyroid gland operation which had left her suffering neck pain.

Mogomotsi received the necessary medical attention from Care Cross Medical Centre – and she received it at a fraction of what patients would normally pay at a private hospital.

Care Cross has been playing a crucial role in providing private health care to rural and urban communities across the country. Mogomotsi is one of its 150 000 registered patients.

The 54-year-old unemployed mother of two from Rustenburg's Tlhabane township says she has been using the town's Care Cross service for two years now. The Rustenburg Care Cross clinic has been operating for nine years.

To access the service, patients first register for Ocsa Care, a product that costs R180 a month and gives them unlimited access to Care Cross medical services.

Private doctors charge approximately R250 per consultation.

Once patients have registered



Grace Kgomongwe, the managing director of Little Rock Trading, was a beneficiary of bridging finance offered by Nurcha || PHOTO: MUNTU VILOKAZI

with Ocsa Care they are allocated one of Care Cross's 2 600 doctors, says Care Cross managing director and founder Reinder Nauta.

"The doctors include general practitioners, optometrists and dentists who are situated not more than five kilometres from where their patients work or stay," says Nauta.

Mogomotsi is grateful because the medical centre was spot-on in

diagnosing her illness.

"I was coughing, and the doctor did a full check-up. He said my glands were swollen and I needed to undergo an operation to remove them," says Mogomotsi.

Another thing that impressed her was that Care Cross doctors always check the Internet for the best medicines available.

Mogomotsi spoke to City Press during a corporate social invest-

ment tour organised by Futuregrowth, an asset management company under long-term insurer Old Mutual.

Futuregrowth has been funding Care Cross, which targets patients who would not normally be able to afford medical aid, for instance domestic workers, mine workers and retail store labourers.

Futuregrowth has also pumped some funds into a financial institu-

tion which offers bridging finance and a school that helps people – who have not finished matric – to get various tertiary qualifications.

Nurcha, the financial institution offering bridging finance to property developers and contractors who have won business contracts from government and the private sector, is one beneficiary.

The funding is provided at commercial interest rates.

Over the past five years Nurcha has provided loans totalling R400 million to 218 contractors for infrastructural and community projects.

The bridging finance is used by the companies to purchase building materials for their contracts.

One of the beneficiaries of Nurcha is Grace Kgomongwe, the managing director of Little Rock Trading. In 2007 she won a R10-million contract to convert 13 mine hostels into 152 family units.

Her business has since grown and she has built schools, toilets and halls in North West.

"Nurcha has been helpful because it has supplied me with technical support and working capital, enabling me to re-evaluate the project to check its viability.

"They really helped us with working capital and technical support," says Kgomongwe.