

## Media Alert

### Inspirational Kenyan campaigner to open the 7<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference

The inspirational speaker Dr Florence Manguyu will deliver the opening address at the 7<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference in Tasmania. Dr Manguyu's keynote address is entitled 'People, Poverty and Prosperity in Health' and is based on her belief that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every human being.

Dr Manguyu is a consultant paediatrician in clinical practice in Nairobi, Kenya. Through her work for the health and wellbeing of children and the youth, she became a pioneer in the development of the first comprehensive Children's Act in Kenya, which was enacted in 2002.

"Many women especially the poor are denied this right because of the failure of the medical profession to address gender issues in the provision of health services. Advances in the medical field in the last five decades, have improved the quality of life for many people in the world yet these achievements elude rural communities in developing countries. The burden of disease in such communities falls unfairly on women. Uplifting the social status of women and girls, and ensuring equitable distribution of available resources benefits not only the individual but the whole society," said Dr Manguyu.

Dr Manguyu sits on several international and national boards dealing with policies in health. In 1994, she chaired the Non-Governmental Organisation Forum of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. This Cairo conference was a global landmark on policies that impact on health and human development. She was also a member of the World Health Organisation Global Commission on Women's Health,

**Dr Manguyu will speak at 6:00pm on Saturday March 1, 2003 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, 1 Davey Street, Hobart.**

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7<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference, 1 – 4 March 2003, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart  
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