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Professional Development Training Programs by the Northern Cape Department of Education: Impact on Life Orientation Teachers

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ABSTRACT Continuous and intensive professional development training aims at equipping South African Life Orientation teachers with the necessary resources to present the subject, to improve their professional skills and increase their confidence in dealing with the subject. Professional development training is considered to be the result of a learning process which is directed at acquiring a coherent overview of the knowledge as well as the insights, attitudes and repertory that a teacher needs for the everyday practising of the profession. To be effective, the training of teachers should be a seamless life-long experience in equipping them to respond effectively to changes in the economy and in the educational system. This quantitative study investigated the impact of in-service training programs on a sample of sixty Life Orientation teachers. This research was timeous in that it has laid bare not only the shortcomings of the current training programs but also points a way towards redress of the problem.