Basic Data on Education in the Overstrand Region of South Africa

At present, the *Hermanus Varsity Trust* (HVT) is the only organization in the Overstrand established to provide courses and programmes at post-secondary school level/NQF 5 and above, with in-person tutorial support for students.

In the past 10 years, around 4000 individuals wrote the Grade 12 (NSC) examination for a Matriculation certificate. On average, around 20% failed.

- Of the latter, although some had the opportunity to return to school and try again, most dropped out of school.
- Of the 80% who passed Grade 12, around half that number achieved a Matric with Bachelor's degree entry pass, permitting them to go to university and pursue a degree.
- Because of the cost of programme and living expenses as well as other factors, a very small fraction of those who obtain a degree pass go to university (see diagram below).
- It is estimated that approximately 3000 school-leavers, who completed school have not studied further. Some have been able to obtain basic employment, but many are unemployed with no prospect at present of further education or employment.
- There is also a large number of people with jobs who do not have the requisite training or education at a level that local businesses require. They have difficulty improving their skills or knowledge because few relevant courses are offered in the Overstrand and many cannot afford to pay for additional studies.

HVT's challenge is to meet these diverse education needs with quality education. *An important factor in ensuring the quality of education is the number of highly qualified and experienced retired professionals – including Professors Emeritus, teachers, accountants, IT specialists and engineers – in the Greater Hermanus area who are willing to work as tutors and assist students with their programmes. It is well established that this kind of personal support improves a student's chances of completing their programmes successfully compared with students who take online courses without personal support and encouragement.*

