21 reasons why members leave planning councils

Each year, 65 percent of membership loss on planning councils is for reasons over which the councils have no control:

- Life issues (work, illness, family, lack of time etc.)
- Deaths

That means, however, that 35 percent of membership loss is avoidable. These statistics, compiled from the 51 EMAs in 2002, highlight the fact that councils and consortia can improve retention by looking at the other reasons that members leave.

The following list highlights areas that need to be considered carefully to increase membership retention:

- Poor explanation about the planning council process
- Lack of commitment
- Lack of involvement
- Lack of awareness of CARE Act programs
- Lack of interest
- Included then not involved
- Formality and complexity of procedures
- Not enough interactive events
- Poor venue or food
- Lack of incentives
- Lack of well prepared meetings
- Cliques
- Change of circumstances
- Not looked after in terms of special needs
- Not looked after when in need
- Fed up with elitism
- Fed up with made up rules
- Cost
- Disclosure of HIV status
- Inconvenient meeting times
- Lack of information