



Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability

WESKAAP FORUM VIR INTELLEKTUELE GESTREMDHEID — IQUMRHU LE NTSHONA KOLONI LOKHUBAZEKO NGENGOQONDO

— ADDING SKILLS • ADDING KNOWLEDGE • ADVANCING RIGHTS —

**SUPPORTING THE
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY COMMUNITY**

50 YEARS
1971 – 2021

*Reflecting on and celebrating the history of the
Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability*

A photograph showing a woman in a pink shirt smiling and interacting with two children. One child is holding a yellow object, and the other is holding a pink object. The background is a blurred classroom setting.

**2021 / 2022
ANNUAL REPORT**

VISION

A South Africa where all people with intellectual disability are enabled to live with inherent dignity as confirmed in the Constitution

THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



While facing many uncertainties as the pandemic unfolded, the political instability both globally and nationally placed much pressure on non-profit organisations, and their abilities to survive and sustain. In this atmosphere of anxiety and doubt, it was of the utmost importance that the Forum continued to create and maintain robust and effective service and support programmes in which members were afforded the opportunity to share spaces of common ground so that they felt supported and could continue to develop themselves.

In every crisis, new initiatives and ways of thinking arise. This allowed for training and capacity building to be presented in diverse forms – using a blended learning approach – and enhanced awareness of the complexities of access to learning for all. This was evident in the “training packs” and various webinars offered during this period.

The WCFID continues to be influential in the development of resource materials that remain relevant and add to the sector's body of knowledge.

As digital technology broadens, the role of human interaction must not be underestimated. While organisations grapple with the changing nature of work and look to new hybrid models, let us remember those that continued to work on the frontlines where choice was never an option. Through strong advocacy, the WCFID continues to entrench a sense of entitlement to human dignity and basic rights with an evolving awareness of the possibilities for people with disabilities. For advocacy to be effective, there has to be a solid understanding and recognition of the fundamental causes of systemic inequalities and challenges that are being addressed.

From December 2021 to March 2022, the WCFID started the rigorous process of putting new leadership in place. We will most certainly draw on the strengths and foundations that Tessa Wood left behind while forging a new path forward that complements the ethical principles and values of the WCFID.

We bid farewell to Tessa and thank her for the many years of commitment and passion shared with the WCFID. She displayed an eagerness to engage and participate in dialogue with civil society, people with disabilities, government departments, organisations, and institutions (formal and informal). The list is endless. Her positive and happy disposition and good intentions always gave way to finding solutions that created opportunities. Most importantly, she provided a trustworthy and safe space for all who needed a listening ear.



FATIMA SHABOODIEN
Chairperson

THE WCFID ACKNOWLEDGES THE WCFID BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE:

Fatima Shaboodien, Principal, De Heide Children's Special Care Centre, Lansdowne (Chairperson)

Wendy Arendse, Consultant in Community and Organisational Development (Treasurer)

Emeritus Prof. Colleen Adnams, Professor of Intellectual Disability, Dept. Psychiatry and Mental Health, UCT (resigned December 2021)

Kay Cikizwa, Senior Social Worker, Alexandra Hospital, Maitland

Lesinda Cunningham, Director, Elim Home, Overberg

Gail Davids, Services Manager, Oasis Association

Rosemary De Waal, Social Worker (retired)

Prof. Sharon Kleintjes, Vera Grover Professor of Intellectual Disability Dept. Psychiatry and Mental Health, UCT; and WCG Dept. Health

Lindelwa Madikane, Principal, Vukani Special Care Centre, Khayelitsha

Toni Abrahams, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Lentegour Hospital, Mitchells Plain

Prof. Thobeka Mda, Dean of Education (retired), Cape Peninsula University of Technology

Nomasango Xabanisa, Principal, Sibongile Day & Night Care, Khayelitsha

Tessa Wood, Director, WCFID (ex officio)

WCFID STAFF

Tessa Wood, Director; Aimee Isaacs, Programme Manager; Felicity Dreyer, Administrator; Sandy Butler, Membership & Project Coordinator; Ruth Nugent, Community Trainer; Shakira Lakay, Training Coordinator; Vanessa Japtha, Advocacy Manager; Michelle Mert, Bookkeeper; Noshipho Peter, General Assistant; Rebecca Johns (Consultant- Life Skills Trainer & Resource Developer).



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The past year, once again, required us to acknowledge the demanding and often tragic reality of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and challenging economic times on the intellectual disability community and those of the WCFID.

However, at the WCFID there was cause to celebrate with the milestone of reaching 50 years. What a privilege it was to reflect on the organisation's history, the founders, contributors, and acknowledge the collective impact of the WCFID in collaboration with its membership and various role players. This led not only to the documentation of the journey in a book *'CELEBRATING 50 YEARS: 1971 - 2021 Reflecting on and celebrating the history of the Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability - supporting the provision and development of services for persons with intellectual disability in the Western Cape and beyond'*, but also to holding an award ceremony to recognise some very special people in the life of the WCFID. It was a challenge to limit the awards to just a few recipients, being only too aware that the WCFID is a membership organisation, with extensive support from funders, volunteers, colleagues, and partners.

The year under review demonstrated the commitment and dedication of the WCFID Board members and staff, together with many government officials, funders, and colleagues who provided assistance and understanding as the WCFID strived to be responsive to the needs of the community, often under challenging circumstances.

Operations continued to be flexible and creative in connecting and supporting the members and the broader intellectual disability community. Capacity building made use of technology, focusing on providing relevant, research-based training content and methodology, to enhance both the capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes. The One to One Day event continued to amaze with their programme adaption to accommodate the pandemic - a special thank you to the generosity of the Cape Town community. Central to the 'WCFID Theory of Change' is the empowerment of the person with intellectual disability, which is increasingly reflected through the WCFID's programmes. The advocacy programme saw some rewards following active monitoring and engagements, making use of strategic collaboration and partnerships, including growing communication and engagements between service providers.

It is with very mixed feelings that I have resigned as director of the WCFID after more than 23 years. The WCFID is an organisation I have been completely committed to, and love dearly - it has enriched my life HUGELY as I have crossed paths and formed relationships with so many amazing people.

I leave knowing that, collectively, service provision has grown enormously, and that there are many wonderful people who do care and have shown exceptional commitment to their work, whether in a volunteer or formal work capacity. The people with whom I have worked closely will recall my excitement when seeing positive growth in people and organisations, however small; and the tears of sadness and disappointment where there has been neglect or rights violated. But what a joy to have travelled this journey - my life has been truly enriched. THANK YOU.

I have absolute confidence in the ability and commitment of the new director, Gail Davids, and welcome her with pride and a sense of anticipation that she will continue to provide and enhance the invaluable services of the WCFID within the intellectual disability community.

TESSA WOOD
Outgoing Director

The Grover Scholarship and Sponsorship Trust

The Grover Trust Fund Allocations Committee awarded sponsorships to the facilities of 14 people with intellectual disability, and 2 scholarships for PhD degrees specific to intellectual disability.

Donor Recognition - Financial Aid, In Kind and Services:

- ▶ Anne Kreitzer Will Trust
- ▶ Centre for Child Law, Pretoria
- ▶ City of Cape Town
- ▶ Community Chest of the Western Cape
- ▶ Dept. Health, National
- ▶ Dept. Health, Western Cape
- ▶ Dept. Social Development, Western Cape
- ▶ Dorrington Matthee Consulting cc
- ▶ ELMA Philanthropies
- ▶ Frank Robb Charitable Trust
- ▶ Grover Scholarship & Sponsorship Trust
- ▶ InVision Services, USA
- ▶ Jelly Beanz
- ▶ JET Lee Will Trust
- ▶ One to One Day supporters (community clubs, schools, religious bodies)
- ▶ RAITH Foundation
- ▶ Syringa Trust

WCFID Celebrates 50 Years: 1971 - 2021

The highlight for the year for the WCFID has been the 50-year celebrations, with the launch of the book '50 Years 1971-2021: Reflecting on and celebrating the history of the Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability - supporting the provision and development of services for persons with intellectual disability in the Western Cape and beyond', and an award ceremony to acknowledge those who had significantly contributed to the life and growth of the WCFID.

Extract from the foreword of 50 Years 1971-2021: Reflecting on and celebrating the history of the Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability:

Perusal of the publication throws into relief many foundational strengths that underpin the success and longevity of the WCFID... I wish to highlight three key strengths:

The value of action-orientated leadership: Prof Grover, early coordinators, and advisors...have left a legacy of leadership by example that is still very evident in the work of the Forum today. Most amazingly, leadership by example can be found at all levels of the organisation as members bring their skills to their work and encourage participation of others in their efforts.

The power of partnerships: the Forum harnesses the energies of an interconnected network of important stakeholders to bring their work to fruition, partnering with Government, other non-governmental, disabled people's and community organisations, funders, academics, and politicians, amongst others, to build the capacity of member organisations through their programmes. In turn, the Forum's work contributes to the meeting of these partner organisations own goals and responsibilities in serving the interest of people with intellectual disability, exemplifying the power of the collective to achieve needed change even when facing the most difficult of challenges.

The transformational impact of advocacy: South Africa's Constitution, policies, and service platforms are disability inclusive, yet a great deal of work is still to be done to action these policies and service directives to more fully include the needs of people with intellectual disability and their families in funded implementation strategies. The Forum's single-minded perseverance in systematically pursuing the complex work of calling upon the State and its partners to honour the rights of people with intellectual disability to the full benefits of society under the Constitution remains a centrally important part of its work. The publication provides insights into the longstanding work of the Forum in this regard.

It is my sincerest wish that the Forum will bring us another 50 years - and more - of inspiring work in its efforts to contribute to improving the quality of life of people with intellectual disability.

PROFESSOR SHARON KLEINTJES,

Vera Grover Chair of Intellectual Disability,
Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, University of Cape Town



President Rev Cunningham and
Vice President Reverend Abrahams

'We congratulate the Forum for outstanding work and progress over the 50 years. The Moravian Church has been part of this through Reverend Ulster as a founder member. Elim Home, Gansbaai and Bredasdorp Outreach has been strengthened through your stunning work. Thank you for your leadership.'

- REVEREND GODFREY CUNNINGHAM, PRESIDENT OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH



'Many congratulations to you and WCFID for achieving such an incredible milestone! It is such a wonderful opportunity to look back and celebrate all that the organisation has done paving the way for advocacy in South Africa for those who experience disabilities. We are honored to be your partner and very much look forward to celebrating with you (virtually!) next week! Thank you so much for sharing your book, and we will be sure to share it here in the organisation!'

- INTERNATIONAL FUNDER

'Please would you convey my enormous thanks and congratulations to everyone involved with the wonderful 50-year celebration book! From the first to the last page it is filled with memories of the past and direction for the future. From a fledgling organisation Forum has grown to be such an incredible resource in the field of intellectual disability and you all deserve high praise for the work undertaken over the years. You are really the backbone of the movement supporting your members and advocating for the best possible environment for individuals and organisations. Thanks again for this little treasure book!!'

- WCFID MEMBER

'For the WCFID to celebrate the milestone of 50 years bears testimony to our ability to balance our working systems along with our human relationships and teamwork. This is based on good ethical guidelines and principles and a will to re-affirm faith in fundamental human rights. It is a milestone that few organisations reach, and we owe it to the collaborative efforts of all those involved in developing the WCFID to where it is today. Hamba kahle to all our previous chairpersons who laid the foundation and who taught us to serve with integrity, understanding and passion.'

- FATIMA SHABOODIEN, WCFID
CHAIRPERSON, 2000 TO PRESENT



WCFID 50 YEAR CELEBRATION AWARDS

The WCFID 50-year milestone provided an opportunity to recognise some very special people in the life of the Forum. The challenge of limiting the awards to the few recipients below needs to be acknowledged - the entire intellectual disability community with MANY committed advocates, parents, staff, funders, volunteers, and persons with intellectual disability, have ALL contributed to the Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability.

Following extensive consultations and deliberations on the purpose and recipients of the awards, it was agreed to focus on contributions to the development and growth of the WCFID. Awards were neither given posthumously nor did they reflect the organisations the individual may represent - however a sincere thank you to the many organisations who released their staff to enable them to support the work of the WCFID.

WCFID 50-Year Award Recipients

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Percussion Orchestra of the Lentegeur School for LSEN - accepted by Mr. Hendricks, Conductor

GRATITUDE AWARD

Alexandra Hospital - accepted by Tracy Ellis, Acting CEO, Alexandra Hospital

MERIT AWARD

In recognition of sustained service and commitment to the WCFID

- ▶ Gail Davids
- ▶ Anne Myles
- ▶ Graham Williams
- ▶ Nomasango Xabanisa

EXTRAORDINARY COMMITMENT AWARD

In recognition of sustained advocacy and awareness-raising efforts

- ▶ Lindelwa Madikane

FOUNDERS AWARD

In recognition of their role as a founding member and exceptional dedication to the WCFID

- ▶ Rosemary De Waal
- ▶ Vivienne van der Merwe

ADVOCACY AWARD

In recognition of the significant impact of their work in the intellectual disability community

- ▶ William Kerfoot

VERA GROVER LEGACY AWARD

In recognition of the commitment to the key tenets of Professor Grover's teaching in the field of intellectual disability

- ▶ Manny Saptouw
- ▶ Lydia Steinke

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In recognition of exceptional commitment and contribution to the WCFID

- ▶ Rebecca Johns
- ▶ Fatima Shaboodien
- ▶ One to One Day Event Organisers and Service Providers - accepted by Albert Glass, One to One Day Event Organiser



Click here to watch the Awards Video



Assembling training packs to be couriered to centres.

WCFID'S PROGRAMMES CAPACITY BUILDING

The COVID-19 pandemic required the WCFID to be flexible and creative through ways of connecting and supporting its members and the broader intellectual disability community. Upskilling through capacity building continued to make use of technology, focusing on providing relevant, research-based training content designed to work within the organisation's current systems. This provided new opportunities to expand the WCFID's reach (rural, national, and international), with the vast majority of the attendees coming from the Western Cape.

Increasingly, the training focus addressed grief, loss, and trauma; supporting our membership; and training on trauma-informed responses, making use of four training formats for the rollout:

Live Webinars

Webinar topics included:

- ▶ Trauma-informed response and people with intellectual disability (2-part series)
- ▶ How to identify vulnerable children with intellectual disabilities and provide support
- ▶ Toilet training
- ▶ Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA): A journey towards compliance
- ▶ COVID-19 vaccine information
- ▶ Supporting the mental health of NPO employees
- ▶ Right to Protection: What is abuse and how to refer a child in need of care and protection
- ▶ The role of the social worker in assessment, intervention, and referral of clients with intellectual disability
- ▶ Intellectual disability and forensics (4-part series).



Quality of Care Workbook Cover Page

Training Packs

Electronic and hard copy training material (such as pamphlets and books) were couriered to organisations. This supported organisations with internet and/or device challenges as well as those requiring a different training time. This way, entire staff teams were able to access the training. The organisation screened the webinar for staff, attendance registers were completed, and the WCFID would in turn provide attendance certificates.

Webinar Series

Webinar series developed included both pre-recorded and live webinars hosted specifically for an organisation's staff team and local community (including parents).

Online Courses

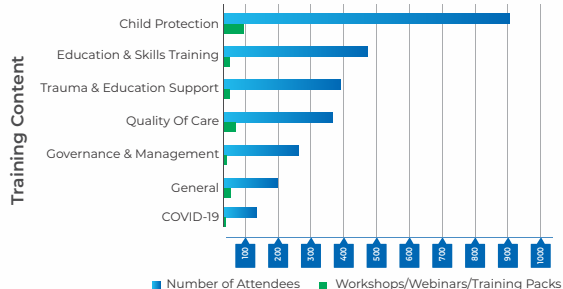
A 5-week self-paced online course (All About Me) accredited by the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP), Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), and South African Council of Educators (SACE) was rolled out.



TRAINING ENGAGEMENTS

- ▶ 60 workshops (incl. live webinars and venue based)
- ▶ 95 pre-recorded training packs
- ▶ 2 673 attendees, with 963 different participants
- ▶ Video 'Voice of the person with intellectual disability' posted on Facebook: more than 3 200 views

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES



"Thank you for the Right to Protection videos and booklets. This was perfect for our centre. We shared them at the beginning of the school year with our carers. This set up is perfect for us...It allowed us to share part of the video...stop it...discuss the topic and/or situations that were happening in our community with our children and young adults. We are looking forward to the next set "Quality of Care" and will use those for in-house training that is beneficial for all. So, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, from all of us here at our Centre and Home. We are so grateful for the training and help we receive from you folks. Thank you for all your hard work!"

DIRECTOR, DAY CARE & RESIDENTIAL FACILITY

"Just thankful for our partnership with the Forum. Thank you for the empowerment and training of our workforce."

PRINCIPAL, SPECIAL CARE CENTRE

"Wonderful presentation - thank you. This helps with renewed enthusiasm. Sometimes [there's] frustration with the slow progress and COVID restrictions; we need presentations like this to help get us back to where we need to be."

MEMBER ASSOCIATION

"I would just like to say thank you for always being helpful when I have a question regarding training, etc. You guys rock!"

SOCIAL WORKER, RURAL DISABILITY ASSOCIATION



Roll out of the 'Quality of Care' workshops: 4 workshops, over 10 days attended by 27 staff members. That training was absolutely wonderful - we plan to incorporate it in the induction plan with new staff.'

PRINCIPAL, RURAL SPECIAL CARE CENTRE

RESEARCH & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



'Learning to Communicate' - pilot programme with programme implementers, speech and occupational therapists from member special care centres

Resource development (manuals, pamphlets, and visual materials) in response to needs is a core programme of the WCFID. With the ongoing pandemic, the year under review focused on making training material more accessible through developing online courses and webinars, and converting face-to-face training into online material to be distributed as training packages. In this way, the reach was expanded beyond the WCFID's office space to the rest of the Western Cape, South Africa, and beyond.

Numerous resources were developed:

- ▶ *'All About Me'* life skills sexuality programme - a 5-week self-paced online course. CPD points were accredited with SACE (South African Council of Educators), HPCSA (Health Professions Council of South Africa), and SACSSP (South African Council for Social Service Professions).
- ▶ *'Compliance with POPI and PAIA'* package - an information guide, templates, and 3 webinars to assist with the implementation of policies and procedures to achieve compliance requirements in terms of the provisions in the *Protection of Personal Information & Promotion of Access to Information Act*.
- ▶ *'Trauma Informed Working with Children with Intellectual Disability'* - webinar series for teachers and community members (accredited with SACE, HPCSA & SACSSP).
- ▶ *'Right to Protection - Identifying and Reporting Sexual Abuse of Children and Adults with Intellectual Disability'* training packs - for the training of staff and parents about child protection to empower them with the skills and referral resources, to ensure the safety and care of children with intellectual disability. Following the update of the booklet and information pamphlet (*Report It*), online training webinars were recorded (accredited with SACE, HPCSA & SACSSP).
- ▶ *Learning to Communicate* - a communication tool for non-verbal learners with intellectual disability. This resource uses an apron and a selection of suitable pictures to encourage learning to communicate in a manner that is suitable to the developmental level of the individual learner.
- ▶ Production of a video series on intellectual disability covering definitions, myths and facts, staff messages, and the voice of the person with intellectual disability. On International Disability Day, 3 December 2021, the *'Voice of the Person with Intellectual Disability'* video was posted on Facebook, reaching 1,516 people in the Western Cape, and more than 3,200 people in total.



HEAR OUR VOICES - HEAR OUR MESSAGE

During 2021, the WCFID chatted to young people with intellectual disability about their lives, their hopes, and dreams. Young people with intellectual disability have the same interests, hobbies, hopes and dreams as their peers but feel they aren't often given the same opportunities to explore this and that they are unfairly judged. Listen to the voices of young people with disabilities and aim to build an inclusive society for their future.



Click here to watch the video



Special Care Centre, Khayelitsha - chance observation of the implementation of the communication tool



Sadly, the past year has not brought the desired end to COVID-19, or economic austerity. Rather, budget cuts to education, health, and social security services have continued to impact people with disabilities. While the WCFID advocacy strategy continues to respond to the developing political, social, and economic context of the pandemic, there certainly were success stories:

Empowerment of People with Intellectual Disability (PWID)

Central to the 'WCFID Theory of Change' is *the person with intellectual disability (PWID) knows and is empowered to take up their rights*. PWID are increasingly being heard through WCFID's programmes:

▶ Child Government Monitor

The WCFID nominated Moegamet Yaseen of a day centre to be a *child government monitor*, and work alongside Christina Nomdo, the Western Cape Children's Commissioner.



Today I made a new friend ([#childgovernmentmonitor](#)) at Friends Day Centre. He was nominated by the [Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability](#). Mogamat Yaseen Diedericks told us all about his family, gave us a tour of the centre and made sure we got treated to some homemade soup. I can tell he will be a great asset. He has a great memory. I bet he is the only mentor who knows my mobile number by heart from the first day. Thank you for joining my team.



▶ Participation in Research Projects

• *To investigate the barriers to and opportunities for promoting self-advocacy by people with intellectual disability (PWID)*, Prof Sharon Kleintjes, University of Cape Town 2020 - 22. This project aims to support two doctoral and one master's student to investigate the barriers to and opportunities for promoting self-advocacy by PWID. The WCFID is assisting with this project by serving on the advisory committee for the project and providing support to two self-advocates with intellectual disability, who are also advisors to the project on research activities and outputs.

• *Exploring feasibility of a cell phone app to support knowledge of sexuality and reporting of sexual abuse by PWID*, Dr Callista Kahonde, Stellenbosch University, 2021. Rebecca Johns, WCFID Consultant, worked on the research with Dr Kahonde.



Zoom training for the self-advocates



Prof Kleintjes and a WCFID staff member working with and training two self-advocates



SA Human Rights Commission, Section 11 Committee

In response to the "Life Esidemeni" tragedy, a Section 11 Committee was established to monitor the implementation of the 'Report of the National Investigative Hearing into the Status of Mental Health Care in South Africa', SAHRC, 2017. In February 2022, the WCFID facilitated and hosted the chairperson Advocate Majola, and colleagues of the SAHRC, for a two-day tour and presentation on NGO mental health services in the Western Cape.

Campaign for the Right to Education for Children with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability - Court Order (Case No 18678/2007)

Thousands of learners with disabilities remain out of school, yet the immediate right to education is guaranteed for all children in the South African Constitution and Schools Act. The WCFID has been campaigning for the past 27 years for the rights of some of the most marginalised learners, those with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disabilities (SPID). 2010 saw a judgement (Case No: 18678/2007, 11 November 2010, WC High Court):

First Respondent: Government of South Africa; Second Respondent: Government of the Western Cape in favour of the WCFID:

2. The respondents are directed forthwith to take reasonable measures (including interim steps):
 - 2.1 ensuring that every child in the Western Cape who is severely and profoundly intellectually disabled has affordable access to a basic education of an adequate quality
 - 2.2 providing adequate funds to organisations which provide education...

► The WCFID has continued to lobby government at national and provincial level to implement the court order


Engagement with National and Provincial Government:

- Education Portfolio and Select Committees: The WCFID attended relevant weekly virtual joint meetings of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education (National Assembly) and the Select Committee on Education (NCOP).
- Portfolio Committee on Social Development: Children's Amendment Bill - The WCFID made an oral presentation at the public hearings (National Parliament) (20 May 2021).
- Written submissions:
 - *Select Committee on Appropriations* which recommended that DBE (Department of Basic Education) should immediately amend and expand the current conditional grant for the education of learners with SPID at special care centers to align with the education department's mandate to provide education to all learners in South Africa, so that learners and staff at centres have access to appropriate, adequate, accessible and acceptable access to education, of adequate quality, including its components, such as:
 - Learner transport
 - Suitably trained and qualified teachers
 - Support staff (including class assistants / carers)
 - Remuneration of all centre staff
 - Therapeutic services
 - National School Nutrition Programme
 - Facilities and infrastructure
 - Basic Education Annual Performance Plan (APP) (2021 / 22) with regard to the lack of provision for implementation of the court order in APP and the amendment to the education conditional grant for the education of children with severe to profound intellectual disability.
- *Conditional grant for the education of learners with severe to profound intellectual disability (SPID):*
 - After years of Forum advocacy, the grant now incorporates a plan for the enrolment of centre learners at public schools and the appointment of class assistants (carers) at schools. This signifies the phasing out of the systemic exclusion of learners with SPID from public schools; and the recognition that class assistants, who are currently excluded from DBE staffing norms, are crucial to the education of learners with diverse support needs.
 - Dept. of Education, WC provides support materials and technology to a number of special care centres through the provision of:
 - Laptops, dongles and data to improve remote learning and centre administration
 - Education and assistive devices, e.g. standing frames and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices.
- *The WCFID Right to Education Task Team* continues to engage with the inter-departmental WC Govt. Right to Education Task Team, chaired by the Chief Director, Dept. of Social Development.
 - Transport Pilot Project - in response to the WCFID's ongoing pressure and engagement, the pilot project was launched. The WC Provincial Director General, in consultation with the Departments of Public Works and Transport and Social Development, agreed to a *transport pilot project for severely disabled children* to be run over three years. The R14 million pilot project covers the cost of eight adapted buses and associated operational costs for 8 special care centres. The WCFID hosted the delivery of the first two buses on 16 November 2021 with the WC Dept. of Social Development MEC Sharna Fernandes.



WC MEC of Social Development, WCFID director and staff of the two special care centres with one of the 2 buses at the WCFID offices

► Engagement with principals of special care centres

The WCFID continues to meet regularly with the principals of special care centres and coordinates an active WhatsApp group which has proven to be a valuable support and information tool for the principals. 

► Collaboration and partnerships

The WCFID has become more focused and strategic in its alliances with organisations. Currently, the focus is on collaborating with an alliance of disability rights organisations (e.g. Autism SA; Down Syndrome SA; Epilepsy SA; National Council of and For Persons with Disabilities; BlindSA) and public interest lawyering organisations (Equal Education Law Centre; Centre for Child Law).

The alliance and individual organisations made submissions to the Department of Basic Education; the President of South Africa and the [South African Law Reform Commission](#) for:

- The promulgation of a Disability Rights Act (based on the White Paper of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and/or an Inclusive Education Act and funding regulations for inclusive education (including children with disabilities); and the regulation and funding of special care centres. The WCFID made a [written](#) and [oral submission](#) to Parliament on the equitable and just funding of special care centres.
- Domestication of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Issue Paper: No 39, Project 148, South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) (9 December 2011) and made a written submission to SALRC with specific reference to the right to education of children with severe to profound intellectual disability at special care centres.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



A different One to One Day - the “Cosy Up Campaign”

The traditional format of the fun fair held at the Cape Town Stadium for more than 2,750 people with intellectual disability was, again, not possible. As in 2020, the WCFID worked with the One to One Day Fair organisers and was able to roll out the “Cosy Up Campaign” consisting of scarves, beanies, activities, and toys.

The parcels were distributed from the WCFID offices to 2,980 people with intellectual disability from 47 member organisations across the Western Cape, a challenging logistical task. The WCFID partnered with the Department of Health and managed to access information brochures on the vaccine and COVID-19 to accompany the packages.



“One to One Day has always been a very great highlight for our children and staff with lots of excitement and joy, and is highly appreciated. It touches our hearts to see that despite lockdown, you still found some time to make our children feel special in this manner.
A sincere thank you from all of us.”

“Congratulations on this 50 year milestone in communal service!! The ONE to ONE Fair is proud of its close association with the Forum.”
ALBERT GLASS, ONE TO ONE DAY FAIR CO-ORDINATOR

“As my day comes to an end and I just reflect on the past two days I cannot help but smile. Thank you very much for the amazing work that you do. The last few classes received their parcels today. I will send my thank you email to the address provided.
Keep well and be safe.
Love from all our learners.”

“Behind our masks we smile, regardless of the distance, we feel your love.
Thank you, thank you, thank you”

“We want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the generous donation of beanies, scarves, and fun treats received from the WCFID on Wednesday, 01 September. Our membership with the Forum has, since the beginning, proven to be a very worthy partnership.”

“From our educators and learners, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We appreciate all the effort that went into the making of the parcels. We can feel the love and care. Compliments to all of you who have blessed us with quality gifts.”



Circulated monthly to ±360 recipients (members and other interested parties)



An ongoing service to families, professionals, and colleagues in the sector.



WCFID'S MEMBERS 2021/22

PRE-SCHOOL:

Vrolike Vinkies, Ceres

SPECIAL CARE CENTRES:

ASD Sean Kelly, Worcester
Autism Connect Learning Centre, Strandfontein
Bizweni Centre for Children with Disabilities, Somerset West
Bredasdorp Outreach, Bredasdorp (Elim Home)
Community Action Partnership Day Care Centre, Swellendam
Carbonado Energy Autism Centre, Athlone
Courage to Care, Macassar
De Heide Children's Special Care Centre, Lansdowne
Friends Day Centre, Maitland
Gansbaai/Stanford Outreach, Gansbaai (Elim Home)
Good Hope Day Care Centre, Mbekweni
Heideveld Special Education & Care Centre, Heideveld
Imizamo Yethu Special Education & Care Centre, Khayelitsha
Jo Dolphin, Malmesbury
Joy Special Educare Centre, Mitchells Plain
Light of the Cross Animal Therapy Centre, Hermanus
Masixole Day Care Centre, Beaufort West
Mickey Foundation for Autistic and Special Needs Children and Adults, Brackenfell
Mooiuisig Dagsorg, Mossel Bay
Nomaxabiso Day Care Centre, Philippi
Oasis Day Centre, Delft
Oasis Day Centre, Ravensmead
Orion Children's Day Care Centre, Atlantis
Project Playground, Langa
Reënboog Dagsorg Sentrum, Vredendal
Roosendal Special Care Centre, Delft
Sherwood Park Day Care Centre, Manenberg
Sibongile Day & Night Care, Khayelitsha
Simanyene Center for the Disabled, Nomzamo, Strand
Sinethemba Special Needs Educational Daycare Centre, Riversdale
Siyabonga Huis van Danksegging, Vredenburg
Small Dreams Special Needs Educational Daycare Centre, Riversdale
Sobambisani/Sinethemba Day Care, New Crossroads
Sterretjies Gestremde Gemeenskap Sorg, Citrusdal
Sunrise Special Day Care Centre, Heathfield
Trippeltoontjies Playschool for Disabled Children, Robertson
Umthi Special Care Centre, Stikland
Uluncedo, Mfuleni
Understand Hope & Care, Khayelitsha
Vukuhambe Day Care, Zwelethemba
Vukani, Khayelitsha
Yomelelani, Philippi
Woodside Special Care Centre, Rondebosch

SCHOOLS:

Alpha School for Learners with Autism, Woodstock
Alta du Toit School, Kuilsriver
Athlone School for the Blind, Athlone
Bel Porto School, Lansdowne
Bloulei School & Resource Centre, Retreat
Camphill School, Hermanus
Chere Botha School, Bellville
Dorothea School, Stellenbosch
Eden LSEN School, Worcester
Enkuthazweni Skills Centre, Port Alfred
Glenbridge School & Resource Centre, Bergvliet
Lentegeur School, Mitchells Plain
Ligstraal School for LSEN, Paarl
Molenbeek School, Maitland
Oasis Special School, Belhar
Ocean View School, Ocean View
Olympia School, George
Orion Children's Day Care Centre, Atlantis
Perpetua House, Monte Vista
Seal College, Tableview

Tygerberg Hospital School, Tygerberg
Vera School for Autistic Learners, Crawford

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT:

Astra Centre, Cape Town
Alta du Toit Nasorg, Bellville
CAPability, Swellendam
Care Career Connection, Elsenburg
Emmaus, George
Enkuthazweni Skills Centre, Port Alfred
Huis Horison, Stellenbosch
Joyce Chevalier Centre, Fish Hoek
Oasis Protective Workshop, Claremont
Oasis Protective Workshop, Goodwood
Sunfield Home, Wellington
The Academy for Adults with Autism, Bergvliet
The Village Work Centre, Lansdowne
Training Workshops Unlimited (TWU), Athlone
TWU, Mitchells Plain
TWU, Nonceba, Khayelitsha
TWU, Retreat

RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL CARE/24 HOUR FACILITIES:

Agape Family Ministries, Grabouw
ASD Sean Kelly, Worcester
Die Eiland Huis, St Helena Bay
Elim Home, Elim
Gabriella Centre, Somerset West
Heartlands Baby Sanctuary, Somerset West
Iqhaviya Care & Support House, Khayelitsha
Little Angels Children's Home, Somerset West
Sibongile Day & Night Care, Khayelitsha
Simanyene Residential Home, Strand
St Joseph's Home, Montana

RESIDENTIAL/GROUP HOMES:

Adams Farm Home Trust, Plumstead
Anchors Away Village, Simon's Town
Alta Du Toit Nasorg, Bellville
Belmont Care Centre, Kenilworth
C.A.R.E. House Jonathan, Somerset West
Camphill Farm Community, Hermanus
Camphill Village West Coast, West Coast
Community Mental Health, Bellville
Garden Cottage, Heideveld
Glendale Home, Heathfield
Huis Horison, Stellenbosch
Humberstone House, Plumstead
Hurdy Gurdy House, Penhill Estate
Includid Group Homes, Maitland
Oasis House (Chukker-Lee), Kenwyn
Oasis House, Ruyterwacht
St. Joseph's Home, Montana
Sunfield Home, Wellington
The Academy for Adults with Autism, Bergvliet
The Open Circle, Maitland
Zandvliet Care Facility, Macassar

HOSPITALS:

Alexandra Psychiatric Hospital, Maitland
Lentegeur Psychiatric Hospital, Mitchells Plain
Ngwelezana Hospital, Kwazulu-Natal
Nelspoort Hospital, Beaufort West

ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS:

Autism Western Cape, Mowbray
Beaufort West, A.P.D., Beaufort West
BPJ Worth NPO, Elsies River
Breede Valley A.P.D., Worcester
Cape Mental Health, Observatory
Care Career Connection, Elsenburg
Community Action Partnership, Swellendam
Community Mental Health & Psychiatry Foundation, Bellville
CSPID Team Eden Karoo, George

CSPID Team North, Bellville
CSPID Team Rural, Riebeeck West
Down Syndrome Association Western Cape, Bellville
Down Syndrome Support, Rondebosch
Drakenstein A.P.D., Paarl
Eastern Cape Cluster for Special Care Centres, Eastern Cape
Fish Hoek, Kommetjie, Noorthoek Welfare Association, Masipumele
Inclusive Education South Africa, Wynberg
Iris House Children's Hospice, Stikland
Mossel Bay A.P.D., Mossel Bay
National Institute for the Deaf, Worcester
Oasis Association, Claremont
Orion Organisation, Atlantis
Oudtshoorn A.P.D., Oudtshoorn
Overstrand A.P.D., Overberg
Senecio Support, Somerset West
UCT Intellectual Disability Division, Rondebosch
Uhambo Foundation, Wynberg
Western Cape A.P.D., Milnerton
Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association, Mowbray
West Coast Disability Forum, Vredenburg

INDIVIDUALS:

Maryam Abbas
Toni Abrahams
Wendy Arendse
Janice Behr
Claire Bennie
Elsabet Bester
Catherine Blow
Isabelle Bouic
Kay Cikiswa
Lecinda Coetzee
Judy Cooke
Nicole Dennis
Dr. Beverley Dickman
Joanne Erikson
Nicole Goldberg
Bonita Gordon
Jacqui Harvey
Rebecca Johns
Marianne Killien
Prof. Sharon Kleintjes
Rojeanne Koen
Amber Land
Prof. Judith McKenzie
Prof. Thobeka Mda
Chanelle Meyer
Naser Cader Moko
Noreth Muller-Kluits
Ann Myles
Angela O'Neale
Marinda Roelofse
Jessica Rood
Farzana Sanga
Dr. Fiona Schulte
Caroline Taylor
Dr. Angeline Thomas
Toni Tickton
Sally Titlestad
Yvonne van der Westhuizen

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Prof. Colleen Adnams
Ruth Alfreds
Rosemary de Waal
Albert Glass
William Kerfoot
Prof. Chris Moltano
Vivienne van der Merwe



WCFID CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



'The Western Cape Forum has been such a big part of launching The Open Circle Group Home in January 2015. Their willingness to assist with resources, advice, venues, and support has been a huge part of being able to successfully commission and operate our residential home for adults with Intellectual Disability and challenging behaviour. Tessa and her team are always just a phone call away to assist and having this relationship with the Forum has really assisted me in managing our group home. The training provided is always of great benefit to all staff members and the resources they have developed serves as a wonderful platform of knowledge for anyone to use. Happy birthday WCFID and thank you for shining the torch for people living with Intellectual Disability. May you have many more years of impact ahead.'

HELITA MANKAHLA, FACILITY MANAGER, THE OPEN CIRCLE



'Entering the intellectual disability sector as a new NPO can be quite frightening and intimidating! WCFID was there, and still is, with help, advice, resources, and capacity building. All at the WCFID have helped to make a tough world much easier to function in and enabled us to serve the community that so much needs our services.'

INGRID DE JAGER, CARE CAREER CONNECTION NPC



'Thank you. Without your help as WCFID I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing. Thank you I really appreciate your input at Unakho, I'm able to run it because of your trainings and everything. Thank you, God bless you all there. Please don't give up on me I still need more help from the Forum. Thanks.'

CYNTHIA MEMANI, PRINCIPAL, UNAKHO



'I am so very grateful to WCFID for arranging the on-site training. From the very first time I phoned the WCFID, we have had such help from the Forum. Three of our staff were privileged to attend a workshop on... the workshop itself was super, but the kindness of the WCFID staff who went out of their way to make our teachers welcome was way beyond what one would expect. It is often recommended that we 'walk the extra mile' but for sure, you at the WCFID do that. The country is so fortunate to have such a group to guide and lead us in the service of those with disabilities.'

SR MARY MCATEER, NGO COORDINATOR, ENKHUTHAZWENI



'The workshops and courses presented by WCFID on an ongoing basis have been of huge benefit to our staff at Glenbridge Special School. In particular, the WCFID Sexuality Programme is outstanding in learning how to manage this challenging topic with the intellectually impaired. Many thanks too, for all the effort that goes into planning the much anticipated One to One Day. Congratulations on this milestone and may your organisation continue to serve our often side-lined community. Our appreciation and good wishes.'

NIKKI SCHUMANN, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, GLENBRIDGE SPECIAL SCHOOL



'We work in a very unique sector which has not got readily available support and resources. Without organisations like the WCFID for support and learning, we would have to rely on the internet which does not cover things in the South African context. The workshops I have attended by the WCFID have been led most professionally, content well researched and presented, in an environment in which you feel comfortable to question. I have purchased a number of your training manuals. Without the workshops presented by the Forum I would feel a great sense of isolation dealing with teenagers/young adults with intellectual disabilities.'

PRINCIPAL, SPECIAL SCHOOL



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WCFID subscribes to the Independent Code of Governance for NPOs