



**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT THE TRAINING PROGRAMME**

The WCFID has moved to a temporary home! We are now based in the Admin Building at Alexandra Hospital - we are very easy to find.



Due to ASAT House, the building we have occupied for so many years, needing a new roof we have relocated to the ground floor of the Admin Building at Alexandra Hospital.

The move was very sudden, but we aim to provide a seamless service to our members, the intellectual disability community and all other stakeholders.

Our e-mail addresses and phone numbers remain the same, and calls are being forwarded so we may take a little longer to answer - please be patient!

### We have a temporary new home!

It's been a challenging few weeks, as we have had to move from our lovely spacious offices to the Board Room of Alexandra Hospital. We are a bit short on space, but we are making it work and are adapting well!

Please take note of training venues, as we can't use our usual training room for a while.

Our phone number has remained the same.

There were several awareness days during the first term - the WCFID created posters to commemorate these days.



ID Awareness Month was in March



Human Rights Day, March 21st

World NGO day was on 27 February

### MEMBERSHIP 2026 - 2027

Invoices for membership for the 2026/7 financial year will be sent out from 01 April. If staff are planning to attend training, please note that any reduced rates only apply if membership fees for 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 have been paid. Organisations/Centres/Individuals are welcome to request an invoice for membership fees from Sandy on: [projects@wcfid.co.za](mailto:projects@wcfid.co.za)



## TRAINING REPORT:

Dear Members

We heard your request for more in-person training sessions and we responded! Four of our five Wednesday training sessions were held in-person, and we have been enjoying the face-to-face interaction.

Apart from the generous presentations by our four guest speakers, the WCFID Team presented 14 training events this term.

- Six days of Programme Implementer training
- One day of Caregiver and general staff training
- Three mornings of parent workshops
- One afternoon of teacher workshops
- One *Introduction to Intellectual Disability* webinar
- Two mornings of Self-Advocate workshops with The Living Link

It has been wonderful to present alongside our Director, Gail Davids, as she drew on her wealth of her experience to enrich our Programme Implementer Training. Our much-missed Training Coordinator, Shakira Lakay, returned from maternity leave and is once again handling logistics and reports, as well as facilitating support groups and presenting webinars.

During ID awareness month in March, the WCFID printed and distributed some 500 pamphlets on Understanding Intellectual Disability.

## UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY



Intellectual disability has been known by many different names, including “mental handicap” and “mental retardation”. The name “intellectual disability” reminds us that under international and South African law all people including people with disabilities have a right to dignity and support for full participation in all aspects of life, including access to healthcare, education, employment and social support. It is very important for young children with intellectual disability to receive support as early as possible in life to assist their development and participation in society to their full potential.

### **What is intellectual disability?**

Intellectual disability affects the development of a child, starting before the age of 18 years, and continuing throughout life. It affects the brain and can affect physical abilities too.

Intellectual disability results in children developing and learning slower than typical children of their age in two main areas:

### **Intellectual functioning:**

Their ability to think, learn, solve problems, reason and make sense of the world at the same level as others of their age, and

Sadly, we are now preparing to say goodbye to our intern, Althea Benjamin. We are going to miss her positive demeanour and her willingness to assist whenever needed.

We wish her all the best.

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## TERM 2 2026 TRAINING AND EVENTS

### GUIDELINES

**WHEN ATTENDING TRAINING AT THE WCFID TRAINING ROOM, PLEASE ALLOW EXTRA TIME FOR SECURITY CHECKS AT THE GATE. PLEASE ALSO ENSURE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE AND VEHICLE LICENSE ARE BOTH UP TO DATE.**

- Please note that all training is funding dependent which may result in unforeseen changes to the Training Programme. Check the newsletter and training registration forms for changes.
- Unless specified for a closed group or for members only, training sessions are open to all interested. It is **essential to register** for training.
- Register online at: [www.wcfid.co.za](http://www.wcfid.co.za)

- General Attendance Certificates and CPD/CPTD Attendance Certificates (whichever is applicable) are available for those who attend for the full duration of a training session.
- CPD/CPTD payments: Where CPD/CPTD points are pending, the WCFID will request payment from you once approval for accreditation has been received from statutory/ professional bodies.
- Those who have registered for CPD/CPTD points will be notified of approvals and details for payment via e-mail.
- After your proof of payment has been emailed to Shakira Lakay at: [coordinator@wcfid.co.za](mailto:coordinator@wcfid.co.za) your CPD/CPTD Attendance Certificate will be emailed to you.

**DISCLAIMER:** Details shared at training sessions or events are for informational purposes only. It remains the responsibility of the user to carefully consider any additional information. This includes considering individual circumstances, relevant law and legal opinion, before making any decisions based on details shared at the WCFID's training sessions or events.



## REFUND POLICY



### **AUTISM: MANAGING BEHAVIOUR AND THE SENSORY SYSTEM**

**Presented by:** Sunkiree Veerasamy, Autism & Behaviour Therapist

**Date:** Wednesday, 22 April 2026

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

**Venue:** Auditorium, Alexandra Hospital, Maitland

**Cost:** Members: R50 per person; R150 per person with HPCSA CPD points

Non-members: R120 per person; R250 per person with HPCSA CPD points

**CPD Points:** HPCSA points pending

Sunkiree has been working with individuals and families impacted with disabilities and Autism since 2004. She has been Principal of Carbonado Energy Autism Centre since 2016. Sunkiree will be provide teachers, principals and caregivers with guidance on how to manage the behaviour of children with autism, based on an understanding of the sensory system.

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**PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE:  
CREATING A POSITIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT**

**Presented by:** Catherine Isaacs, Attorney, Isaacs & Associates

**Date:** Wednesday, 29 April 2026

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

**Venue:** Auditorium, Alexandra Hospital, Maitland

**Cost:** Members: R200 per person, with accompanying booklet.

Non-members: R250 per person, with accompanying booklet.

Catherine is passionate about providing employers with knowledge and resources to help them build strong, positive work relationships.

Catherine will provide managers with guidance on how to create a safe, positive work environment, as well as tools to use regarding bullying and harassment. **It is important to note that employers and employees are required to receive training on the guidelines in the 'Code of Good Practice on the Prevention and Elimination of Harassment in the Workplace.'**

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**PRINCIPALS MEETING: ALL PRINCIPALS AND  
SUPERVISORS OF SPECIAL CARE CENTRES/24-HOUR  
FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE OR  
PROFOUND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY**

**Facilitated by:** Gail Davids, Director, WCFID and Vanessa Japtha, Advocacy Manager, WCFID  
**Date:** Thursday, 30 April 2026  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Online via Zoom**

***This is a no cost, members only meeting. Please request an invoice for membership fees from our Membership and Project Coordinator, Sandy Butler at: [projects@wcfid.co.za](mailto:projects@wcfid.co.za)***

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**FIRST AID TRAINING** (previous Level 1)

**Presented by:** Medical Education Centre (MEC)

**Date:** 4 & 5 May 2026

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Seminar Room 1, Alexandra Hospital, Maitland

**Cost:** R350 per person (members only); lunch for both days is included in the cost.

12 HPCSA CPD points, at no extra cost, are available for this training.

***Only 10 places available for this accredited training.*** For more information and to register, please contact our Membership and Project Coordinator, Sandy Butler on: [projects@wcfid.co.za](mailto:projects@wcfid.co.za)



**SELF-ADVOCACY PROGRAMME: 2026 – 2027**  
**SESSION 1 of 6**

**Presented by:** WCFID Training Team

**Provisional date:** Wednesday, 27 May 2026

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Venue:** To be confirmed.

**This is a no-cost group. Sessions are held every second month from May 2026 – March 2027.**

**To receive a certificate, participants are required to attend all 6 sessions.**

If you are interested in joining, please contact our Training Coordinator, Shakira Lakay on: [coordinator@wcfid.co.za](mailto:coordinator@wcfid.co.za)

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### **MANAGING BEHAVIOURS THAT CHALLENGE USING THE LOW AROUSAL APPROACH - 3 DAY COURSE**

**Presented by:** Chantal Snyman, Occupational Therapist and accredited STUDIO III Trainer

**Date:** 22, 23 & 24 June 2026

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Seminar Room 1, Outpatients Building, Alexandra Hospital  
Annex Rd, Maitland

**Cost:** Members: R2 100.00 per person

Non-members: R2 400.00 per person

The cost includes HPCSA points and a light lunch on all three days.

**HPCSA CPD points approved:** 16 Clinical and 2 Ethics.

STUDIO III is a specialist research and training organisation that provides high quality accredited training in the specialist field of managing aggressive and challenging behaviour. STUDIO III promotes the management of challenging behaviour in a nonviolent, gentle and dignified way using 'low arousal' techniques and gentle physical skills.

***Please note: Numbers are limited to 30 participants for this internationally accredited training.***

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For more information on any of the training offered by WCFID, please contact our Training Coordinator, Shakira Lakay on: [coordinator@wcfid.co.za](mailto:coordinator@wcfid.co.za)

We are also conducting the following training for groups that are either closed or fully booked already:

**NEURODIVERSITY AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY**

Presented by Melanie Horn and Shakira Lakay, WCFID

Date: 9 April 2026

Venue: Tembalethu School, Gugulethu

**LEARNING TO USE THE TOILET**

Presented by Gail Davids, WCFID

Date: 14 April 2026

Venue: Ligstraal Skool, Paarl

**PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Presented by Melanie Horn and Shakira Lakay, WCFID

Date: 18 April 2026

Venue: Glenbridge School

**PARENT INFORMATION SESSION**

Date: 29 & 30 April 2026

Venue: Molenbeek School

**ALL ABOUT ME: A LIFE SKILLS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY**

Presented by Rebecca Johns and Melanie Horn

Dates: 21, 23 & 28 May 2026

Venue: Glenbridge School



Thank you to those who attend our training - your commitment and continued learning makes a meaningful difference in the lives of people with intellectual disability



**Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability**

2 Annex Road, 7405, Cape Town

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