



Down Syndrome Association Pretoria/Tshwane

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT 2017/2018

This report is done on behalf of the current board of DSA P/T

Board members

Magda Lourens	Chairperson, Special Olympics, Training and School to work transition
Marinda Lingenfelder	Vice chairperson, Parent support, 0-2, 3-5 and Sport
Rudi Esterhuizen	Secretary and maintenance
Dhesan Naidoo	Treasurer
Baatile Komane	Khanya support group, Finance committee and DSSA
Ansie Cilliers	Jeans and Tekkies Club
Sam Masilela	Fathers group
Johan Joubert	Early Childhood Development Centre and safety
Louis Lingenfelder	Self advocate adult club
Shamilla Naidoo	Early Childhood Development Centre and Finance committee
Danzell Jones	Finance committee and Fathers group

Office staff

Elaine Passmoor	Office Manager and Education officer
Shanice Naidoo	Office Admin and Finance
Elsie Mokwena	Early Childhood Development Centre and Outreach Support

Together, they assist with administration, enquiries from the public and new families, dissemination of information to the more or less 450 members, raising awareness and playing a key role in the organising and rolling out of the annual programmes.

Part time staff includes our office cleaner Paulina, 3 therapists at the Lyttelton Early childhood Development Centre (Marionne Smit (OT), Magda-Marie Booysen Kinderkineticist and Anika ST

School to Work Staff

Ina Gilchrist	Facilitator
Anika de Kok	Assistant Facilitator

Together they run the school to work transition programme.



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INTRODUCTION

As a board over the past year we have worked hard to keep current projects/programmes running as well as start new initiatives as funding is not readily available for NPO's.

ESTABLISHED SERVICES / PROJECTS

Our established services / projects are running smoothly.

OUTREACHES

Over the past year we had 2 outreach groups gathering for free home programme / therapy for children with Down syndrome ages 0 to 7. These outreaches were based in Ga-Rankuwa and at our offices in Lyttelton Ga-Rankuwa provided a home programme and speech therapy by the Medunsa students bi monthly and we had our 3 therapists at Lyttelton, members received therapy once a month.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Our outreach co-ordinator meets with parents in Atterdigeville, Mamelodi and Ga-Rankuwa once a month at different hospitals and clinics in the area. Information is shared and support provided to parents. Khanye self help group in Atterdigeville is running actively as a parent group.

PARENT SUPPORT

Our parent support coordinator follows up and visits new families and provides support where needed.

The office staff also plays a vital role in linking with parents.

EDUCATION

Our Education officer visits schools that have children with Down syndrome in and shares information with teachers and facilitators to best support the individual child in class. Potential schools are visited to address concerns and answer questions.

An education Symposium was held in May and a teacher workshop is scheduled for September.

JEANS AND TEKKIES TEENAGE CLUB

This is group for the teenagers, for them to get together and socialize, enjoy new activities, make lasting friendships between the kids and the parents. Social get-togethers are every 3 or 4 months. These socials also help to mould these young teens into self-advocates.

SCHOOL TO WORK TRANSITION PROGRAMME

This programme started in May 2017. The ultimate goal is supported employment and runs from the offices for learners with Down syndrome ages 17 and up. It is a full day programme and phase 1 covers life skills training, employment skills, sport, hand and eye coordination, community outings and literacy..

Our phase 2 students completed job shadowing / job sampling at 3 job sampling sites: Leriba Hotel, PhysiQFit guesthouse and Nobler Café. It ran from September 2017 to November 2017. This year the students will be sampling at Leriba Hotel and Spar.

At the start of 2018 we were privileged to be able to offer short courses at centurion Academy. The courses included cooking and baking. We were also given a haircare site for students to do a haircare course. This was a first for all and we had 8 students join the cooking and baking courses and 2 join the haircare. It was such a successful course and all students will be receiving certificates of completion. The courses concluded at the end of June and we held a hospitality evening for the parents of the students. We had 65 guests in total, the phase 1 students were the waiters for the evening and phase 3A students prepared the food which consisted of starters, mains and dessert. The evening was a ghuge success and the pride we felt for our students was indescribable.



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ADULT SELF-ADVOCATE- AND SOCIAL CLUB

The self-advocate social club remains as popular as ever. Our sokkies occur four times a year and are always well attended. The group had the usual Valentines dance, April dance, Spring Dance and Year end function.

SPORT CLUB

The sport club which has been running for 2 years has grown from strength to strength. As a member of SASA – II our athletes have been participating in all their Athletic and swimming competitions. Our Athletics day at Pilditch last year was one of the greatest events of the year and saw some 450 Athletes competing against their peers. The excitement of the day carried through in the athletes performances, where once again our Athletes showed just what the abilities are! This day also created awareness, bringing television crews, journalists and radio hosts together to see just what all the fuss was about and they went away agreeing that every bit of credit was well deserved

This Year we are going bigger and better, partnering with Tuks to host this years event, where we expect + Athletes to compete and 2500+ spectators.

AWARENESS

As awareness is one of the main focuses for all of us, we do our utmost to create awareness wherever possible. During Down syndrome awareness month in 2017 we frequented park runs, had awareness evenings at coffee shops and joined the disability play at Pierneef theatre. Our Christmas party at the zoo worked well at raising awareness, even though the day was rained out. World Down syndrome day brought many schools joining us in 'Rocking their socks' for Down syndrome. We visited many schools all around Gauteng and held awareness talks at various hospitals and clinics. On Saturday 24 March we once again joined the annual Right to Run in Sunnyside for World Down syndrome Day. Thereafter all members were invited to celebrate together at Kinderplaas zoo.

TRAININGS AND NEWSLETTERS

An electronic newsletter is sent out to all the members every 4 months with news and updates from all our activities. We also send out information Newsletters every 4 months, on topics that has been identified as necessary for members. These are all available on our website.

FUNDRAISING

As a board we have put several measures in place in the past year to raise funds to sustain our services. We realize that we have set the bar high and in order to keep surpassing expectations, to keep raising the bar, we need to do everything we can to raise funds to ensure our services can continue and not just continue but increase, be bigger and better.

The day to day smaller donations contribute to, but do not cover, our operating costs and all our funders get tax deductible receipts.

We had our first annual Black Tie event in November 2017 and we raised a fair amount which has helped to sustain us and our services.

Our existing fundraising ventures are Casual Day, Louis Box project and Back a Buddy. We also received funding from Lotto after a 2 year wait.

In 2017 we were also a recipient of funds from Waterfall who also made us a recipient of their Golf day. However that funding is no longer available for us as of February 2018.

We are blessed to be a recipient of monthly funds RMA which is covering half of our therapies.

We do have small fundraising initiatives such as the keyrings in 2017 and the Jewellery and awareness goods we are currently selling.



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Funding at this stage seems to be our biggest challenge. Our largest expenses are the Early Childhood Development Programme and staff, and hopefully we can secure funding for these projects soon.

NEW PROGRAMMES

As an Association we always strive to improve, to ensure our parents feel supported and to cover the necessary services members need.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

We identified that the Outreaches were not working as efficiently as we wanted them to. Thus began our transformation to **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**. As an Association we approached Tshwane disability sector, asking them to partner with us in this new yet vital venture. They have, since the start of June, been sending busses to collect our members in Ga-Rankuwa, Atteridgeville, Soshanguve and Mamelodi. These members are collected every week, brought to the Association where each child gets individual therapy once a month and the other 3 weeks group therapy as well as a home programme is given to each child.

SHORT COURSES

We were thrilled to include short courses to our school to work and hope to increase the courses available soon.

HOSPITALITY EVENING

Our first Annual Hospitality evening was held on 25 June and was a huge success.

WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

We have just finished our first winter holiday programme. Children between 7 and 15 attended, enjoying days filled with learning and fun.

CONCLUSION

We can assure all our members that the board and staff are motivated to improve the quality of life of persons affected by Down syndrome. In our service delivery we are striving for equal access and respect for persons with Down syndrome.

Our focus the past year was to get back to basics and to raise the bar to get our services relevant and new.

I thank the Board and staff of 2017 / 2018 for working hard and giving their precious free time towards our ventures.

With God's grace, and the open hearts and hands of all involved, I see a bright future for our Association and for persons with and affected by Down syndrome in Tshwane.

Magda Lourens

Chairperson 2017 - 2018