



THE WESTERN CAPE CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

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PBO 130000643



Chairman's Report

There are two values that permeate through 70 years of existence of the Western Cape Cerebral palsy Association. The sincere dedication, commitment and integrity of all the forerunners of the WCCPA. The contributions, time, hard work and planning ploughed into developing the WCCPA to what it is today has not gone unnoticed. We will continue to stand tall and strive for the good of our people that we serve. We are forever indebted to God Almighty for blessing the Association with good leadership to remodel itself and emerge into the strong body. Decades of struggle, commitment and perseverance has been the order of existence. Consequently, the road to success will continue if we passionately continue to serve and support persons with disabilities. Additionally, we remind ourselves that we will not let our success cloud our vision with much complacency. We will remain humble and steadfast no matter what we achieve.

The 2022/23 year under review has been good. We are delighted that we received complimentary reviews on our Financial Audits and Good Governance Administration conducted by governmental departments and our Auditors. Drawing strength from the excellent work of our Centre management structures, we continue to succeed in our goals to transform the Association to greater heights. It is empowering to know that our staff have the capabilities to deal with challenges that they face daily.

I am even more encouraged by the continued support of our Funders, Trusts, Governmental Departments, Donors of perishable and non-perishable goods. Words of thanks and appreciation can never express our thanks and gratitude to you for your generous contributions

to the success of the Association. If only you can see the mountains of joy, smiles and happiness you bring to the faces of Persons with cerebral palsy, then you will deeply appreciate the value of your contributions. Thank you so much.

I am inspired by the following quotation and hope you can share it as a lesson of life.

"Each of your breaths is a priceless jewel, since each of them is irreplaceable and, once gone, can never be retrieved. Don not be like the deceived fools who are joyous because each day their wealth increases while their life shortens. What good is an increase in wealth when life grows even shorter? Therefore, be joyous only for an increase in knowledge or in good works, for they are your two companions that will accompany you".

In conclusion I want to thank my fellow board members, staff, families and persons with disabilities for their continued support and dedication to the WCCPA. You are a collective part of the 70 years of service. Going forward, I trust that we can continue to build upon more successes from the previous 70 years and I take the opportunity to wish the Association every success with its 70th Celebrations.



M.N. Osman, Chairperson

WESTERN CAPE CEREBAL PALSY ASSOCIATION BOARD:

Chairperson:
Mogamat Noor Osman

Vice-Chairperson:
Keith Dreyer

Treasurer:
Osman Shaboodien

Members:
Fowzia Achmat, Aniel Jeaven,
Mandy Newman, John Zuyl



The WCCPA Projects and Services

At all the projects the focus is on providing quality care, sharing knowledge, implementing practices, health and rehabilitative interventions that are appropriate to the functional needs of those we serve. There is an understanding that persons with disabilities do not constitute a homogenous group, hence the WCCPA and its projects understand the diverse needs of a person with disabilities and the required levels of support

Cerebral Palsy Clinic

The WCCPA in partnership with the Red Cross Hospital established the CP Clinic in 1968. This symbiotic relationship between an NGO and the provincial hospital is unique. It provides rehabilitative services to children with Cerebral Palsy and additional disabilities. The CP Clinic promotes a multi-disciplinary approach in addressing the medical, rehabilitative and social needs of children with Cerebral Palsy and additional disabilities and their families. 53 Years later, the CP Clinic, continues to provide such an essential service where developmental assessment, diagnosis of children and therapeutic interventions to children from birth to age 13 are undertaken.

These services are provided in a way that imparts handling skills with families to improve the functional abilities and quality of life of the children and helps them reach their potential.



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De Heide Children's Special Care Centre

The WCCPA together with a group of parents identified the need for day placement, De Heide Children's Special Care Centre was established in 1984 in Heideveld, in premises rented from the City of Cape Town. The name was decided by the parents of the centre because it reminded them of the variety of colours of the heather flowers depicting uniqueness of their children with Cerebral Palsy. 39 years later and situated in Harfield Village, De Heide has 28 children and adults with severe to profound physical and intellectual disabilities, all of whom have severe barriers to learning, but benefit from a well-planned care and education program.

Principal:
Mrs. Fatima Shaboodien

11 Second Avenue, Claremont,
021 683 5470

Rosedon House

In the early 1960's it became apparent that there was a great need for residential facilities for persons with Cerebral Palsy. After many years of planning and negotiations, Rosedon House was opened in 1990, with 48 adults with Cerebral Palsy. Today Rosedon House continues to offer residential accommodation in a happy and supported environment to 58 adults. The severity of their disabilities necessitates permanent residential care, hence ongoing care and support is provided. Psycho social support is a vital part of the service. The adults are encouraged to become independent through daily social and life skills programme, all translated into practical experiences.

Facility Manager:
Dianne Fernandes

11 Rosedon Road, Rondebosch
021 696 2042



Centre Manager:
Bilqees Darries

The Village Work Centre

As the open labour market lacked reasonable accommodation to support persons with Cerebral Palsy and additional disabilities, the need for protective work centres evolved. The Palms started in 1983 with 15 workers. All types of contract work was undertaken, like sewing, sorting, counting, woodwork, packing etc. Today, the Palms is now referred to as the Village Work Centre, which has moved to Harfield Village with a complement of 84 service users. Contract work continues to take place with skills development being the focus. Work Assessments are completed, along with awareness programmes that are appropriate and useful to the person's context level of understanding. Self-advocacy is encouraged and structured support and psycho social counselling is provided

11 First Avenue, Claremont,
021 683 1300

Social Work Services

The Social work services was established between 1972 and 1976. It is one of the vital services that remained common to all the WCCPA projects and community outreach throughout the years. Children and adults with Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual disabilities and associated disabilities will always face multiple level barriers ranging from access, inequalities, human rights violations, lack of basic commodities, lack of safe and affordable transport etc. From two social workers in the early days to a complement of 3.5 social workers today, indicates the ever-demanding need for social services. The WCCPA social workers continue to make representation on various platforms to assist children and adults with disabilities and their families. In addition, social workers support families on various levels, provide counseling, assist with appropriate placements at special care facilities, protective workshops, residential or group home facilities, and LSEN Schools, develop support service for persons with disabilities, network and form partnerships.





Reflecting on the 70 Years of Service

Reflecting on the 70 years of service, we at the WCCPA honour and acknowledge the exceptional contributions made by our forerunners and all those who played a role in reaching this significant milestone.

This calls for a collective celebration of a special milestone that heralds a process of reflection of all of our achievements and difficult moments that contributed to shaping the WCCPA to what it is today. It is certainly admirable to note the many years of support, guidance and service that the WCCPA has provided to one of the most vulnerable groups and their families in our society.

Historically, the system of apartheid made little or in some instances no provision for "non-whites". Establishing all these centres, protective workshops and a residential facility was an attempt by the WCCPA to address the unmet need of provision for children and adults with Cerebral Palsy and multiple disabilities. Besides the need for services, systemic gaps were addressed in response to the unequal and unjust systems that many families and their children were experiencing. The WCCPA also made provision for families to be supported in safe spaces and platforms thus ensuring that both parents and their children's rights were addressed and upheld. Many of the centres moved on to become fully fledged public schools for learners with special needs.

The model of "being cared for by families" was transformed to more diverse community-based models. Voices of persons with Cerebral Palsy and additional disabilities found spaces where they could be heard. Change, no matter how difficult, remained constant, and it welcomed the emergence of new generations with new trajectories and innovation. The 70 years captures the spirit of the WCCPA's on-going commitment to establishing services for persons with CP and multiple disabilities. It brought people together and built networks of opportunities to exchange ideas, created dialogues and importantly formed meaningful relationships. Through the years, the WCCPA, gained new insights

into the dynamics of development and how our roles, as an NPO were understood.

Over the years, the area of governance and its practises require ongoing review and remodeling of strategies on a range of governance issues. Promoting accountability and transparency became ever important. Many organisations including the WCCPA, faced many changes in regulatory and compliance requirements, that continue to constantly present themselves as patterns of change.

1994, symbolised the dawning of a new phase of developments and marked the beginning of a complex redress and transformation phase. With much enthusiasm and hope we embraced and repositioned our organisation. There was a coherent approach to ensure that the Board of Management and all its structures became more representative encapsulating the motto "nothing about us without us". Going forward the WCCPA had to adopt new ways of delivering services that would align with the new plans that the state structures and departments rolled out. Disability was now presented as a collective as apposed to separate identities. The WCCPA became a part of integrated disability networks and forums. Embracing a transformative process required a re-orientation of past practises and values, a paradigm shift in mindset and thinking. Here, good leadership was crucial to the process of change. Much optimism prevailed as we hoped for better opportunities in inclusive spaces that would evolve into "a better life for all".

Participation in research projects, feasibility studies and surveys informed much evidence-based publications and further exposed the inequalities that communities experienced and the huge disparities in service models and funding.

With strong advocacy, collaboration and networking with other NGO's it became more urgent to engage government departments and other agencies and make them understand what the need of persons



with disabilities presented.

Government procurement of services from the NGO's was noted as a necessary step, yet we remained sceptical since we were aware that government would place greater demands. The WCCPA was one of the role-players to action government to honour the rights of children with severe to profound intellectual disabilities.

As digital technology broadened, the WCCPA had to create different spaces and platforms to meet that fast and ever-changing demands of alternate ways of operating. The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 unfolded many uncertainties but tested our abilities to survive and sustain. These were hard times for all. It was important to ensure that staff, families and the children and adults with disabilities were supported in many ways that made a difference and eased the heightened distress, fear and multitude of emotions.

All the above-mentioned reflections cannot ignore the changes in funding trends which tended to

display notable skewed patterns in distribution of funds, which inevitably impacted negatively on all of our services. POPIA was not new to the NPO sector but further broadened. This forced the WCCPA to undergo a reviewing process of their information systems and place greater safety measures in place.

Looking ahead at the future, we can only continue to cultivate a shared vision through mobilisation and meaningful engagement with all our stakeholders. Over the seven decades of service, our good intentions have led to our search in finding new solutions and creating opportunities. The WCCPA takes cognisance of the ever-changing experiences and context of persons with disabilities. Collectively, we continue to optimise our impact through our support and services. Fueled by a commitment to improve people's lives, allows us as the WCCPA to remain steadfast in our vision where all persons with Cerebral Palsy are afforded the same opportunities, possibilities, respect and dignity as promulgated in the South African Constitution.



THE PAST 70 YEARS

- a history of the WCCPA -

1952

3 sets of parents met with a common need. They needed treatment and education for their children who presented with Cerebral Palsy. Mr Emil Riese travelled to London to research facilities and on his return a formal committee was formed with Mr Riese as chairman and Dr. Trafford Barlow who drew up the initial constitution in 1953. Vista Nova was begun in a house with 18 pupils of differing abilities.

Major fundraising was begun with a dynamic committee members and in the subsequent 10 years' expansion was steady. The school was enlarged and moved onto the present property. The "ineducable" children were moved to another facility with a small group of people requiring occupation.

1967

A clinic was established at Red Cross Hospital serving children who had been assessed at the High Risk Follow Up Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital. This clinic under the care of Dr. Gladys Beinart and Dr. Leila Arens together with a team of therapists was established as a unique collaboration between the hospital and the CP Association which has continued to this day.



1968

This was a signature year. A Vista Nova needed expansion, Sunnyday Centre was established for those children who could not cope with the formal school curriculum. A "coloured" division was established. They would be looking at the development of facilities for this group of children as facilities had to be separated on racial lines in those days.

1970

The Cape Province Cerebral Palsy Association's name was changed to the Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association

1972 - 1976

A social work service was begun, Vista Nova further expanded, Eros School was established in Wynberg, Bluegum Training Centre started in Heideveld for teenagers, Heideveld Training centre started for younger children who could not cope with formal education, and Rosedon Work Centre was established. We also started with a subsidisation of the Cerebral Palsy children at Tembaletu School in Guguletu.

These facilities were the result of extremely hard work by a solid team of volunteers who did fundraising tirelessly, consulted with the Department officials, and who kept at all times the needs of the Cerebral Palsied upmost in their planning.



1984 - Current

Following a needs assessment researched through the Clinic, and the social work department, De Heide Special Care Centre was established which was situated in Heideveld with 20 children. This was a Ken Coetzee was our first chairman and Sylvia Thompson was the first supervisor. Due to the increase of theft at the time, Sylvia had to take all equipment home every night to avoid it being stolen as the premises had been broken into so often. Heideveld Centre moved into a new building in Athlone and then finally to Goodwood as Filia Centre. In 1990 Rosedon House was completed and the first resident moved in June. Rosedone House saw 2 weddings within weeks of opening. The Palms Work Centre opened as well as the new development of Bel Porto School.

PERSONALITIES

At this point we would like to focus on those people who worked so hard to get us to this level. Mr Emil Riese and his wife Alma were the guiding forces in the establishment of what we see today. I would like to quote from a dedication to Mr Riese who passed away in 1993.

"Our founder Mr Emil Riese gave a lifetime of concern and caring for Cerebral Palsy. He was entrusted with the task of finding a place for Cp's to be taught and trained so that their dependence on the society and their families could be lessened. He was a parent with a mission and left no stone unturned in his search for help. In 1952 he went overseas and then joined the Cripple Care and through them formed the Cape Province CP Association. By 1954 it was independent. He was chairperson for 14 years during which time Vista Nova, Eros and Rosedon Work Centre was established."

Mr Riese's wife Alma served on the committee for 23 years and resigned in 1986. Her dedication reads -

"Its is a trite phrase that says, one man's meat is another's poison. In this case, out of the Riese's misfortune have grown the colossus that is the WCCPA. There is no doubt that aid for the cerebral palsied would have grown even without the Riese's but there is also no doubt in anyone's mind that without both Emil and Alma initiating the services which were non existent in the 1950's it would have taken years longer to have any meaningful effect. It was with this drive and push that this corner of the Republic became the leader in the field of assessment and treatment of the cerebral palsied". Alma at 90 still follows the development of the organisation with great interest.



(Founder - Mr Emil Riese)

Mr Michael Fig served as vice chairman and then chairman for 22 years. Under his leadership the organisation grew from strength to strength. In 1988 he handed over the baton to Rob Pearl, he became Honorary Life President until ill health forced him to relinquish his active involvement in our work. Other names that warrant celebrating are Mrs Israele who managed the office for many years. Mr Nolan Matthews is the trusted driver and assistant and employed for over 40 years. Mr Martin was principle for Vista Nova for 30 years, Mr van Vlaanderen started and developed Rosedon Work Centre, Dr Arens ran the Assessment and Treatment until she emigrated.

Mr Maritz spearheaded the Eros development, Mrs Essop was Principle of the Filia School from its inception. Special mention goes to Joy Singleton. Joy started at CP Association as a young girl and after 40 years as the administrative assistant to the Director and retired in 2015. We owe a huge vote of gratitude to her for her dedication and commitment. Joy we salute you! I know that I have not named everyone and I hope that if your name was not mentioned you will not be offended.

Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to our loyal donors for financial support received during the 2022- 2023 financial year. We also extend sincere thanks to all donors of in-kind donations.

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