



**THE WESTERN CAPE CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

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## Chairman's Report

Dear Stakeholders,

I am honored to present the Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association's annual report for the 2023/24 financial year. As Chairperson, I am proud to reflect on our achievements in empowering individuals with cerebral palsy.

This year marked the 70th anniversary of the Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association, and we celebrated the values that have guided us: dedication, commitment, and integrity. We honor the pioneers who shaped our organization and express our gratitude to our sponsors, funders, trusts, government departments, and donors for enabling us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our beneficiaries.

In the past year, we delivered vital services and support, including:

- Successful financial audits
- Strong governance administration
- Empowered staff capable of addressing daily challenges
- Transformative work by our Centre management
- Increased support from our stakeholders

Inspired by the wisdom of the past, we aim to build on our successes, expanding our knowledge and efforts to better serve our community.

*"Be joyous for an increase in knowledge or good works, for they are your two companions."*

Our programs included:

- Daily Educational and Learning Programs
- Vocational and Skills Training
- Independent Skills Training
- Awareness Raising on Disability and Community Issues
- Social Work and Therapeutic Interventions
- Transport Services
- Family Support and Counseling

We remain humble and steadfast, recognizing that our success is a testament to the collective efforts of our board members, staff, families, and persons with disabilities. Our dedicated team and partners have tirelessly promoted inclusivity, accessibility, and equal opportunities for all.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission and vision. We will continue to advocate for the rights and needs of individuals with cerebral palsy while exploring innovative solutions to emerging challenges.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

**Mogamat Noor Osman**  
**Chairperson, Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association**





## Celebrating and Surviving: An Intertwining Paradox

Non-profit organizations play an essential role in developing communities, bringing about social change, and advocating for human rights, equality, and dignity. Amid widespread recognition that social needs continue to grow, the Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association (WCCPA) has played a significant role in fostering social change and development for persons with cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities. However, the situation in vulnerable communities remains fragile.

Budget cuts have posed a threat to core services for people with disabilities. In an effort to mitigate the effects of deteriorating societal conditions, the WCCPA has had to reorient and develop services in ways that would not impact budgetary constraints while still maintaining the quality of care and support.

The impact of COVID-19 on organizations like the WCCPA has had far-reaching consequences on capacity. Human resources were affected as we experienced retrenchments and increased mental and physical health issues. Recruiting new employees proved challenging, highlighting the various problems in our Education system, to provide quality education and skills training. Over the past year, the Board of Management dedicated much time to addressing the issues and gaps that resulted directly from the COVID-19 period, which continue to linger.

The cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated the vulnerability of people with disabilities, adding extra burdens to already stretched household budgets. Consequently, the demands on our organization have increased, requiring us to provide necessities such as food, napkins, clothing, and more. Hence, our continued appeals for groceries and basic commodities.

The WCCPA continues to collaborate with other organizations and networks on pertinent issues that address the rights of persons with cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, and multiple disabilities. In this collective space, we draw attention to legal frameworks that have not been adhered to, and we provide comments and submissions on amended and new policies that are developed.

A highlight of the year was our celebration of reaching an important milestone: 70 years of existence. What a proud moment it was to share the occasion with many who have travelled this journey with us. These 70 years encapsulate generations of values, hard work, dedication, social partnership, resilience, empathy, compassion, and at times much needed light heartedness. As an organization, we have inspired hope and provided a safe space where families and persons with disabilities could share their rich narratives and experiences. In turn, we listened, guided where necessary, and helped them on their journeys. Most importantly, we formed long-lasting relationships.

May we be inspired to continue our ethos of support and service.

### *WCCPA Board of Management*



**Chairperson:**  
**Mogamat Noor Osman**

**Vice-Chairperson:**  
**Keith Dreyer**

**Treasurer:**  
**Osman Shaboodien**

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



## ***“Social work is the art of helping people to help themselves.” – Anonymous***

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At the Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association, Social Work services are crucial to our mission. We are an integral part of a multidisciplinary team. Using relevant legislation and set minimum standards, the social work services aim to enhance the overall functioning and well-being of individuals with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. We provide support and services to vulnerable populations where poverty remains a significant issue, hence the ongoing need for continued community development and advocacy.

In the Western Cape, the heightened increase in crime has negatively impacted home environments and access to essential services, affecting overall service delivery. Despite these difficulties, the Special Work Department is committed to learning from these challenges, maintaining optimism, and pursuing our vision, which includes:

- Offering counselling and support to beneficiaries and their families.
- Raising awareness and educating service providers and the public to promote the inclusion and integration of people with disabilities into their communities.
- Providing information on educational and placement options.
- Delivering life-skills training programs for affected individuals;
- Sharing information on support services and resources with parents, caregivers, and guardians;
- Establishing and facilitating parent and peer support groups;
- Engaging in ongoing professional development to stay current with research and training on disability;
- Conducting capacity-building workshops for staff, beneficiaries, and the community;

In summary, our effective partnerships with key organizations, including the Departments of Social Development, Health, Education, and various non-profit organizations, remain vital in ensuring the safety and well-being of our beneficiaries. Despite the widespread socio-economic difficulties, we remain dedicated to reaching and assisting all individuals affected by cerebral palsy.

***"Social work is the art of helping people to help themselves." - Anonymous***





# The WCCPA Projects and Services



## Cerebral Palsy Clinic

The Cerebral Palsy clinic had a good year providing assessment, therapy and support to many children and families. Donor funding made therapy blocks, wedges and mats available which we could distribute according to the children's needs. We saw wonderful progress of children being able to lie on their tummy's and sit up for the very first time due to being able to practice therapeutic programs at home with their mats and blocks. These are good developmental positions that can be life changing in terms of being able to play and interact with others. Bookdash donations of books has helped to stimulate language and increase joint attention. These books are age appropriate and provided to us in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa which is so lovely for bilingual language

stimulation. Children are issued these books to take home and keep as their own. A huge boost are donations from the FRIENDS trust that give food, blankets, toys and toiletry packs. Our patients have so many basic needs around hunger and transport that can't be met therapeutically. The CP therapists continue to teach, share knowledge and expertise with medical students, Physio and Speech students. Challenges have been a lack of seating devices due to a backlog. Patients in wheelchairs unable to access transport to make therapy appointments. The clinic also continues to be one Physiotherapist and one Speech Therapist short which directly impacts service delivery and the number of children we can see. It has been a wonderful year, and it is a joy to celebrate the progress that the children make, no matter how small and to be part of the journey with them and their families.

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## De Heide Children's Special Care Centre

The past year has seen many changes in the perception of special care centres. The ongoing shift from traditional care to a model that integrates care and education has necessitated new ways of thinking and knowledge systems. With three departments conducting monitoring and evaluation visits, alongside a Western Cape Education Department outreach team, the pressure to meet varied outputs and compliance requirements has been overwhelming. Despite these challenges, our staff has worked tirelessly to achieve the highest quality of care and educational goals for each child and adult. The CSPID team provided valuable educational input into the daily learning programs, while physiotherapy, speech interventions, and educational sessions have ensured that children receive optimal benefits from their interventions. A priority has been the transfer of knowledge and skills to both staff and parents to ensure continuity of care. Compliance with government regulations and expectations led to ongoing reviews of our internal policies and guidelines. Advancing the rights, dignity, and equality of our children and adults remains a key focus. Our intense advocacy efforts have highlighted government failures to meet its constitutional obligations. Staff development, through both on-site and off-site training, continues to enhance our service quality and improve the mental and physical outcomes for our children and adults.





## **De Heide SCC Celebrates 40 Years of Exceptional Service**

De Heide SCC proudly celebrates its 40th anniversary of providing exceptional services and support to children and adults with severe to profound intellectual and multiple disabilities, as well as their families.

This milestone is a testament to our dedication and growth over the years.

From its humble beginnings in October 1984, De Heide was established through the efforts of a determined group of parents, supported by the WCCPA and several professionals. Their hard work and commitment have been crucial in developing De Heide SCC into the esteemed organization it is today.

We honour the stalwarts and pioneers who laid the foundation for De Heide's success. Their contributions were pivotal in creating a support service that we can all be immensely proud of.

### **Fatima Shaboodien, Staff and Children**

**Principal:**

**Mrs. Fatima Shaboodien**

**11 Second Avenue, Claremont,**

**021 683 5470**



## **Rosedon House**

Rosedon House continues to provide a 24-hour residential facility, caring for 45 adults with cerebral palsy. The well-being of our residents remains at the center of all that we provide and plan. Our care is individualized, and we continuously strive for positive outcomes through various activities and interventions. Over the past year, we restructured our occupational group, which is now open four days a week.

### **Activities**

include knitting, puzzles, playing cards, drawing, looming, and reading, among others. One of our residents plays the piano, and the others enjoy singing along to the music. In the last 12 months, Rosedon House has seen a significant increase in new applications,

highlighting the growing need for residential care. To ensure the sustainability of our facility, we must constantly seek resources and funding.

As with any residential facility, Rosedon House faces its share of challenges. In March 2024, we lost one of our residents, Lesley Roberts. A major highlight of the year was reuniting one of our residents with his family for the first time in 20 years—an overwhelmingly emotional moment.

Despite financial challenges, Rosedon House remains committed to providing a safe, caring, and family-oriented environment for all our residents. We are deeply grateful to our generous donors for their ongoing support.

**Facility Manager:**

**Dianne Fernandes**

**11 Rosedon Road, Rondebosch**

**021 696 2042**



## The Village Work Centre

### The Village Work Centre's Journey

The year 23/24 welcomed the appointment of Mrs. Bilqees Darries, who assumed the role of Manager at the Village Work Centre. As we reflect on the past year, the Village Work Centre continued to play a crucial role in developing the work and life skills of adults with Cerebral Palsy and multiple disabilities. Additionally, the Centre created a supportive employment platform where these adults felt a sense of community and self-worth.

The change in management introduced a transitional phase, which allowed people with disabilities, staff, and families to adapt to new methods of working and thinking. Despite cuts in subsidies from the Department of Social Development, the Village Work Centre continued to support 80 beneficiaries, which further strained the existing budgetary constraints.

Post-COVID, the Village Work Centre faced the challenge of losing contractwork from businesses. This situation motivated the strengthening of partnerships with local businesses and organizations to source more work and create continued employment opportunities for our beneficiaries.

The orientation program for young adults transitioning from the LSEN school environment to the protective workshop yielded positive outcomes, with some school leavers being recruited for placement at the Village Work Centre. New initiatives were introduced, keeping in mind the diverse cognitive, physical, and sensory abilities of all beneficiaries.

The Centre began reviewing individual support plans, a process that requires considerable time, observation, and assessment. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our funders and donors. None of this would have been possible without their funding and support.

Their contributions have enabled us to:

- Support our beneficiaries
- Maintain and upgrade our facilities, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all
- Create new initiatives

Their generosity has been instrumental in allowing us to deliver our programs and services, making a tangible difference in the lives of persons with disabilities.



## The Village Work Centre – Woodwork Section

A warm welcome to Wayne Kleinsmidt, who has been placed in charge of the Woodwork section of the Village Work centre. The year 23/24 marked a period of significant review, planning and restructuring for this section. Many of the contracts pre covid, had come to an end as businesses closed or relocated.

Recognizing the potential for growth in the Woodwork section, we undertook careful planning of new product ideas, taking into account the functional abilities of individuals with disabilities in the section. The continued upskilling of the beneficiaries will always be a priority as long as the activities of production were graded and simplified to ensure that the work could be completed.

With all this planning and renewed hope, the task of seeking new contracts has begun. The beneficiaries were assessed and graded according to abilities and potential for further skills development. We face the new year with much optimism, that the woodwork section will once again reach optimum outcomes.

**Centre Manager:**  
**Bilqees Darries**

**11 First Avenue, Claremont,**  
**021 683 1300**



# Acknowledgements

We wish to thank all contributors whose financial support, donations-in-kind and voluntary services during the past year enabled us to provide vital services to adults and children with cerebral palsy

## Provincial Government of the WC

Department of Health  
Department of Social Development  
Western Cape Education Department - resources and equipment

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BETTER TOGETHER.



The Western Cape Cerebral Palsy Association



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