



**Organisation for and from People with Disabilities South Africa**

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**NEWSLETTER**  
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**SPONSERSHIP FROM AMANDLA OMOYA TRUST**

The Amandla Omoya Trust sponsors our organisation, so that we can repair secondhand wheelchairs. The trust is also helping to start our wheelchair repair center, where we can help people with their broken wheelchairs or flat tyres.

We can fix rusty old second hand wheelchairs, make them brand new and can give them out on loan, until such time as the person waiting, receives their wheelchair from the state. The plan is to train people to repair all kind of aids and in the future, we hopefully can offer a few people a job. In this way we can help many people change their lives, which is the purpose of our organisation.

Thank you Amandla Omoya trust! We are very grateful for what you are doing for us and the community we assist.

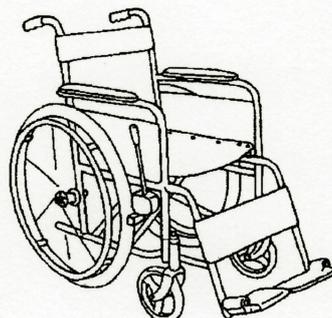
**WORKSHOPS**

This year we have had three workshops. We are happy to say that we found wonderful sponsors to help us to make these events possible. Pick 'n Pay, True Technologies, the RTS church, Inn Food and Bay Pasta. We are hoping that next year others will follow them and help us to share all kinds of information with the whole community.

Two of the workshops were for the general public, and one for the Social Workers in the Kouga.

**Wheelchairs**

More or less 10% of the people of South Africa experience a disability.



**Mission:**  
To create equal opportunities, through awareness and access to all kind of facilities to realise that all persons can participate in a barrier free society.

**Vision:**  
People must function in full dignity and independently and with respect in the community.

*We can only do this from 'own experience and knowledge and the expertise of our members.*

**If someone wants to receive these newsletters directly by email, please send us an email with the subject "Newsletter".**

You are allowed to copy the newsletter as many times you want.

**The OPD is not only for people who are in need of a wheelchair. We advise also on accessibility and other issues regarding all**

**In this number:**

- ◆ Sponsorship
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Wheelchairs
- ◆ Diabetes
- ◆ Disability
- ◆ New house
- ◆ Parking Bays
- ◆ Police Station
- ◆ Awareness

In the Kouga area the average is higher, because 80% of the citizens of the Kouga are older than 60. The elderly are far more likely to experience a difficulty than the younger generation.

The workshop about wheelchairs is very important because many people don't know how important a good wheelchair is and what we mean by a good wheelchair. A wheelchair must fit perfectly. Not too tight and not too wide. When we look around and see the wheelchairs used by people, we see that the condition of the wheelchairs is generally shocking. Too big, too small, too high or too low for the person who is using it.

In the workshop we found that very few people have the right information about getting a suitable wheelchair and what kind of wheelchairs are on the market.

We shared a lot of information with regards to this. If there are still people looking for more information, please phone and ask us.

### Diabetes

In South Africa one in five persons have diabetes. It is the country's second biggest natural killer and everyday there are more and more people with diabetes. So, it is time for the OPD to fill in the lack of information to all people in the Kouga.



Thankfully the RTS church, Pick 'n Pay, True Technologies and Bay Pasta sponsored the workshop and made it possible that we could

### **We are looking for help for:**

- **Visit people at home,**
- **Get people to the clinics/ hospital,**
- **To do admin work,**
- **Money to get so the organisation get going on,**
- **Maintain wheelchairs etc.**

tell people about what do to when you are diagnosed.

Dr. Potgieter, from de Da Gama road, shared a lot of important information about diabetes. It was very interesting.

The Diabetes Organisation of PE, made a special trip to Jeffreys bay to talk about this disease and had many tips.

The OPD promised to organise another workshop on Diabetes, for next year September. In that way all the people who couldn't be there, can come and get lots of information about prevention and care.

### Disability

The third workshop was for the Social Workers in the Kouga area. It was a pity that there were so little social workers who attended. But with the persons who were there, we had a great time. We had good discussions about; What constitutes a

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disability, who is disabled and who is responsible for the disability.



For them it was an eye opener and they now know that we all experience certain disabilities at

different stages of our lives, and that we are all responsible for every person who is experiencing a disability. We need to work together help all experiencing a disability. The biggest eye opener was the question; "Is a mom with a pram, in front of steps, disabled?" They all agreed because of the definition used world wide is: Disability; **"Any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being."** The mom experiences that the step was her restriction to go into the building with the pram, to do her activity. An activity what every other human being could do.

## NEW HOUSE FOR THE HOGAN FAMILY

In September 2017 the house of the Family Hogan (members of the OPD) burned down. In a few minutes they lost everything.



On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December the rebuilt house was ready and the key was handed over to them.

The OPD would like to thank everybody who helped and did more than their best to make this possible.



## DISABLED PARKING BAYS, FOUNTAINS MALL

In the last few months more and more people are asking us why we aren't clamping or fining all the cars that abuse the disabled parking places. More and more people, mostly local people, are angry about the fact that they see the abuse and that we are the only ones using the yellow card, and nothing has changed.

The moment we tell them that the owner of the Mall is not willing to use clamping and fining, they respond that they don't understand this, because in all the other Malls in this country, clamping and fining are standard practice for bay abuse.

But, it still is a fact that, after talking and talking with the Mall, the Traffic Department, police and others the result is that the Mall of Jeffrey's Bay still take no action against law breakers. The owner of the Mall expects the OPD to do what they can to stop the misuse. And we only can put a yellow card on the wind screen, take a picture of the car and send that picture to the national organization to follow up.

## POLICE OFFICE

The OPD-SA is willing to held a workshop at your place, please contact us. The subject can be for instance: Accessibility, Diabetes, Wheelchairs, Awareness.

After talking and asking numerous times at the Police Station to make the police office accessible, we received no response.

The OPD made a report about the fact that most people can experience a disability when trying to access this station. Even this audit didn't help.

We decided to go to the Human Right Commission and to lay a complaint of discrimination against disabled people. This Commission accepted the complaint and acted. After a while they got the answer that they are working on rebuilding inside the building and will be changing the disabled parking place to conform to the law.

There now is a parking bay that can be used by people who have a valid disc. The commander of the police station promised that the moment one of the police cars uses this bay we can call the Traffic Office to come to give this car a fine. This is a very good example from how it should be in the whole Kouga.

## **AWARENES FOR ACCESSIBILITY**

The OPD and QuadPara started an Accessibility project together. In this project we are asking businesses, shops, restaurants, Christmas markets, churches etc. to make it possible for people who are

experience a disability to function in a normal way.

Human dignity and independence cannot be fully valued or respected when everyone is not equal. All persons shall be able to safely enter the building, use all the facilities, including persons with a disability.

This project is unfortunately necessary especially in the time before Christmas the shops, Christmas markets, country markets, coffee shops and restaurants are fully packed with all kind of things to get as many people as possible. We can understand this.

In this time, of the year, they must make as much money as possible. But many of them are realizing themselves that the law, the National Building Regulations must also be respected at this time of the year.

The clear width of the walking surfaces shall not be less than 900mm and shall not be reduced, by any objects. The free height under the table must be 700mm.

In this project of the OPD and the QuadPara are asking: "Kindly to follow the law, also at Christmas time".

Both organizations are going to check if shops and restaurants are following the SA-law, and will bring the results out in a report, next year 2018.

Please remember that people with a disability or elderly people are also normal customers. They only need aids to function in a normal way, please help them to feel that they are more than welcome at your place.

### **INCOME AND TAX ACCOUNTING**

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