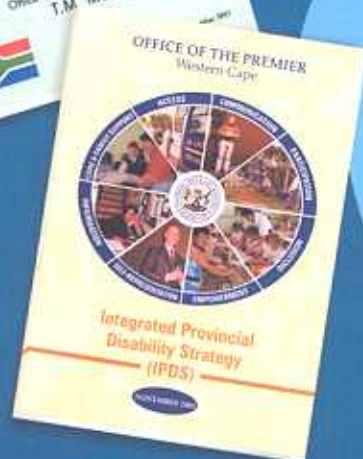




Provincial  
Administration  
Western Cape

# Celebrating disability in our decade of democracy 1994 – 2004



Directorate Human  
Rights Programmes



"Making Human Rights your Right"  
"Maak Menseregte, jou Reg"

"Ukwenza amaLungelo oLuntu, iLungelo lakho"

A partnership between the Western Cape Office on the Status of Disabled Persons, Provincial Government Departments and the Western Cape Network on Disability



# Intro

In 2004 South Africans are celebrating a decade of democracy. What has the effect of democracy been on people with disabilities?



The United Nations proclaimed 1981 the International Year of Disabled Persons. In an effort to bring the actions of the International Year to the African continent, the (then) Organisation for African Unity (now the African Union) declared 1999 to 2009 the **African Decade of Persons with Disabilities**.



Not only has the International Year of Disabled Persons given rise to an unstoppable disability rights movement in South Africa, but the country - particularly the Western Cape - has become part of a wave of awareness rising throughout Africa. In 2002 the Western Cape Cabinet approved the **Integrated Provincial Disability Strategy** (IPDS), thereby committing government to giving practical effect to improving the daily lives of more than 145 000 people with disabilities in the province. In the same year the Western Cape Office on the Status of Disabled Persons (OSDP) launched the first biennial **Access Conference** to highlight the fact that access remains the primary barrier to equal participation for disabled people. And in 2003 the OSDP sought input from disabled peoples' organisations on grassroots level, thereby engaging with people on local government level.



How will disabled people be **Celebrating Disability in the Western Cape in our Decade of Democracy, 1994 - 2004**? We believe we need to take stock of the achievements and best practices benefiting

persons with disabilities since the first democratic elections. We also need to be realistic and honest in looking forward at the key challenges that remain.

Holding government accountable, we need to ask about the financial support it has provided over the past decade. We are also focussing on **structural access, housing, transport, local government, social services and economic empowerment** by placing five provincial government departments under the spotlight: Economic Development and Tourism, Housing, Local Government, Transport and Public Works and Social Services and Poverty Alleviation. What are the commitments of these departments in terms of the IPDS, and how and when do they plan to give effect to them? What are the **progress and priorities** of the OSDP?

These are the key questions that we have attempted to answer in this document. We are highlighting only a fraction of the information received and would like to invite you to contact the OSDP should you wish to obtain a more comprehensive report.

It is our wish that the Western Cape will become a beacon of a strong human rights approach to disability - one that recognises and respects human diversity and leads the way to **full equality, access and participation**.

*Office on the Status of Disabled Persons*



# full equality, access and participation





# Non-governmental disability sector

Views expressed in this part of governmental body consisting for all people with disabilities deaf, mental illness, deaf-blind



## achievements

### What are the disability sectors' main achievements since the democratic e

- Introduction of important legislation such as the Employment Equity Act, Building Regulations, Mental Health Care Act, Sterilization Act, etc.
- Approval (on a national level) of the White Paper on an Integrated National Disability Strategy in 1997 and the provincial Cabinet's approval of the Western Cape Integrated Provincial Disability Strategy in 2002
- Creation of the Office on the Status of Disabled Persons in the Office of the President (1995) and its provincial counterpart, the Western Cape OSDP in the Office of the Premier (1999), as well as the representation of persons with disabilities in parliament
- Introduction of a human rights focus to the disability sector: increased public education, training, awareness programmes and the promotion of the inclusion of persons with disabilities
- Successful placement of persons with disabilities in the open labour market
- Provision of Special Care Centres
- Introduction of the Dial-a-Ride transportation system
- Formation and strengthening of consumer forums / bodies for the disability sector
- Greater co-ordination amongst the different disability organisations and the creation of the Western Cape Network on Disability
- Enhancement of full integration by relinquishing categorization of disabilities as an organizing principle for institutions



## best practices

### What are the best practices developed by the disability sectors over the past decade?

- Full participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making and management positions within national and provincial government, as well as within disabled people's organisations
- The RS2000 and the A.P.D. Employ initiatives for people with physical disabilities
- Economic empowerment of mentally disabled persons through the Transitional Employment Programme at Fountain House
- Business training and skills development for the blindness sector to enable participants to begin their own small businesses
- The Care and Health Partnership initiative for people with physical disabilities
- The Psychosocial Rehabilitation Model for community-level care and support of persons with mental illness, thereby reducing the readmission / hospitalisation rate
- Participation of persons with psychiatric disabilities in research into the sedation, seclusion and restraint of persons with mental disabilities
- The Cape Consumer Advocacy Body run by people with psychiatric disabilities and the Self Advocacy Group for people with intellectual disabilities
- Inclusive education and mainstreaming of visually impaired (blind and partially-sighted) learners
- Training of teachers in mainstream schools to enable them to teach visually disabled learners
- Learning for Life, a distance-learning course in the field of intellectual disability
- The Masifunde project, focussing on continued training in developing special care centres for persons with intellectual disabilities
- The Sexual Awareness Programme focussing on HIV / AIDS for persons with intellectual disabilities
- The Protective Workshop Programme and Volunteer Training and Lay Counselling Programme for persons with epilepsy.





the review have been contributed by members of the Western Cape Network on Disability. The Network is a non-profit organisation of and for persons with disabilities\*. It is committed to the promotion of equal rights and opportunities in the Province. The following sectors are represented on the Network: physical disability, intellectual disability, blind, epilepsy and consumer groups.

\* The phrase "persons with disabilities" refers to every kind of disability represented by the different disability sectors in the Western Cape



# financial support

## Challenges in South Africa in 1994?

- Identification of barriers to learning and development, and giving priority to teacher training for Inclusive Education
- Transformation of protective workshops throughout the disability sector
- Development of the Victim Empowerment Programme that ensures justice for persons with intellectual disabilities who have suffered sexual abuse
- Introduction of a structured Volunteer Programme with community participation and ownership for people with epilepsy
- Provision of an integrated service to people with epilepsy involved in income-generating projects.

## What financial support has (national, provincial and local) government provided over the past 10 years to the various disability sectors?

In terms of service delivery, the following departments have largely contributed to funding the disability sectors: Education (Section: Special Education), Social Services and Poverty Alleviation, Labour, Health, Environmental Affairs, Housing and Local Government, Sport and Recreation

However, there has been a steady decline in government's financial support over the past decade, as illustrated by organisations working with persons with mental disabilities: in just more than 10 years government subsidies have decreased from 75% of an organisation's income to 43% today. As a result, the sector is hard pressed to obtain 57% of its income from other sources. In the case

of the Provincial Administration Western Cape, subsidies have shown little increase since 1997.

### Other challenges include:

- Late payments of Lotto prize money to the disability sector
- Not all Special Care Centres for persons with physical disabilities receive a health subsidy
- The funding arrangements between different government departments in terms of their support to disability-related service delivery need review.

# key challenges



## Which key challenges are faced by the disability sectors?

- Implementing and enforcing all the acts and policies that have been set in place
- Providing similar opportunities in terms of jobs and skills for persons with disabilities as those for able-bodied employees in the open labour market
- Monitoring companies to ensure the employment of 2% of persons with disabilities. Those who do not comply with the Employment Equity Act, should be penalised.
- Ensuring that these penalties, paid over to the Department of Labour, are directed back to the disability sector to support employment initiatives for persons with disabilities
- Ensuring reasonable accommodation in the open labour market
- Obtaining Section 18(a) status of the Income Tax Act for non-governmental organisations who provide services to persons with disabilities. This would facilitate greater funding and donor support.
- Removing discrimination and prejudice that limits access to employment and general inclusion in society
- Putting in place outreach programmes to mobilize out-of-school youth in terms of the government's rural and urban development modes
- Providing better and free health services
- Providing an integrated programme for rural persons with disabilities and community-based services for adults with severe or profound intellectual disability
- Ensuring a fully accessible public transport system
- Addressing poverty, HIV / AIDS and lack of services for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural communities
- Sustaining, expanding and continuing support of disability consumer movements
- Increasing financial investment in multi-skills training and capacity building of disabled people's organisations
- Phasing out the traditional special education model and replacing it with inclusive education whilst promoting the constitutional right to education of children with severe and profound disabilities
- Developing policy for the management of elderly persons with intellectual disability and the provision of appropriate residential care
- Ensuring continued funding of non-governmental organisations that provide services to people with disabilities as subsidies do not keep up with rising costs.





# Provincial Government Departments

In 2002 the Western Cape Government De Disability Strategy. Only the third strategy, are highlighted below. (Departments are upon actions.)

## objectives, actions & time

2004			2005			2006					
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING</b>						<b>DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b>					
<b>OBJECTIVE: To remove barriers that impede the participation of disabled persons in mainstream society</b>											
Participate in national policy formulation that will provide opportunities for disabled persons to access government support in order to obtain affordable and barrier-free housing			✓			<b>Accessibility</b>			✓		
Negotiate with local authorities to reserve a percentage of new government-funded houses for disabled persons.					✓	Ensure adherence to regulations pertaining to accessibility of buildings, pathways and parking areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Proper access for wheelchair users - outside and inside buildings</li> <li>■ Suitable toilet and ablution facilities</li> <li>■ Reserved seating for disabled persons in auditoriums and halls</li> <li>■ Appropriate fire-escape routes</li> <li>■ Reserved parking</li> <li>■ Display of international signs to mark routes and identify accessible facilities</li> </ul>					
<b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS</b>											
<b>OBJECTIVE: To remove barriers that impede the participation of disabled persons in mainstream society</b>											
<b>Accessibility</b>						<b>Accessibility</b>					
Implement an accessibility audit programme of health facilities utilised by disabled persons, according to national guidelines			✓			Coordinate and implement improvements to the transport system so as to be in phase with the timetable for the regulation and concession of public transport routes throughout the province			✓	✓	
Audit the accessibility of all government department offices and facilities			✓	✓		Consider fare structures applicable to disabled persons			✓		
<b>Transport</b>						<b>Transport</b>					
Seek to appoint a representative of the Western Cape Disability Network to one of the standing committees on transport			✓			Educate and regulate operators to understand and accommodate the needs of disabled persons			✓	✓	
Determine: the specific requirements of disabled persons in the Western Cape, as well as the definition of "special needs passengers" through public participation			✓	✓		Establish specific funds for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Help to social services agencies to provide transport for disabled persons</li> <li>■ Demonstration projects related to improving public transport in rural and urban areas</li> <li>■ Training of transport personnel</li> </ul>					✓
Identify different transport systems that respond to the specific requirements of special needs passengers and evaluate their operations in the Western Cape			✓	✓		Lobby SARCC and Metrorail to further their programmes for providing access to and carriage of disabled persons.			✓	✓	
Establish provincial minimum acceptable operational standards and requirements for transport suitable for use by disabled persons			✓			Make it a requirement of Provincial Parking Standards that a certain number of parking spaces at any new development is reserved for vehicles occupied by persons in possession of a disabled parking disc				✓	
Ensure that all public transport plans formulated in the Western Cape provide for transport that is suitable for use by disabled persons and conform to the provincial minimum standards			✓			Involve the private sector in public transport upgrades for disabled users			✓	✓	✓



Departments committed themselves to five strategies in the Integrated Provincial  
 enabling Service Delivery, some of its related objectives, actions and timeframes  
 in the process of allocating funding for the implementation of the agreed-



# Timeframes

2004 | 2005 | 2006

2004 | 2005 | 2006

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

**OBJECTIVE: To remove barriers that impede the participation of disabled persons in mainstream society**

	2004	2005	2006		2004	2005	2006
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>				Assist management teams of work centres to acquire managerial, functional, marketing and business networking skills.	✓	✓	
Subsidise export promotion training programmes for disabled entrepreneurs.	✓	✓	✓				
Assist disabled persons who are producers of arts and crafts to export their products.	✓			Facilitate an entrepreneurial programme with the focus on disabled persons, women and rural communities.	✓	✓	
Include industries of persons with disabilities in the development of the new policy on tourism.	✓	✓					

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

**OBJECTIVE: To remove barriers that impede the participation of disabled persons in mainstream society**

	2004	2005	2006		2004	2005	2006
<b>Social assistance</b>				Implement a new payout system for social grants which is accessible to all frail and disabled people	✓	✓	
Pay social grants to eligible disabled persons	✓	✓	✓				
Pay care-dependency grants to parents and foster parents of eligible disabled children	✓	✓	✓	<b>Economic Empowerment</b>			
Establish appropriate guidelines for the medical assessment of disabled applicants for social assistance as well as the uniform interpretation of regulations	✓			Establish appropriate comprehensive policies and practices for the provision of protective work and income-generating opportunities to severely disabled persons, focussing on the following:	✓	✓	✓
Establish a multidisciplinary team for the reassessment of deregistered grants and appeals in respect of those grant applications which have been turned down	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The roles of Economic Affairs, Labour and Social Services</li> <li>■ Transformation of protective workshops into viable and sustainable units for economic empowerment</li> <li>■ Uniform assessment protocol for job placements in terms of a range of employment opportunities</li> </ul>			

**OBJECTIVE: To provide appropriate community-based support to families and care-givers in partnership with the Department of Health**

	2004	2005	2006
Audit existing community-based support services available to disabled persons and their families, focussing on:	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Personal assistance with activities of daily living</li> <li>■ Nursing support services for chronically ill or disabled persons</li> <li>■ Community-based rehabilitation</li> <li>■ Respite care</li> <li>■ Day care</li> <li>■ Counselling and training of family members to enable them to cope with the care of disabled persons</li> <li>■ Support groups</li> </ul>			
Improve the availability of services by:	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Facilitating the coordination of services</li> <li>■ Promoting the multifaceted use of services to accommodate different target groups with related needs</li> <li>■ Promoting the development of new services</li> <li>■ Encouraging residential facilities to develop community outreach services</li> <li>■ Disseminating information collated with the audit</li> </ul>			

**OBJECTIVE: To provide appropriate facilities for residential care of severely disabled persons in partnership with the Department of Health**

	2004	2005	2006
Manage the discharge of those long-term care patients in psychiatric and other hospitals who are in need of residential care	✓	✓	✓
Determine appropriate admission criteria for homes for disabled persons to ensure that services focus on severely disabled persons, including children who need permanent care	✓	✓	✓
Create opportunities for disabled children to access children's homes and educare centres	✓	✓	✓



# Office on the Status of Disabled Persons

The aims of the Office on The Status of Disabled Persons (OSDP) are to **promote and enhance** the rights of persons with disabilities and the implementation of the Integrated Provincial Disability Strategy in the Western Cape.



## PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

### ■ Implementing the provincial disability strategy

The Integrated Provincial Disability Strategy (IPDS) was approved by the Cabinet of the Western Cape in May 2002 in order to ensure fundamental human rights for persons with disabilities. While promoting the strategy by means of a province-wide road-show in July 2003, the need for district structures that bring disability-related development and coordination closer to the people, became clear. The OSDP has committed itself to address this during the 2004/2005 financial year.

### ■ Mainstreaming equality

The OSDP assists government departments with the implementation of the disability strategy. A training package, *Mainstreaming equality with a focus on disability, youth and gender*, is to be used by trainers in the public service to help officials master mainstreaming practically by using tools and mechanisms to achieve organizational change and improved service delivery.

### ■ Access programme

Access remains the primary barrier to equal participation for persons with disabilities. For this reason, the first biennial access conference and exhibition were held in 2002 by the OSDP. Access innovation in the following areas has been particularly encouraged: job creation, education and training, the built environment, social development, information and technology. Following the Access 2002 conference, the OSDP and a number of partners are exploring the development of an access programme which will include an award scheme, a biennial conference and exhibition, funding, information, legislation and policy.

### ■ Co-ordinating disability initiatives

The OSDP is responsible for establishing and funding a Provincial Disability Coordination Forum to co-ordinate matters related to the IPDS. The forum, established in June 2003, consists of the Western Cape Office on the Status of Disabled Persons; the Interdepartmental Forum representing the different departments; and the Western Cape Network on Disability representing both service providers and consumers. Local Disability Desks, representing district municipalities, will be included during 2004. The Forum has been operating by means of smaller task teams, focusing on Access; Social Empowerment, Economic Empowerment and Human Rights.

### ■ Raising awareness and educating the public

To raise awareness, the OSDP supports various commemorative days. The International Day of Disabled Persons has, however, remained the highlight of the OSDP's annual awareness and education campaigns since the establishment of the office in 1999.



"Making Human Rights your Right"  
"Maak Menseregte, jou Reg"  
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*A Society for All* is the vision of the worldwide disability movement to mobilise society towards recognising the rights of persons with disabilities to be part of the mainstream in all spheres of life.



## S.A. International Day of Disabled Persons themes

1999  
People with disabilities do make a difference

2000  
Disability Renaissance – from poverty to social, economic and political empowerment

2001  
Prejudice is the greatest disability

2002  
Five years since the Integrated National Disability Strategy

2003  
Celebrating disability in our decade of democracy



**We would like to acknowledge the contributions from the following member organisations of the Western Cape Network on Disability and Provincial Government Departments:**

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Western Cape Network on Disability	Vivienne van der Merwe	5311973	5311973	vandermerwe@bigfoot.com

Copies of this brochure, as well as the following documents are available on request from the address below:

- Integrated Provincial Disability Strategy of the Western Cape,
- A draft report on the consultation regarding the establishment of local disability structures and
  - A discussion document on the Provincial Disability Coordinating Forum.
- For more information on the Access Conference of 2002, visit: [www.access2002.co.za](http://www.access2002.co.za).



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