

SADA

SOUTH AFRICAN DISABILITY ALLIANCE

SADA Profile

1. Establishment of the South African Disability Alliance (SADA)

On 15 November 2007 the South African disability sector formally established the South African Disability Alliance based on considerations in terms of the real experiences of South Africans with disabilities:

- a) South Africans with disabilities of all ages have the right to equal access to and enjoyment of all the rights and freedoms available to and an improvement in the quality of life comparable to that of society in general.
- b) Physical, social and economic barriers in society continue to prevent or limit the access of persons with disabilities to or enjoyment of these rights, freedoms and quality of life.
- c) Persons with disabilities have taken it upon themselves to strive for the goal of removing these barriers through various interventions by the State and other organs of society (including through legislation, government policy and the provision of services and other measures).
- d) Persons with disabilities, organised under the auspices of the disability rights movement in South Africa, assert our right to represent ourselves and play a leadership role in all matters directly affecting us, inspired by the slogan “*nothing about us without us*”.
- e) Organs of civil society (particularly within the disability sector, but also in society in general) have made a significant contribution by providing valuable services and initiating various programmes and projects aimed at improving the quality of life of South Africans with disabilities.
- f) A need was identified to improve collaboration between all key role-players (in government, civil society, business and labour) whose role is essential for the improvement of the quality of life and attainment of the goal of access to and enjoyment of all the rights and freedom and a quality of life generally available to society at large.
- g) While the terms “*disabled people*” and “*persons with disabilities*” were used interchangeably in South Africa at the time, the SADA preferred the latter given the struggle of persons with disabilities to be recognised as people first.

2. Purpose and objectives of SADA¹

SADA exists as a consultative forum of member organisation on issues of mutual concern and interest. In line with the goal of the advancement of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities in South Africa

¹ Clause 2 of the Terms of Reference of the South African Disability Alliance (SADA) adopted in April 2016.

“the collective voice of the disability sector in collaboration”

Members: QuadPara Association of South Africa (QASA); Cheshire Homes S.A; South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB); National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD); Epilepsy South Africa (ESA); Disabled Children’s Action Group (DICAG); National Association for Persons with Cerebral Palsy (NAPCP); South African Federation for Mental Health (SAFMH); Muscular Dystrophy Foundation SA (MDSA); South African National Deaf Association (SANDA); Autism South Africa (A;SA); Blind SA; Down Syndrome South Africa (DSSA); Uhambo Foundation / Shonaquip;
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and the improvement of their quality of life, SADA provides a platform for seeking consensus and reaching common positions on issues relating to:

- a) Key policy and legislative issues relating to disability at national, regional (African) and international levels;
- b) Public perceptions of disability and persons with disabilities;
- c) Norms and standards of services and service delivery to persons with disabilities;
- d) Representing a unified voice as the disability sector without restricting differing views;
- e) Joint strategies and inclusive positions on cross-cutting issues affecting persons with disabilities;
- f) Self-representation by persons with disabilities;
- g) Advocating and lobbying on issues affecting persons with disabilities; and
- h) Leadership for persons with disabilities in South Africa on issues affecting us.

SADA furthermore promotes collaboration in terms of joint initiatives, campaigns, programmes and projects between role-players in the disability sector and the disability sector and other societal and governmental role-players, including:

- a) The development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policy, legislation and other instruments affecting persons with disabilities at the national, regional and international level;
- b) Participating in research projects and initiatives;
- c) Public education and awareness; and
- d) Funding for the disability sector.

3. SADA membership²

SADA recognises both full and associate membership:

- a) Full membership is conferred on organisation operating in at least 50% of South African provinces with a core focus and function in the field of disability. Such members are required to be apolitical (not aligned to any particular political party).
- b) Organisations failing to meet the criteria for full membership may be granted associate membership, provided that the organisation has a direct interest in the field of disability beyond a commercial interest.

Membership is limited to organisations and excludes individuals. All members must be registered as non-profit organisations with the NPO Directorate of the National Department of Social Development, a non-profit company with the Registrar of Companies at the Department of Trade and Industry or a professional body.

² Clause 3 of the Terms of Reference of the South African Disability Alliance (SADA) adopted in April 2016.

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Full members of SADA



Autism South Africa



Blind SA



Cheshire Homes South Africa



Disabled Children's Action Group
(DICAG)



Down Syndrome South
Africa (DSSA)



Epilepsy South Africa



Uhambo Foundation
Shonaquip



Muscular Dystrophy
Foundation of SA (MDSA)



National Association of Persons
with Cerebral Palsy (NAPCP)



National Council for and of Persons
with Disabilities (NCPD)



QuadPara Association of
South Africa (QASA)



South African Federation for
Mental Health (SAFMH)



South African National Council for the Blind
(SANCB)



South African National Deaf Association
(SANDA)

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Associate members of SADA



Rare Diseases SA
(RDSA)



Stroke Survivors Foundation
(SSF)



Dementia SA



Quadriplegic & Paraplegic
Charitable Trust of South Africa
of South Africa (QPCTSA)



Occupational Therapy
Association (OTASA)



South African National
Association of Blind
& Partially Sighted
Persons (SANABP)

4. Values and principles of SADA

SADA exists to serve the common good of member organisations which implies a relationship of mutual and reciprocal respect and responsibility. The fundamental responsibility of SADA is to endorse, practise and require a commitment from member organisations to the following core values:

- a) Fidelity to purpose: All SADA resources, energies and activities must be devoted to promoting the purpose of SADA and not to any specific organisational, personal or private objective to the detriment of SADA. Any change of purpose must result from a formal decision to this effect, following a broad process of consultation and must be formalised by amendment of the official terms of reference.
- b) Altruism and benevolence: The actions and decisions of SADA must be motivated by reasons consistent with its purpose.
- c) Integrity: SADA and its member organisation subscribes to the highest standards of integrity.
- d) Optimising resources: SADA is placed in a position of trust by being in possession of funds and resources provided to advance its purpose and reach its objectives.

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- e) Equality and non-discrimination: SADA subscribes to the principles of equality and non-discrimination as described in the South African Constitution and the UNCRPD.
- f) Self-representation and human rights: SADA supports the right of persons with disabilities to represent themselves (or if they are unable to, be represented by a person of trust) in all matters affecting them, as well as the promotion of equal opportunities and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and particularly activities and initiatives of SADA.
- g) Conflicts of interest and self-dealing: It is recognised that conflicts of interest cannot always be avoided. In the event of a conflict of interest, the affected person/member organisation (i) must disclose the interest and its general nature before the matter is considered at a meeting; (ii) must disclose to the meeting any material information relating to the matter and known to him/her; (iii) may disclose any observations or pertinent insights relating to the matter if requested to do so by the other member organisations; (iv) if present at the meeting, must leave the meeting immediately after any disclosures contemplated in these terms of reference; (v) must not take part in the consideration of the matter (except to the extent contemplated above); (vi) while absent from the meeting is to be regarded as present at the meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum and is not to be regarded as being present at the meeting for the purpose of determining whether a resolution has sufficient support to be adopted; and (vii) must not execute any document on behalf of SADA in relation to the matter unless specifically requested or directed to do so by the meeting.
- h) Democracy and empowerment: SADA will demonstrate a clear commitment to democratic process and decision-making which shall be informed by knowledge, research and a participative process allowing for wide-ranging consultation and feedback. Member organisation shall be shown respect and given the opportunity to evaluate all activities of SADA.
- i) Independence and impartiality: All member organisations must be treated equally and fairly, without special favour or prejudice. Where it is necessary, because of limited resources, to choose between particular member organisations or communities, the basis for choice must be such as to avoid the reality or possible perception of unfair discrimination. This is particularly important as members of the Executive Committee are identified with one member organisation or group rather than with another. A commitment to independence includes a duty to make choices and arrive at decision at arm's length without being dictated to by any particular member organisation, constituency or interest group. Similarly, SADA will always act independently and take particular care to avoid the perception of political preference or patronage.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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