



autism south africa  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure a meaningful quality of life for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

### ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION

Autism South Africa is the recognised, authoritative and representative national body for people with Autism Spectrum disorder (ASD) in South Africa.

### ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

Autism South Africa was founded in 1989 by concerned parents and professionals as a lobbying and networking organisation. It is now the recognised national body for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders in South Africa with full-time offices being established in 1997.

### OBJECTIVES

- Focusing Autism South Africa's programmes to improve the quality of life for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders;
- Developing and strengthening Autism South Africa's services for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder on a national basis.
- Increasing public concern and awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders and the efforts of Autism South Africa

### GOALS

- Promote the interests of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and protect their rights, irrespective of race, sex or creed;
- Promote the provision of facilities for the education, training and treatment of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- Ensure the de-centralisation and transformation of services by increasing the accessible and affordability of educational opportunities for children with autism regardless of their socio-economic or geographical position;
- Empowerment and support of parents and professionals through the provision of regular training /workshops and the distribution of a wide range of information;
- Expand assessment services to bring down the age of correct diagnosis and thus the implementation of early beneficial intervention strategies to improve the chance that the child will reach his full potential in life and thus achieve fulfilment, happiness and dignity;
- Negotiate and liaise with International/National/Provincial/Government and/or other institutions, affiliated bodies or similar organisations on matters concerning the needs of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families;
- Assist with and facilitate the establishment and maintenance of facilities for individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and advocate for individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families;
- Promote and assist with research into the causes, incidence, management and treatment of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder;

- Promote the awareness, understanding and support of Autism Spectrum Disorders at all levels throughout South Africa to significantly decrease the chance of ostracization and abuse of our children and adults;
- Facilitate training and education of people dealing with individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- Act as a coordinating and mediating body for all members of Autism South Africa as and when required;
- Assist with local and international research to attempt to establish the cause & beneficial treatments;

**BENEFICIARIES - All people in South Africa with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

African 80%

Coloured 5%

Indians and Asians 5%

Whites 10%

**If one refer to the internationally accepted statistic that 1 child in every 110 children born will develop an Autism Spectrum Disorder, consider the following:-**

It is believed that every year in South Africa there are 17.94 births to every 1000 people

Population of South Africa 47 000 000

This means there are 843 180 births in SA each year

Therefore in theory 7665 of the children born per year will develop an Autism Spectrum Disorder if you work on the commonly accepted figure of 1 per 110.

This equates to 639 children born each month will develop ASD

149 per week

21 per day

And 1 nearly every hour to add to the theoretical 270 000 people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder in South Africa.

**LEGAL STATUS**

**Section 18A Tax Exemption No: 18/11/13/2213**

**NPO No: 000 – 454 NPO**

**PBO No: 2997/093/84/5**

**Level 4 B-BEEE contributor**

**BANKING DETAILS**

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch: Sandton

Branch Code: 019205

Account Name: Autism South Africa

Account No: 2207 312 33

Acc Type: Cheque

**AUDITORS**

Octagon Chartered Accountants. Private Bag X02 Highlands North 2037. Tel: 011 531 7300

**MANAGEMENT: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Paul Pratt (Chairman & Parent)

Dr David Griessel (Vice Chairman & Pediatrician)

Petra Dillmann (Parent)

Hector Kingwill (Fiscal Supervisor)

Jill Stacey (National Director & Parent) (Ex-Officio)

Claudia Ceresa (Deputy Director) (Ex-Officio)

Christine Koudstaal (Educationalist)

Thabo Leshilo (Prominent Businessman & Parent)

Nomsa Masoka (Therapist & Parent)

Aggela Selbego (Business Woman & Parent)

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Due to well-planned activities and strict corporate governance, over 18 years, Autism South Africa has developed into the largest autism advocacy organisation in Southern Africa. We are responsible for the development of sustainable services across the country, to meet the complex needs that arise from the far-reaching and often devastating ramifications of autism. Even through the economic down-turn, our loyal benefactors have stayed by our side. This, we believe, is due to increased awareness of autism and Autism South Africa's well respected financial track record within the CSI fraternity.