

CURRICULUM VITAE MARINA CLARKE

Work experience

Since May 2021: Consulting and training on a contract basis following retirement

Recent assignments include

- Epilepsy South Africa: Independent part-time advisor on the implementation of the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders of the World Health Organisation, since 2021 (8 days per month). Highlights included development of the South African Intersectoral National Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (SAINAP) due for submission to Cabinet for approval during 2026, and establishment of the Development Hub aimed at training self-representatives and self-advocates with neurological disorders.
- National Parliament: Series of disability sensitisation workshops for Parliamentary staff, February/March 2022, October 2022, May/June 2023
- Facilitating a training session on behalf of the South African Disability Alliance (SADA) at the OHCHR workshop on the UN CRPD, 2022
- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA): Training of entrepreneurial trainers, 2021 – 2022
- UN Women: Training of entrepreneurial trainers, 2021
- Facilitating a governance workshop for the Epilepsy SA National Executive Committee (NEC), 2021
- South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC): Member of the team conducting a study tour to review disability monitoring models in Ireland, Spain, Belgium and the European Union, September 2019
- Served as a non-executive director of the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) (2020 – 2023)
- Served as a member of the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) established in terms of Article 33 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the SA Human Rights Commission
- Chairperson of the Epilepsy SA Educational Trust which provides bursaries for tertiary education to students with disabilities (August 2023 – March 2026)

March 2005 – April 2021: National Director, Epilepsy South Africa

Originally appointed as the National Economic Development Manager and promoted to Deputy National Director before appointment as National Director in January 2012.

Key performance areas focused on national management responsibilities including policy implementation with a focus on advocacy and human rights, service development and expansion with a specific focus on employment and small business development, business activities of the National Office, Branch coordination, organisational representation and liaison, internal and external organisational marketing and positioning, including media liaison and social media campaigns and strategic, financial and human resource management.

Significant achievements included:

- Financial sustainability of the organisation, including improved governance
- Awareness and advocacy to advance the position of persons with epilepsy in South Africa based on Resolutions 68.10 and 73.10 of the World Health Assembly
- The first research study to document the experiences of persons with epilepsy in South Africa
- Participation in international developments and structures through the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE)

June 1991 – February 2005: Head of Entrepreneurial Development, South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB)

The position was focused on the development of sheltered workshops, self-help community projects and entrepreneurial development and included the development of training material (particularly implementation and disability adaptation of the Start and Improve Your Business Program of the International Labour Organisation) and project management.

Previous employment

Prior to entering the disability sector employed human resource recruitment (Drake International), retail manager (CNA and Mostly Books, Pretoria) and lighting technician/designer (State Theatre, Pretoria)

South African Disability Alliance (SADA)

Chaired the South African Disability Alliance (SADA) for five years until retirement in 2021.

Key achievements include

- Development and presentation of a CRPD shadow report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during consideration of the South African Country Report
- Active participation in the formulation of the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (WPRPD)
- Financial sustainability of the Alliance
- Participation in the European study tour of the SAHRC to investigate IMM models
- Securing two long-term international disability research projects (EDID and Enhance) led by Canadian Universities

Professional appointments

- Chairperson of the South African Disability Alliance, 2017 - 2021
- Consultant to Blind SA regarding the adjudication of funding applications submitted by entrepreneurs with disabilities in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Ministerial Committee of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to develop a disability policy framework for PostSchool Education and Training (PSET), 2015
- Ministerial Committee of the Department of Social Development (DSD) on Disability, 2015
- National Disability Rights Machinery, 2005 - 2021
- Technical Team on the Social Development Disability Bill
- Vice-Chairperson, African Chapter of the International Bureau on Epilepsy (2013 – 2017) and International Education Commission
- Communities of Practice in Disability Advocacy for Mainstreaming (COPDAM) - A continental disability policy implementation strategy aimed at building the capacity of national, regional and continental disability federations to negotiate and advocate for disability mainstreaming in all sectors of government)

Education

BA (Drama), University of Pretoria, 1982

Accredited Master Trainer in the Start and Improve Your Business Program, International Labour Organisation, 1997

Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers, Wits Business School, 2006

Project Management, EES-Siyaka, 2007

Management Programme for NPOs, University of Stellenbosch, 2007

National Certificate in Occupationally-Driven Education, Training and Development (NQF 6), 2010

Advanced Management Programme (NQF 7), Rhodes Business School, 2011

Being a Director, Institute of Directors in South Africa, 2021

Induction Workshop for Boards of Public Entities, National School of Government, 2023