

QuadPara Association Western Cape General Manager annual report 2020/21

It gives me great pleasure to report back to our membership on the activities of the QuadPara Association Western Cape (QAWC) of the last 12 months. During the last 12 months the whole world continued to have to deal with the Covid 19 pandemic, with everyone subjected to 2 more lockdowns during the period I am reporting on. The impact of the pandemic on our finances and ability to deliver services to our members has been affected and will be reflected upon in the report below.

Villa Haven

Situated in Durbanville at 5 New Haven Street, the facility known as "Villa Haven" continues to house the office, boardroom and training room of the QuadPara Association Western Cape (QAWC). In order to comply with the protocols in place as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the facility was not the hive of activity that it was previously with the QAWC team working mainly remotely from their homes and the Work Readiness Program (WRP) which had been hosted on our premises, moving online. With the WRP moving off-site, the training room stood empty for a few months until, in September, it was



occupied by Sonstraal Gemeente who offer sewing classes to people from disadvantaged areas. Villa Haven continued to house the vehicle for QASA's Driving Ambitions program as well as QAWC's Toyota Yaris which is fitted with hand controls. The 2 bedroomed accommodation section of the property continued to be rented out to tenants, generating much-needed income for QAWC. We were very grateful to continue to receive pro bono services from Zonewatch who monitor our alarm and provide an armed response service as well as Garden on Call who maintain our garden for us on a monthly basis. A long-term decision was made for the QAWC team to work mainly from home beyond the current pandemic and as such the long-term usage of the Villa Haven complex is likely to be reviewed and undergo more change in the future. QAWC once again received a 75% rate rebate from the City of Cape Town which, along with the 13 solar panels which were installed, ensured that the cost to run Villa Haven were kept to a minimum.

Work Readiness Program (WRP)

The restrictions and protocols that were put in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19 saw QASA make the decision to move the WRP from in-person training situated in a classroom environment to an online learning experience. While QAWC misses the interaction we used to enjoy with WRP



QASA Work Readiness Programme
Is now available ONLINE & NATIONALLY!!!

Requirements to join the programme:

- A member of QASA
- Between the ages of 18 - 37
- Matric or NQF level 4 Qualification
- Ability to speak, read and write English proficiently
- Good computer skills / ability to use a smart phone

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If you meet all the requirements send a detailed CV to projectcoordinator@qasa.co.za

candidates, we acknowledge the need to protect the well-being of our members and are excited that moving the WRP to an online platform means that members from across the Province and Country now have access to this program. This program, which is managed directly by QASA, continues to have a positive impact on the lives of our members who participate in this valuable program.

Awareness Campaign

Over the years QAWC has visited in excess of 150 schools across the province, raising vital awareness about people with disabilities and those with spinal cord injuries in particular. Our program has proved to be extremely popular with educators and learners alike, with our team regularly invited to return to the various schools in order to share our stories and messages with more learners. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were not able to visit schools at all during the reporting period. As a result of this, the Department of Social Development, who had funded the programme for a number of years, withdrew their funding of this program. However, when one door closes another opens and we were able to secure funding from the Australian Volunteers Programme through their Impact Grant for this program. There are plans to visit schools towards the end of August, although this will depend on the level of infections in the province and country and the willingness of schools to allow our team onto their premises. We look forward to this program resuming as it has become a massive part of the QAWC DNA.



Volunteer from AVP

After successfully hosting a volunteer, Lowri Williams, from Australia through the Australian Volunteers Programme, QAWC were looking forward to hosting a 2nd volunteer from Australia during this reporting period. However, this program is also impacted on by the Covid-19 pandemic, with AVP suspending the hosting of all in country volunteers. AVP did though move to online volunteerism and QAWC took the opportunity to advertise various positions within our organisation. We were delighted to be reunited with Lowri who is in the process of redesigning the QAWC website. QAWC is very pleased to be able to report that on 2 August, we will be welcoming Bukhosi Masango to the QAWC team. Bukhosi will join QAWC for a minimum of 3 months where he will assist with fund-raising for our organisation. Over the year we attended various AVP workshops and engagements, even presenting on occasions. The relationship that exists between AVP and QAWC is very valuable and I am pleased to be able to report that even during these difficult times, the relationship is strong, healthy and continues to grow.

Life Rehabilitation at Vincent Pallotti

As many of our members will have experienced, the days immediately after a catastrophic injury that results in partial or total paralysis can be very dark and difficult and as such QAWC places much emphasis on peer support and visits to newly injured individuals in various rehabilitation centres. As with so many of our projects, Covid-19 impacted on our ability to roll out this program as in previous years as hospitals and rehabilitation centres restricted visits by members of the public. However, the need for these visits remains and the therapists at Life Rehabilitation at Vincent Pallotti, Nurture Newlands and Spescare Blouberg arranged for these visits to move to online platforms to ensure that clients continue to receive this support. Thanks to WhatsApp, Zoom & Teams QAWC continued to be able to engage with newly injured individuals and on occasions their family members, offering encouragement, advice and support.

Pre-discharge meetings@WCRC

With Covid-19 protocols restricting the QAWC team from visiting the WCRC to introduce WCRC clients to the various programs, projects and services that QAWC offers, therapists at the WCRC who see great value in these engagements, arranged for clients to be addressed by the QAWC Team using an online platform. While the impact of these visits is not the same as face-to-face visits, these online predischarge meetings introduced WCRC clients to the work that QAWC does and provided them with options to explore upon discharge. These meetings will continue to be held online until it is safe to once again meet in person.

Disability Sensitisation Training

With very little face-to-face interaction taking place because of Covid-19, the services of QAWC's Sensitisation and Awareness team were not utilised as much as in previous years. That said, we held several in-person training sessions with employees with HG travelling Services, the operators of the Dial a Ride service. In addition to this, an online session was held with interns enrolled on a learnerships through Communicare. This training, which aims to open the mind of those who attend, change mindsets and to get attendees to see the value that people with disabilities have to offer, has not only proved to be very popular over the years, but also generates a useful income for QAWC. Delegates leave the training with a better understanding of disability and are more understanding and accommodating of persons with disabilities, developing confidence which allows them to interact appropriately with people who have a disability. We look forward to the demand for this training picking up in the near future once Covid-19 restrictions have been eased.

Newlands Cricket Ground

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in professional sports matches, including cricket, taking place behind closed doors in empty stadiums. This has meant that our members were not able to access the suite which has been allocated for QAWC's exclusive use at Newlands Cricket Ground. In normal times QAWC members are invited to apply for tickets for matches which are then distributed to successful applicants after a lucky draw has taken place. The successful applicants each receive 2 tickets, one for themselves and another for a companion of their choice. We have remained in contact with the Western Province Cricket Association (WPCA) and look forward to welcoming our members to the suite again when it is safe to do so.

Self-Help Centres

There are 3 residential facilities, also known as Self-Help Centres, that fall under the QAWC umbrella, with each one unique in culture and character. In June this year, Quasar which was the 1st Self-Help



Centre in the Western Cape, celebrated their 40th birthday. Today Quasar is home to 6 quadriplegics and paraplegics who continue to work together to ensure that the legacy of the founders of their facility is continued. Situated in the centre of Durbanville, The Andries Olivier Durbanville Quadriplegic Centre provides full-time accommodation and care to 12 quadriplegic and paraplegic adults and will be turning 20 in August. The Masonic Home for Quadriplegics and Paraplegics can be found in Uitzicht and accommodates 7 quadriplegics and paraplegics. The newest of the 3 self-help centres in our

province, the Masonic Home was opened in 2004. While the 3 Self-Help Centres are all very different in nature, each having their own unique culture, all 3 are run by the residents and provide a homely atmosphere where the needs of the residents are properly catered for. The Self-Help Centres have faced extreme challenges over the last year with their fundraising initiatives severely hampered because of the Covid-19 protocols that are in place. In addition to the challenges faced as a result of the pandemic, the movement of residents and staff have been severely restricted during the various lockdown levels with residents not allowed to receive visitors or leave the premises at various stages over the year. In spite of these challenges, all 3 facilities have managed to continue to provide quality care, accommodation and transport to their residents throughout this period which is an achievement in itself. QAWC offers support to the Self-Help Centres in various ways, with each Self-Help Centre represented on the QAWC Board.

QAWC Newsletter

As QAWC is a member based organisation, it is vital that we communicate with our members on a regular basis. One of the most effective aspects of our communication strategy is our quarterly newsletter which is circulated to members via e-mail and is also posted on our website. The QAWC newsletter is filled with news of the latest news on programs and projects and informs members of upcoming opportunities and events. The newsletter played a very important role in sharing information about Covid-19 with our members and will continue to do so moving forward. The newsletter has proved to be popular with QAWC members, with positive feedback about the newsletter regularly received from members. We encourage our members to keep an eye out for the newsletter in their inboxes and on our website so that they too can be informed of all QAWC activities.

QAWC social media

The QAWC Communication Officer, Nazeem Khan, ensures that there are regular themed posts on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages. The QAWC Facebook page, which is now followed by 1340 people, saw #tradingtuesday added to the daily themed posts with great success. As the hashtag suggests, on Tuesdays the business of a QAWC member is promoted, giving the community the opportunity to learn about the initiatives of the wheelchair users and also to support their endeavours. Other Facebook posts range from being informative, funny, newsworthy, motivational and an update on QAWC activities. During the last year we established a presence on LinkedIn which has attracted a fair amount of traffic as we attempt to highlight the skills of our members who are seeking employment. The LinkedIn account is currently followed by 208 people. In the next few months QAWC will be establishing a presence of more social media platforms so be sure to watch this space!



Correspondence to Members

With a total of 1770 members on the QAWC database, it is vital that we communicate with them effectively. With this in mind, Esme, the QAWC Administration Manager, regularly sends out e-mails to members on the database. With the POPI Act coming into effect on 1 July 2021, correspondence was circulated to QAWC's entire membership giving members the opportunity to be removed from the mailing list. The data of QAWC members is not and will not be shared with 3rd parties and is carefully protected at all times. QAWC makes use of the mass mailing program Mailchimp when sending out e-mails to the database as it allows for us to track and analyse all mail which is sent. On odd occasions, QAWC will make use of a bulk SMS system to communicate with members, however this is reserved for very specific communications. All of the above, coupled with our social media account, ensures that members are informed and kept up to date about QAWC activities and opportunities.

QAWC Vehicles

Transport remains a challenge for many persons who are wheelchair users and the QAWC fleet of 3 vehicles aims to address this need to a small degree. The ageing QAWC fleet consists of a Nissan Interstar and a Toyota Quantum which have each been fitted with wheelchair hoists and restraint systems as well as a Toyota Yaris which is fitted with hand controls allowing a person with limited hand function to drive the vehicle. The reality is that during the last year these vehicles were underutilised as many QAWC programs and projects went online or were put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In normal times, these vehicles play an important role in assisting QAWC to deliver various programs, projects and services to members as they ensure that our team is mobile and able to complete our activities successfully.

Buckle up-Road Safety Campaign



Sadly this very popular, proven campaign fell victim to the protocols that remain in place because of the Covid-19 pandemic. As this campaign requires wheelchair users to actively engage with members of the public at service stations around the province, often interacting closely with others, it was decided that in the best interests of the safety of participating members that this activity be placed on hold until the

pandemic has passed. The "Buckle up-We Don't Want New Members" campaign sees wheelchair using members approach members of the public to educate them about the danger of not wearing a seatbelt, with members of the public signing a pledge to wear their seat belts and not to use their cell phones while behind the wheel of a vehicle. This campaign has been missed by QAWC members and we cannot wait to be in a position to resume this meaningful project.

Care Attendant Training

The Care Attendant Training which has been so successfully hosted in partnership with the Road Accident Fund over the last few years is another program which had to be suspended because of the nature of the campaign. Unable to ensure the safety of our team and those attending the training, it was decided to postpone this vital training until it is once again safe to do so. We look forward to resuming this training, which develops the skill base and knowledge of carers who provide care to wheelchair users as soon as we possibly can.



HWSETA Intern



Through a partnership between QASA and the HWSETA, QAWC had the opportunity to host an intern for the period of a year. The selected intern was Nazeem Khan, a wheelchair user who graduated from the WRP. At the conclusion of his year with us, QAWC offered Nazeem the position of Communications Officer and we were delighted when he accepted the position offered to him. While the position is currently a part-time one, Nazeem fulfils his duties with enthusiasm, professionalism and innovation.

Medical Supply Bank

After engaging with members about the medical supplies that they receive, QAWC became aware that some members have a surplus of certain supplies, while others have a desperate shortage. Medical supplies are vital to the well-being of quadriplegics and paraplegics and with this in mind QAWC started a new project which sees QAWC members donate their surplus supplies to QAWC. QAWC then sort and store the surplus supplies. QAWC members in need of medical supplies then make contact with the QAWC office and ask for the supplies which they require. Should there be stock of the required supplies, QAWC distributes the supplies to the member, either having the QAWC driver deliver them if the person is in the Cape Metropole, or having them sent to them via PEP Taxi. In addition to receiving the surplus supply of QAWC members QAWC received a very large and generous donation of various continence products from Coloplast which we added to the Medical Supply Bank and distributed to our members who were grateful to receive these vital supplies. In a very short space of time this project has become very popular with QAWC members, with the project benefiting members across the province. We look forward to this project growing and will be seeking funding so that we can purchase additional specialised supplies required by our members and so that we ensure that this project grows and impacts on even more members than currently.

Coloplast Social Outings



The need to enjoy a healthy lifestyle is more important now than ever before, and with this in mind, QAWC and Coloplast started a "Social Club" which sees wheelchair users meet at a point of interest that is wheelchair accessible, spend some time socialising and networking and exploring the surrounding environment. Unfortunately the need to be safe and responsible during the pandemic meant that this was restricted to just one outing which saw that group meet at the Green Point Urban Park in April. The group of wheelchair users who participated in the inaugural outing thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there was much excited talk about the next outing. Once the pandemic has passed and/or more of our members are vaccinated these outings will take place on a quarterly basis, with different locations being selected on each occasion.



Access in the Swartland

In 2015 QAWC was commissioned by the Swartland Municipality to assess 19 of their municipal buildings for access for wheelchair users. A comprehensive report was submitted to the municipality with various recommendations being made. We were very pleased to be asked to revisit 10 of these municipal buildings to reassess their access as the recommended work had been completed. The QAWC team inspected the various buildings, issuing another report to the Swartland Municipality on the status of the access of the various buildings. An accessible environment is not negotiable to QAWC and we are pleased to be working so closely with the Swartland Municipality to ensure that their buildings are accessible to all who live in their municipal area.

Covid-19 Response

As this year's General Manager's report will reflect, Covid-19 has impacted on QAWC's programmes, projects and services significantly, changing the way that we do things forever and forcing us to rethink all aspects of our organisation. The impact of Covid-19 on our members has been massive and it immediately became clear that QAWC needed to formulate a response to the Covid-19 pandemic in order to assist our members in the short and long term. Our response, which I will detail below, was a 3 pronged approach, namely relief, information sharing and lobbying.

- Relief:

It immediately became apparent that the well-being of many of our members was at risk as a direct result of the pandemic so we engaged with funders, requesting permission to re-purpose funding to our relief effort. As a result we were able to assist members in the following way:

1. the distribution of 125 x R 500 grocery vouchers for ShopRite, Checkers or Usave
2. the distribution of R 20,000 worth of medical supplies to members
3. the distribution of 50 x 1L bottles of hand sanitiser to members
4. the distribution of 400 material face masks to members
5. the distribution of 8000 KN95 face masks to members



- **Information Sharing:**
With so much misinformation existing around Covid-19 and the vaccination rollout, it was important that QAWC share accurate confirmed information with our members so that they were equipped with the information required to protect themselves, their families and in many cases their carers. In order to achieve this we undertook the following:
 1. Shared Covid-19 information with members on our social media
 2. Shared Covid-19 information with members via e-mail
 3. Worked with the Western Cape Department of Health to ensure that information regarding Covid-19 and the vaccination rollout is in a format that is accessible to persons with disabilities
 4. At the request of the Western Cape Government and at the suggestion of the Department of Social Development, a video of our General Manager encouraging people to adhere to Covid-19 regulations was posted on the provincial governments social media platforms
 5. Participated and continue to participate in the Department of Health's Vaccination Ambassador Campaign
 6. Serve on the Western Cape Vaccine Rollout Social Mobilisation Steering Committee

- **Lobbying**
in an attempt to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities were considered at all times during the Covid-19 pandemic, QAWC independently as well as in partnership with the Western Cape Network on Disability lobbied various bodies extensively, with the following taking place:
 1. Engagements with the Western Cape Department of Social Development regarding the Province's relief effort and support to persons with disabilities
 2. Engagement with the Western Cape Department of Health regarding healthcare services offered to persons with disabilities during the pandemic
 3. Engagement with the Department of Health regarding the prioritisation of persons with disabilities during the rollout of the vaccine. Sadly this was not successful.
 4. Through our involvement with the Western Cape Network on Disability, SADA (South African Disability Alliance) were made aware of a tool that was to be used to assess eligibility for respirators/care during the pandemic which disadvantaged people with disabilities. SADA were made aware of this and escalated the issue
 5. The prioritising of the vaccination for persons with disabilities. Sadly this was not successful
 6. The inclusion of residents and carers of residential care facilities for persons with disabilities in the 2nd phase of the vaccine rollout

Partnerships and Relationships

Networking and collaborating with other organisations within the disability sector as well as provincial and local government, service organisations and companies is something which QAWC places great emphasis on. Below are some of the valuable partnerships and relationships which we enjoy which ultimately benefit our members.

- **The WCRC Facility Board.** The QAWC General Manager served on the Board of the WCRC, a facility which provides our members with vital services. By serving on the Board, the voice and needs of our members are heard and QAWC can monitor the services accessed by members and give input at a high level.

- **The Western Cape Network on Disability.** The Network, which is made up of just over 70 organisations all of whom provide services and support to persons with disabilities, plays a vital role in the disability sector in the Western Cape. For the last 2 years the QAWC General Manager has chaired this organisation which has experienced growth and is making a bigger impact on the disability sector than in previous years. By being involved in the Network, QAWC is able to take on a leading role in the disability sector, giving vital input and receiving important information on various topics all of which are important to our members. Our General Manager attended many high-level meetings, workshops and webinars where he represented both the Network and QAWC. Meetings were held with, amongst others, the IEC, PRASA, DSD, various SETAs, The Provincial Treasury, the South African Parliament, the Department of Health, the City of Cape Town Transport Department etc. QAWC's involvement in the Network is vital to ensuring that QAWC is at the forefront of the disability sector in our province.
- **Department of Social Development.** QAWC continues to enjoy a strong relationship with the Western Cape Department of Social Development, engaging regularly with them regarding matters relating to the disability sector. Engagements and conversations are regularly held, with QAWC often asked for advice and input on important matters that affect the disability sector and people with disabilities in the province.
- **Department of Health.** QAWC enjoyed engaging with the Western Cape Department of Health on various levels and platforms over the last year. QAWC is represented on the Department's Disability Health Forum which meets every 2nd month and also serves on the Vaccine Rollout Social Mobilisation Steering Committee. During this period we had 2 meetings with Dr Keith Cloete and through the Network engaged with the Department's HR department.
- **The Provincial Disability Desk.** This desk is manned by Nomvuyo Mabusela who we worked with in order to arrange a Woman in Disability webinar.
- **Afrinead.** Our General Manager served on the steering committee that arranged the biannual Afrinead Conference which was held online.
- **Western Cape APD.** QAWC continues to enjoy a good working relationship with this organisation which continues to play a vital role in the disability sector across the province. While Covid-19 restrictions resulted in less interaction with their branches across the province, we look forward to this relationship continuing and growing.
- **South African Local Government Association (SALGA).** This relationship was also quieter as a result of the pandemic, however QAWC continues to enjoy good ties with SALGA, offering advice and support.
- **Swartland Municipality.** In addition to working together to ensure access at various of their municipal buildings, QAWC also give input into their policy on Services to People with Disabilities, participating in a workshop and assisting with the development of this policy.
- **Matzikama Municipality.** While the restrictions in place because of the pandemic restricted us from visiting this municipality, we provided advice and information to them electronically and look forward to our relationship resuming once we are able to travel again.

Maintaining these relationships takes time and effort, however, they play a vital role in our organisation as they allow the voice and needs of QAWC members to be heard where it really counts. Many of these relationships and partnerships allow us to play a prominent role in advocacy and lobbying matters in the province which enable us to go a long way towards achieving many our goals.

Selected other QAWC activities from the last year

- Support offered to wheelchair users at Living Hope
- Online lecture to 3rd year dietetic students at the University of Stellenbosch
- Meeting with the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works
- Provided opinion and input on the accessibility of the Artscape Theatre
- Meeting with Alderman Felicity Purchase in her position as the Mayoral Committee Member for Transport at the City of Cape Town
- Meeting with Richard Walker, the head of PRASA in the Western Cape
- Attended the SANTACO provincial roadshow
- Assisted with the organising of the biannual Afrinead conference
- Training of home-based carers at the Fisantekraal Centre for Development
- Meeting with the Western Cape Department of Transport regarding transport services offered to persons with disabilities during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Provided an opinion on the wheelchair access at the headquarters of The Foschini Group
- The State of Health Care in the Western Cape, attended by the Provincial MEC of Health, hosted by the Cape Chamber of Commerce
- Attended Dial-A-Ride forum meetings
- Attended various meetings regarding accessible public transport in the Western Cape and the way forward

Casual Day

This popular annual fundraising campaign was postponed from its traditional 1st Friday in September in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Held on 3 December the 2020 campaign was unfortunately not as successful as previous years, with the QAWC Team only managing to sell a total of 1232 stickers which is considerably less than we achieved in the past. This year's campaign will take place on 3 September and while it is likely to be negatively impacted on by the ongoing pandemic, QAWC will be participating in the campaign and will strive to make it as successful as is possible in the current economic climate.



Tekkie Tax

The rescheduled Tekkie Tax campaign took place on 31 July 2020 as a result of the pandemic. QAWC made the decision not to participate in the campaign due to be the nature of the campaign and challenge of selling stickers in the middle of a pandemic. In 2021 the campaign will take place on 6 August with QAWC again choosing not to participate in the event. Tekkie Tax appears to be at a crossroads and QAWC will decide on whether or not to participate in Tekkie Tax on an annual basis.

Governance

QAWC was managed by a small but committed Board. With meetings being held online on the Zoom platform, Board members from across the province including Yzerfontein and Ceres rather than just in the Cape Metropole were able to serve on the Board. Led by the Chairperson, Casper Erasmus, the Board met regularly where healthy discussion and debate took place. QAWC's compliance with the NPO Act was once again maintained as were all other registrations and legislative responsibilities. The QAWC Board provides leadership and guidance to the QAWC staff who ensure that decisions made are implemented. The contribution made by the Board, who are all volunteers who offer up their spare time to make a contribution to our constituents, is valued and appreciated.

QASA

The QuadPara Association of South Africa (QASA) continue to work closely with the QAWC office and with the rollout of QASA programs, projects and services to QAWC members. QAWC was represented by Richard Barron and Anthony Ghillino on the QASA Board, with Anthony elected as Vice Chairperson and Richard as Treasurer at the 1st meeting of the newly constituted Board. Changes to the QASA Constitution were approved and adopted at the QASA AGM which will impact on the make-up of the QASA Board moving forward. QAWC is pleased to be able to play a leading role in QASA which continues to be one of the leading disability agencies in the country. While we no longer host the Work Readiness Program on our premises and in spite of many of QASA's programs also being affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, members were able to access the many programs and projects that QASA offers. The programmes, with the number of members who benefited over the last 12 months in brackets are as follows:



- SABAT battery project (28)
- Education fund (0)
- Sports fund (0 due to Covid)
- Assistive devices fund (2)
- Rolling Inspiration magazine (52)
- Bags of Hope (all new spinal cord injuries before discharge from rehabilitation)
- Various of the QASA publications

Driving Ambitions



This project, which was also impacted on by the Covid-19 pandemic, is based at the QAWC office at 5 New Haven Street, Durbanville. Over the course of the year 2 members were able to get their drivers licence after participating in the program. The QASA Honda Jazz, which is fitted with hand controls, is used by members to learn to drive on. QASA now make use of 2 driving instructors, namely Theuns



Botha and QAWC member, Welile Mbonja to teach members to drive. We encourage all members who have the dexterity to drive a vehicle themselves to join this program and get their licence so that they can regain and enjoy a level of independence.

Sadly the Covid-19 pandemic saw a number of QASA's own programmes and projects having to be suspended until it is safe to resume them. For example, as reported elsewhere the very popular Buckle Up road safety campaign could not take place over the last 12 months and with the annual OCC not taking place during 2021, QAWC members could not access the QASA sports fund to travel to and participate in this event. We all look forward to the day when it is safe to resume all of these activities and know that when they do resume, that members will have a new appreciation for them and enjoy participating even more than previously.

In Conclusion

While compiling this report the massive impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our services, programs and projects really hit home. The reality is that with many of our programs and projects requiring face-to-face and close interaction we were not able to have the impact on our members that we have in years gone by. This, coupled with the dramatic reduction to our income that the Treasurer will have reported on has resulted in one of the most challenging years faced by QAWC in a long time.

We have to acknowledge that we are not living in normal or easy times and that the world as we knew it has changed. QAWC can take some comfort out of the fact that we have been at the forefront of the Covid-19 reaction effort, being involved on various forums to ensure that the needs of our members are considered and taken into account at all times. QAWC will take some time to consolidate, regroup and reassess all aspects of our organisation to ensure that we remain relevant in a post Covid-19 world.

I am very pleased to be able to report that even with the challenges that existed, QAWC did continue to offer support, services and programs to our members during this trying times. We were able to pivot successfully to ensure that we service our members to the best of our ability in the climate in which we now find ourselves. I thank the QAWC staff for their dedication to the cause and for continuing to work as a team even though we largely only saw each other remotely. The opportunities that exist for QAWC as South Africa emerges from the pandemic excite me and I look forward to continuing to drive and promote the cause of quadriplegics and paraplegics across the country and in the Western Cape specifically.



I thank you all for the opportunity to have led the QuadPara Association Western Cape for another year, it has been an honour and privilege.

Anthony Ghillino
General Manager