



DSSA WDSD Symposium



17-19 March

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17 March

Healthcare Practitioners Symposium

Theme: "Strengthening Healthcare Systems for Individuals with Down Syndrome"

Audience: Parents, Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, allied health workers)

18 March

Parents, Educators, and Employers Symposium

Theme: "Empowering Families Through Stronger Support Systems"

Audience: Parents, teachers, and potential employers

19 March 2025

Self-Advocate Symposium

Theme: "Driving Change: Advocates Improving Support Systems"

Audience: Parents, Self-advocates, families, and supporters

9:00 Opening and Welcome

Mr Luan Swanepoel
National Self-advocate Chairperson

9:10 Purpose of the Symposium

Ms Elaine Passmoor
National Executive Director

9:20 Link between Down syndrome
and Alzheimer's disease

Dr Lucia Maure
Neurologist, Memory Unit,
Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant
Pau, Barcelona, Spain

10:00 Breaking the News

Ms Tineke Ganz-Malan
Manager Down Syndrome Association
Western Cape

10:30 The Genetics of Down syndrome

Ms Monica Araujo
Registered Genetic Counsellor

11:10 My Experience as an adult with
Down syndrome

Mr Luan Swanepoel
National Self-advocate Chairperson

11:40 Medical Expert

Dr Mark Richards
Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician

12: 20 Medical Expert

Dr Serantha Foolchand
Maternal -Fetal Medical Specialist

13:00

Break for Lunch

14:00 The support of a social worker

Kurwin Kleinsmidt
Social Worker and Outreach Support
Down Syndrome Association Western Cape

15:00 Supporting individuals with Down
syndrome during medical
appointments

Katie Frank
Occupational Therapist III, Adult Down
Syndrome Center

15:40 Thank You and Closing

Ms Elaine Passmoor
NED DSSA



9:00 Opening and Welcome	Ms Tasha Oosthuizen National Self-Advocate
9:10 This is my life	Ms Sheri Brynard National Self-Advocate Vice Chair
9:40 The Importance of Speech therapy	Professor Renata Eccles Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology University of Pretoria
10:10 Spell to communicate	Ms Anne-Elize de Ridder & Ms Bianca Nel S2C Practitioner & Speech and Language Therapist
10:50 This is Me	Mr Luan Swanepoel National Self-Advocate Chairperson
11:10 My Story	Ms Pearl Makhubo Parent
11:25 My Story	Ms Jolene Bester Parent
11:40 The importance of inclusive Education	Ms Marie Schoeman Inclusive Education Specialist and Parent
12:30 Our Inclusive Education Journey	Ms Marise Botes Parent
13:00	Break for Lunch
13:30 This is my Story	Mr Cornel Lourens National Self-Advocate
13:50 My Journey as a Down syndrome Advocate	Mpho Zenani Parent and Outreach Officer Kimberley
14:20 What is Supported Employment	Ms Magda Lourens Parent
15:00 This is my life	Ms Victoria Giuricich Self-Advocate
15:10 Thank you and Closing Day 2	Ms Elaine Passmoor NED DSSA



Down Syndrome South Africa WSDS Symposium Programme

19 March 2025: Day 3

09:00 Opening and Welcome	Mr Luan Swanepoel National Self-Advocate Chairperson
09:10 The importance of Self-advocacy	Ms Elaine Passmoor DSSA NED
09:40 My Story	Mr Kosie Schoeman National Self-Advocate
10:00 What Self-Advocacy is to me	Ms Tasha Oosthuizen National Self-Advocate
10:15 My Journey as a Parent	Ms Magda Lourens Parent
10:45 What Self-Advocacy is to me	Ms Tenjiwe Ndebele National Self-Advocate
11:00 What Self-Advocacy is to me	Mr Cornel Lourens National Self-Advocate
11:15 What is a self advocate	Ms Elaine Passmoor DSSA NED
12:15 What Self-Advocacy is to me	Mr Andrew Tuson National Self-Advocate
12:30 What Self-Advocacy is to me	Ms Thameez Ramjas National Self-Advocate
12:45 UNCRPD What are your rights	Ms Elaine Passmoor DSSA NED
13:45 Thank you and closing	Ms Elaine Passmoor DSSA NED