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## Introducing EPASSA

The Educational Psychology Association of South Africa (EPASSA) was founded approximately six months ago.

EPASSA aims to give a strong voice to educational psychologists, to protect the interests of our profession, and to facilitate the provision of quality educational psychology services.

## Join Us



You are invited to join EPASSA and to help strengthen our voice. Joining is easy, quick and will make you, and us, feel good.

Membership applications can be made at <http://goo.gl/gvGx88>

## Benefits of Membership

- No membership fee for 2015.
- Free membership certificates for all members.
- Reduced CPD workshop rates.
- Free bi-annual newsletter. (This 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter is complimentary)
- Stay informed of workshops and conferences.
- Keep up to date with matters affecting your profession.
- Ethical and legal advisory service under consideration.
- Competitive professional indemnity cover with AON.
- *Foundation membership*, available at R110, permits your practice details to appear on our website for at least one year.
- Your membership provides EPASSA with a strong voice in its negotiations with medical aids, other societies and policy makers.
- Make a difference by getting involved in one of our initiatives.

## **We are on the web**

Website:

[www.epassa.net](http://www.epassa.net)

Facebook:

*Educational Psychology  
Association of South Africa*

LinkedIn:

*Educational Psychology  
Association of South Africa*

## **Your Society**

Visit the website.

Post a Facebook message.

Become involved.

# EPASSA Initiatives

## **Supervision**

Criteria and a list of EPASSA-endorsed supervisors are being drawn up. Contact EPASSA ([epassainfo@gmail.com](mailto:epassainfo@gmail.com)) for further information.

## **Policy issues**

EPASSA liaises with the Professional Board for Psychology, medical aids and policy makers about challenges facing our profession. Visit our website for more information.

## **University training**

Professor Joseph Seabi and Dr Tiaan Kirsten will be coordinating research into the varied training of educational psychologists at different universities, historically and presently. We will keep members informed of this initiative in future newsletters.

## **Ethical advice**

EPASSA is considering establishing an ethics and legal advisory committee. Dr. Tiaan Kirsten, an EPASSA committee member, is an Educational Psychologist who also practices as an attorney and specializes in law and ethical issues for psychologists. Members will receive details in future newsletters.

## **List of tests**



Revisions to Section 8 of the Employment Equity Act (EEA) promulgated in 2014 have triggered an important period in the history of psychological test review and classification in South Africa. A section of the EEA stipulates that psychometric and similar assessment of an employee are prohibited unless the test or assessment being used (a) has been scientifically shown to be valid and reliable, (b) can be fairly applied to employees, (c) is not biased against an employee or group and (d) has been certified by the HPCSA or any other body which may be authorised by law to certify tests or assessments.

The addition of the latter clause has sparked reaction amongst psychology professionals in employment settings and is having a ripple effect on psychologists involved in assessment. The implications drawn by some are that all tests need to be submitted for review, classification and certification to the Psychometrics Committee of the Professional Boards for Psychology.

In a meeting attended by Linda de Rooster, an EPASSA committee member, the Psychometrics Committee reported that only a few tests/measures have been submitted. The committee expects to be overwhelmed with current and new tests to be certified.

A list of psychological tests promulgated by the Health Professions Council of South Africa excludes many tests used by educational psychologists (e.g. the WISC-IV, WAIS-IV Griffiths Developmental

### Weblinks

- Scope of practice
  - Committee
  - Constitution
  - Foundation members
- [www.epassa.net](http://www.epassa.net)

### Contact Us

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Scales, Bene Anthony). The question arises as to whether vast numbers of psychologists may be technically working outside the law or whether new processes outlined above affect only the testing of **employees**. Contact EPASSA if you wish to help address this matter with the HPCSA's Psychometrics Committee.

### Pro bono assessments



EPASSA supports PALS, the Project Assessments for Learners in Schools. An urgent need to offer *pro deo* assessments for struggling learners has been identified by staff in under-resourced schools. Many children with learning difficulties and concentration problems have to wait unacceptably long for assessments from district psychological services. Teachers are trying to educate struggling children in large classes. There are teenagers without functional literacy skills who are passed from grade to grade and who feel hopeless and disillusioned. The time to assess and refer them for help is slipping away. Unless we do something to assist, their future will be at risk. We need to reduce the risks of emotional distress, substance abuse, unemployment and crime. PALS are appealing to the community of psychologists who are willing to offer at least one *pro deo* assessment a year to join their initiative. If you feel able to contribute, please contact [gillian.berkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.berkowitz@gmail.com).

### And now for something different...

This paragraph is typed in dyslexie font! Dyslexie is a typeface designed to reduce some of the issues that people with "dyslexia" experience when reading. The font incorporates heavy base lines, larger openings, and alternating stick and tail lengths that purportedly reduce the tendency to rotate, swap, mirror, and otherwise confuse letters. Dyslexie has received positive reviews from some and lukewarm responses from others.

### Future communications

Sign up with EPASSA for further communications. Our e-mail address is [epassainfo@gmail.com](mailto:epassainfo@gmail.com). Our membership sign-up is at <http://goo.gl/gvGx88>.