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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Educational Psychology Association of South Africa (EPASSA) was founded in 2014 in response to significant challenges facing Educational Psychology and South African educational psychologists. The setting up of EPASSA, supported by hundreds of educational psychologists, could not have been more appropriate or opportune given recent events that threaten the identity and functioning of our profession. Ongoing and recent developments suggest an attempt to prevent Educational Psychologists, and sometimes also other psychologists, from practicing in their areas of training and competency despite the desperate need for mental health services in South Africa. This has implications for the disempowerment and alienation of both educational psychology and the profession of Psychology as a whole. Certain organisations have made defamatory and extremely damaging statements suggesting that Educational Psychologists are working unethically and even fraudulently

EPASSA is committed to upholding and advancing the dignity and respect of our profession. Since early 2015, and with increasing intensity, EPASSA has engaged with various organisations, including the HPCSA's Professional Board for Psychology, The Council for Medical Schemes (through the Medical Aid Liaison Body), medical aids and psychiatrists. We have lodged complaints with the CMS about the refusal of a growing number of medical aids to make payments to non-clinical psychologists for services rendered.

The Professional Board met on 11 November 2015, discussed these issues and through its professional manager notified EPASSA that it would be able to assist. However, we are still awaiting guidelines from the Board, which guidelines are repeatedly promised yet not released.

EPASSA is now putting our case before the High Court in the matter of REIPAG vs the HPCSA and Others. We will be addressing many issues, such as a submission made to Court by the Clinical Psychology Forum (CPF). It is important to address some of the controversial issues raised by the CPF, which has

been canvassing with medical aids that are now discriminating against educational psychologists.

OTHER INITIATIVES

EPASSA is the largest and fastest growing association of Educational Psychologists in South Africa and has set up a number of initiatives to address the needs of Educational Psychology, our members and the public. Our activities include:

- Discussions around policy;
- Protecting the interests of the profession and public;
- Establishing an ethical advisory committee in association with The South Africa School Psychologists Association;
- Engaging on the issue of the list of endorsed psychological tests;
- Discussions with the Professional Board for Psychology, the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS), medical aids and other psychology associations;
- Assisting PALS with pro-bono assessments in areas of need;
- Competitive professional indemnity negotiated through AON;
- Notification of CPD training opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

In order to achieve our goals, EPASSA would benefit from having as many educational psychologists on board as possible. We appeal to our colleagues who have not yet joined EPASSA to do so, whether or not you choose to contribute financially to our fundraising for the legal effort.

The EPASSA membership fee for 2016 is just R220. The EPASSA committee puts hundreds of hours of work into protecting the profession at no personal remuneration, whereas some organisations that we believe undermine Educational Psychology pay administrators to action their goals.



Your R220 membership fee is tax deductible and will entitle a discount at any future conference we may run. We are also pleased to confirm that EPASSA has secured competitive professional indemnity insurance with AON, another benefit of membership.

We are on the web

Website:

www.epassa.net

Facebook:

[Educational Psychology
Association of South Africa](#)

LinkedIn:

[Educational Psychology
Association of South Africa](#)

Contact Us

epassainfo@gmail.com



We therefore request that you sign up as a member and pay the membership fee of R220 for 2016 as soon as possible into the EPASSA bank account:

Educational Psychology Association of South Africa
Standard Bank – Sandton City - Branch Code: 018105
Account number: 027095045

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

Please send proof of payment to our treasurer at Gaydon@mweb.co.za. You will be provided with a receipted invoice for tax purposes.

EPASSA will not step down in combatting efforts to marginalise educational psychologists. We are all in this together. To those who think they can speak on our behalf to the detriment of the profession and the public, EPASSA is saying with an increasingly strong and united voice, "*Nihil de nobis, sine nobis*" – Nothing about us without us! We invite you to become a member of EPASSA and to add your voice.