



SANDTA Annual Chairperson's Report July 2012-June 2013

I have been honoured to serve as the SANDTA Chairperson from 2012 to 2013 year, which has been very special because of a group of very committed, professional and enthusiastic people, and it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of SANDTA.

I want to thank the members of the executive committee who have been assisting me with the day-to-day management of the association. The executive committee held 3 teleconferences during 2013, as well as a face-to-face meeting with branches representatives. I also attended an Education Committee (Ed Com) meeting in July at the invitation from Karien Marais, Chairperson of the SANDTA Education Committee. It has been suggested that in future the National Executive Committee (NEC) Chairperson attends one Ed Com meeting annually.

Our focus for the last year has been to establish financial governance principles throughout SANDTA, and I am pleased to report that we have moved towards the registering of SANDTA as a non-profit organisation. With the assistance of the auditors who were appointed at the end of 2012, we are now in the process of obtaining SARS registration, classification as a non-profit organisation and obtaining tax exemption. This can then be used to assist SANDTA in registering as a service provider with the various Departments of Education and Departments of Health, which is required for receiving course payments directly from Government bodies. A document was drawn up on how branches should apply for accreditation with their provincial government bodies, which can only be done once SANDTA has been issued with a SARS tax clearance certificate.

We have also moved forward in formalising financial governance procedures for SANDTA NEC and branches. Discussions with Ed Com on their financial processes are almost finalised and will be included in the financial governance procedure; a draft procedure will be circulated to our members via the branches chairpersons for approval, where after it will be loaded on the website for future reference.

Carol Brenner has done a sterling job in getting to grips with the financial processes, which are running smoothly with the assistance of the SANDTA office. I am also

pleased to confirm that the SANDTA financials have been audited in time for the AGM, which will be presented by Dorothy in the absence of Carol.

The website portfolio has been managed expertly by Shelagh Hughes. Four newsletters were published, which included new sections on who's who in the NEC, as well as showcasing services offered by SANDTA members. I would like to encourage schools, NGO's, NPO's, etc. to making further use of the opportunity to educate SANDTA members on services available. The SANDTA website and its various functions are working well. Unique visits to the SANDTA website has doubled from the previous year, confirming that member behaviour in using the website is becoming well entrenched. The sms- and e-mail function to correspond with members is up and running. The website is now generating and distributing certificates for online CPD articles automatically. The therapist search is also working. A new front page introducing SANDTA to users was finalised by Ed Comm and has been loaded. Advertising generated over R4 000. Work will commence on the development and design of a SANDTA brochure which will be made available to persons attending courses to encourage joining the association, as well as to market SANDTA to the greater community.

CPD activity has increased from last year, and Dorothy Russel as the CPD representative has continued to post articles for on-line questions and accredited 55 activities held by Ed Com, Branches and Malamulele Onward. The relationship between SANDTA and Malamulele has been clarified, and SANDTA will in future attend Malamulele Onward's Board meetings. There is a need to explore whether SANDTA should accredit CPD events for other NGO's as well, and a proposal will be circulated for feedback soon.

Due to issues beyond our control, the SANDTA Congress scheduled for 2013 had to be postponed to 2014. Bronwen Greager and her committee have been hard at work to put together what is promising to be an excellent Congress.

I want to thank every SANDTA Ed Com Tutor, including the NEC Representative Christa Scholtz, who has delivered on many training courses, despite being severely constrained with limited capacity since the retirement of Estelle Brown. There remains however an unmet training need of members outside Gauteng. Ed Com will develop a 5-year strategy on how to address these needs and it is understood that it might not be possible to address the need for formal SANDTA certified courses in the

short term. Organising of courses requires a significant amount of administration, and Ed Com has piloted the utilisation of an administrator, which proved valuable and positive. It is hoped that SANDTA members will approve a proposal from Ed Com to appoint the office administrator on a more formal basis. NEC also requested a review of current Tutor fees, as there are indications that the current fee structure is not market-related, which further restricts delivery of SANDTA certified courses to members.

There is a need to acknowledge the contribution of SANDTA's Honorary Life members and to formalise their privileges. This will require a constitutional change, which will be discussed later.

Branches all report good activity, with attendance to many courses very good, barring a few smaller branches. Two-way communication between branches and NEC has been successful, thanks to the timeous and effective communication by Andrea Fourie, NEC Branch liaison.

I want to thank the North-Gauteng Branch, and especially Esedra Strasheim and Bridget Herselman for their hospitality in not only hosting the AGM, but also the face-to-face meeting.

I am indebted to all NEC members, including our secretary, Elisabeth Barry. Dorothy Russel's support as Vice Chairperson and Chairperson-Elect has been tremendous, and as I step down from the NEC, I have no doubt that Dorothy is well equipped to take over the reigns as the new Chairperson. My journey with SANDTA has been spectacular, and I have been touched by so many people who have contributed to my personal and professional growth for which I am extremely grateful. I wish you well for the future, and may SANDTA go from strength to strength!

Nina Strydom
12 October 2013