



SASLHA's Monthly

# Newsletter

Issue 7: August 2024



Dear SASLHA Community

As we approach spring, a season of renewal and growth, we at SASLHA are excited to continue our journey of evolving and enhancing the benefits we offer our members.

Our commitment to serving you and advancing our professions remains strong and vibrant. We are deeply grateful to everyone who plays a role in SASLHA's ongoing success and in making our community flourish.

## JUL - AUG '24 OVERVIEW

- 1 SASLHA's New Council Positions for the 2024-2027 term
- 2 Spotlight on SASLHA's Committees
- 3 SASLHA's Early Language-Literacy Toolkit
- 4 Introducing SASLHA's Member Idea Box
- 5 Media Engagement
- 6 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Where flowers  
bloom so does  
hope.

- Lady Bird Johnson -



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# SASLHA's NEW COUNCIL POSITIONS FOR THE 2024-2027 TERM

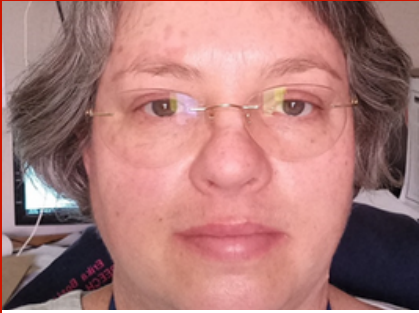
Congratulations to each of our Council members whose leadership, expertise, and dedication will drive SASLHA forward over the next three years.



Christopher Rorke  
**PRESIDENT**



Dr. Xoli Mazibuko  
**VICE PRESIDENT**



Erika Bostock  
**ETHICS OFFICER**



Karyn Casey  
**TREASURER**



Prof. Faheema Mahomed - Asmail  
**COUNCIL MEMBER**



Dr. Alida Naudé  
**COUNCIL MEMBER**



Dr. Skye Nandi Adams  
**COUNCIL MEMBER**



## NEW COUNCIL POSITIONS





# SPOTLIGHT ON THE WORK OF SASLHA'S COMMITTEES JULY-AUGUST 2024



## ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

- **Engaged with the HPCSA's Head of Division: Professional Practice**, regarding the policy on fees and commercial support for CPD programme accreditation. While a response has been received, additional queries will be raised at the NAF meeting scheduled for October 2024.
- **Collaborated with other accreditors**, including OTASA, to explore the option of accrediting our internal activities.
- **Proposed updates to the CPD section on the SASLHA website** to streamline content and enhance ease of access to essential information. Look out for changes during the month of September.



**Committee Members:** Amisha Kanji (Chair), Lisa Brown, Dhashini Naidoo, Kutloano Mtimkulu



## CPD COMMITTEE

- Planned and hosted **Edu-Series events July - August 2024**
- **3 July 2024:** Pragmatics Masterclass: The Power of Social Communication
- **11 July 2024:** Mastering Medico-Legal Assessments & Strategies for Effective Report Writing for Audiologists
- **15 July 2024:** Facilitated the launch of the Leadership Course for SLTs Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Oral Surgeries for Adult Patients
- **6 August 2024:** Navigating the Ins and Outs of Medical Aid Billing – Improving Your Chances of Getting Paid
- **15 August - 5 September 2024:** Cleft Lip 7 Palate Symposium
- Prepared **7 Online articles** for CPD purposes (March - August 2024)
- **Collaborated with SASLHA's Accreditation Committee to compile queries for the HPCSA's Head of Division: Professional Practice**, addressing the policy on fees and commercial support for CPD programme accreditation.
- Reviewed previous **member surveys** to prioritise goal setting and assess current needs for member input.
- **Analysed statistics** related to online article access and usage.
- Met with the **Membership Engagement Committee** to align goals and enhance member services.
- **Engaged with the Critical Care Society** to facilitate more multidisciplinary events and interactions.

**Committee members:** Chair & Speech / Ethics Chief editor: Tali Frankel; Audio chief editor: Jessica Paken; Ansa Jamal, Bianca Van Der Walt, Carol Legg, Katerina Ehlert, Nancy Barber, Nicole Chesler, Samantha Govender, Tamaryn Pike

## UPCOMING EVENTS

10 SEP

**The Impact of Sports on Hearing Loss**

19 SEP

**Adaptability Intelligence**

26 SEP

**Navigating the Ethics of Social Media in Medicine**

OCT

**Burns: Impact on speech**

OCT

**Audiology Topic TBC**

NOV

**Prematurity Symposium**

3 DEC

**Compassion Fatigue**

FEB

**Reflexes Case Study**



# ETHICS COMMITTEE

Alison Dent represented SASLHA at the Speech, Language and Hearing Professional Board's Roadshow on 31 July this year. The SLHB reminded our professions about some essential points related to registration with the Council. Some HPCSA Registration Related Matters to Remember Registration:

- **Practising without current registration constitutes a criminal offence.** Section 36 and 39 of Health professions Act 1974.
- A healthcare practitioner's (hcp) **failure to renew their registration will lead to suspension** in terms of Section 19 A (1) (6) of the Act.
- The **effect of suspension is that their registration certificate is withdrawn**, and the hcp may not practice their profession until such time as registration is restored.
- The **Act was amended in April 2007** from "eliminated" from register to "suspended". As the hcp is suspended, the Council still has jurisdiction over them.
- It is a legal requirement to **keep your personal details current**.



## CPD Compliance

A reminder that **compliance needs to be maintained and current** at any given time. This means your **CEUs are valid for 24 months** from the time they are earned. Hcps are required to **meet the CEU requirement** at any given point. So, as soon as 24 months have passed since earning CEUs, a new CPD activity must be done to replace them to maintain compliance. Therefore, **compliance is not related to a calendar year, but rather on a 24-month rotation basis**.



**Committee members:** Erika Bostock (Chair), Alison Dent, Carin Lichtenstein, Inge Burger, Ingrid von Bentheim, Rizwana Mallick, Samantha Coetzee

## Lapse of Registration vs Voluntary Removal/Erasure

Restoration of registration once allowed to lapse is onerous as seen below:

- If applying for restoration **within 6 months of lapse**, hcp needs to pay 2 x annual fee and the outstanding fee.
- If **outside of 6 months**, fee is 4 x annual fee.
- If **over 12 months**, prescribed annual fee x 5, together with all outstanding annual fees.

Therefore, if a hcp is unemployed or stepping away from practising in SA for some reason (e.g. maternity leave, working/studying abroad, sabbatical etc), they should apply for voluntary erasure rather than allowing registration to lapse. If this is done, the hcp is not liable for any of the penalties of suspension /lapse.

The hcp should apply before March of the year, supplying an affidavit requesting voluntary removal and not suspension.

The hcp would then need to apply for restoration once ready to practice their profession in SA once again.

## Restoration of Registration

- The hcp would need to make an application for restoration.
- Restoration will occur if the application includes the CPD compliance of the regulatory body where the hcp has been working abroad, together with a certificate of good standing.
- If the hcp has not been active for over 2 years, the hcp may have to sit for a Board exam, after which the hcp will be restored under supervision.
- This supervisor needs to be verified by the Board, so ensure this verification is obtained before embarking on the supervisory process. The supervisor needs to be compliant and takes on the responsibility of the hcp's acts. The supervisor reports back to the Board and the Board makes the decision to restore.
- If a hcp has been voluntarily erased from register, they will be eligible for a letter of good standing for the period that has been worked.
- As soon as Comm Serve is done, the hcp should register as an Independent Contractor before applying for voluntary erasure due to emigration or not having found employment.
- If you request restoration within 2 years of having been voluntarily erased, the hcp should be restored within 5 days of application.



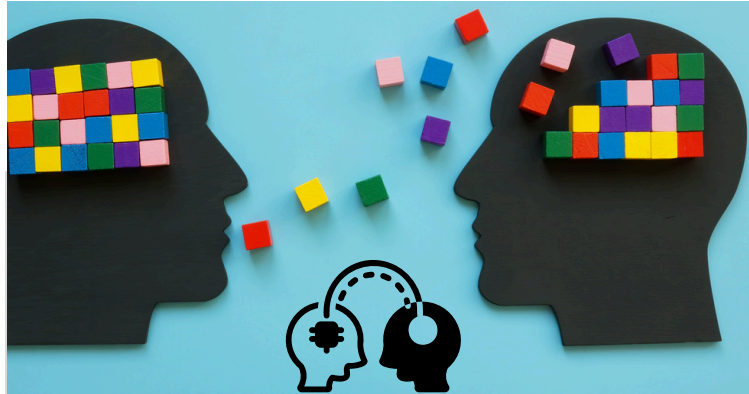


## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- **Literacy Drive Collaboration:** Partnered with SASLHA's Public Sector Committee to successfully launch the Literacy Drive in celebration of Women's Month.
- **Goal Alignment & Member Services Enhancement:** Worked closely with the CPD Committee to align objectives and improve the services offered to our members.
- **Membership Drive Initiatives:**
  - **Community Service Officers (CSOs):** Followed up on SASLHA's video and pamphlet distribution to the 2024 cohort of CSOs. Engaged in discussions regarding the CommServe 101 initiative with key stakeholders.
  - **Student Engagement:** Caitlin Bell addressed Wits 4th-year speech therapy students, highlighting practice management and the advantages of free student membership. Provided 4th-year students with detailed guidance on verification, registration, and post applications using the ICSP Online System
- **Winter E-Zine Publication:** Compiled and distributed the Winter edition of the E-Zine to all members. Missed it? Log in and read it now! <https://saslha.co.za/page/Communication>



**Committee members:** Michelle Frewen (Chair), Caitlin Bell, Cheron Rudolf, Suewellyn Zimmermann Qhawekazi Mazaleni.



## MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Reviewed mentor and mentee applications and communicated with applicants.
- Finalised the process of pairing up mentors & mentees



**Committee members:** Casey Eslick (Chair), Alison Dent, Amber Craps, Kutloano Mtimkulu, Mershen Pillay, Tayla-Ann Macaskill



## RESEARCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- **Committee Appointments:** Dr. Anita Edward has been appointed as the new Chairperson, and they welcomed Khomotjo Kgare, who will oversee the University Research Day Support portfolio, as a new committee member.
- **SASLHA Hybrid Day Seminar:** On July 27, 2024, they successfully hosted the SASLHA Hybrid Day Seminar at the Senate Chamber, UKZN Campus. The event attracted 45 in-person delegates and 152 online attendees. Delegate feedback will be analysed to enhance future events. Early responses indicate a high level of appreciation for the diverse topics, with the Literacy Toolkit, Carel du Toit, and Ethics presentations receiving particular praise.
- **Special Edition Journal:** Council approved a request submitted for a Special Edition of the SAJCD for 2025, on dysphagia.
- **Research Day Funding:** Drafted an invitation for universities to apply for funding to support their annual Research Day.
- **SASLHA Prizes:** Shared descriptions of SASLHA prizes with universities for end-of-year prize-giving purposes.



**Committee Members:** Anita Edwards (Chair), Anna-Mari Olivier, Nola Chambers, Khomotjo Kgare, Rouxjeanne Vermeulen, Silva Kuschke



# PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEE

## AUDIOLOGY PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEE

Over the past two months, the AU Private Sector Committee has been actively involved in several initiatives aimed at promoting and advancing the field of audiology. Below is a summary of their key activities:

### MEMBER ENGAGEMENT:

- Introduced and started our **new WhatsApp group for audiologists** in private. Sharing resources on a weekly basis. Busy arranging a meet & greet (will only take place in September). Join the Audiology Special Interest Sharing Group [here](#).

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Launch of Adult Amplification Guidelines:** The committee successfully completed and launched SASLHA's Adult Amplification Guidelines, providing comprehensive and updated protocols to enhance the quality of care for adults requiring amplification services. Log in and [read](#) it now!
- Launch of Leadership online course for audiologists**, exclusive to members: This course is essential for both newly graduated and seasoned audiologists looking to boost their leadership skills. This online course on Interprofessional Collaboration (IPC) and Leadership is a comprehensive program designed to equip Audiologists with essential leadership skills crucial for success in their field. [Find out more!](#)
- Henley Business School's online course:** The committee is offering one lucky audiologist the opportunity to enrol in 'Future -proof our healthcare practice, starting 4 September 2024. This opportunity is sponsored by Bookem and further offers one month's free access to a Bookem account and a 20% discount on their monthly subscription for 12 months. Look out for the name of the winner!

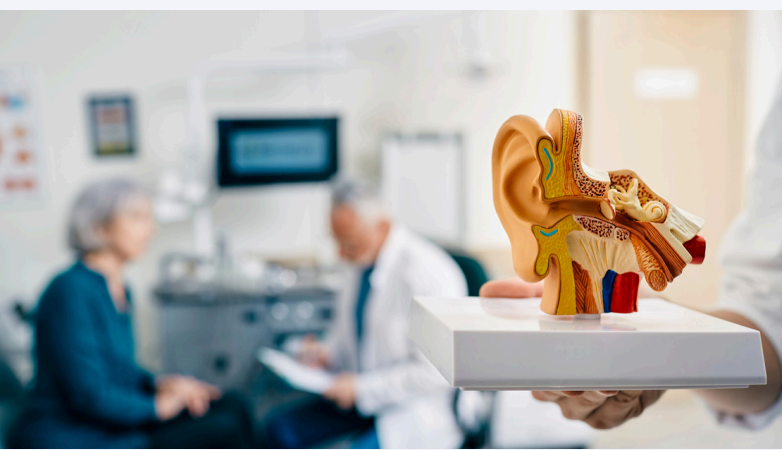


### EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH:

**University Presentation:** Kayla McFarlane delivered an engaging presentation to fourth-year audiology students at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), focusing on effective practice management strategies and highlighting the benefits of free student membership with SASLHA and explored the long-term value of SASLHA membership as they transition into private practice.

### INDUSTRY COLLABORATION:

- Meeting with Discovery Health:** Committee member attended a strategic meeting with Discovery Health to discuss their partnership with an online healthcare booking platform, exploring opportunities to streamline patient appointments and improve service accessibility.
- Meeting with GEMS:** Committee member attended meeting with GEMS today in collaboration with SAAA & iCAN about the hearing aid application process.
  - form ONE is now digital and online, they will phase out paper based, but one needs an internet connection for this
  - should be available as a pilot for us to test out prior to going live. Should be ready early November 2024
  - form TWO: shorter form, a new process which will be the biggest change for us as practitioners. It will pull up what is authorised and will add now the serial numbers and evidence of verification. This helps reduce fraud waste and abuse - they are looking at whether they will only auth if and when verification is done, and how they will reinforce and enforce that will take time and they will inform us when that becomes mandatory.
- Meeting with BASA:** Committee met with BASA to discuss the way forward for coding for fall risk. Waiting for a meeting date with Discovery and Medscheme.





## SECTOR RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION:

- Interview with **EE Research Focus**: Representatives from the committee participated in an insightful interview with EE Research Focus as part of the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) annual Sector Skills Plan (SSP) Update. The discussion highlighted challenges faced by audiologists, including employment opportunities, staff retention, and the need for comprehensive training programs.

## JOIN THE AUDIOLOGY PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEE!

Interested? Contact [alida@saslha.co.za](mailto:alida@saslha.co.za)

We extend a heartfelt invitation to audiologists in private practice, to become a part of the Committee.

Your unique perspective and expertise are invaluable in shaping the future of audiology private practice.



**JOIN  
NOW**



**Committee members:** Alida Naudé (Chair), Ferh Tshiteya, Kayla Mc Farlane, Magda Meyer, Rethabile Landman.



## SPEECH THERAPY PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEE

- **Assisted members** with private practice related queries
- Held an **online brainstorming session** with members and non-members on the definitions and scope of billing codes in adult and paediatric speech therapy settings.
- Alison Dent and Rae Tovell-Holdt presented on "**Navigating the Ins and Outs of Medical Aid Billing for Speech Therapy – Improving Your Chances of Getting Paid**" on 6 August 2024
- Attended a meeting with Discovery Health about their partnership with an **online healthcare booking platform**
- Participated in an interview with **EE Research Focus** who is assisting the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) with their annual Sector Skills Plan (SSP) Update. Challenges faced by speech therapists in terms of finding employment, retaining staff, and providing comprehensive training, were highlighted.



**Committee Members:** Karyn Casey (Chair), Alison Dent, Carlien Vorster, Inge Burger, Ingrid von Bentheim, Rae Tovell-Holdt







## PUBLIC SECTOR COMMITTEE

- Mariëtte Opperman represented SASLHA at the **Smart Health Africa Summit** on 28-29 June held in Johannesburg. The 2024 Summit addressed the "**Iron Triangle**" challenge—balancing access, quality, and cost in healthcare. While technological advances can improve service quality, they often come at a high cost, limiting access to a select few.
- **Data security and patient information protection were major concerns**, especially as healthcare professionals handle increasingly sensitive data. The session on **National Health Insurance**, led by **Prof Nicholas Crisp**, highlighted the need for a unified healthcare system with a national database to streamline patient care across various providers.
- Ultimately, the summit underscored that **patient-centered care** should remain the primary focus, ensuring that interventions, whether traditional or tech-driven, are tailored to individual needs to deliver the best outcomes.
- Collaborated with SASLHA's Public Sector Committee to initiate our **Literacy Drive for Women's Month**.
- Wrote a letter written to **National Treasury** regarding **delay in release of tenders RT 274 and RT 275**
- Participated in an interview with **EE Research Focus** who is assisting the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) with their annual Sector Skills Plan (SSP) Update. Our representatives aimed to highlight the challenges faced by the speech therapy and audiology sectors in terms of finding employment, retaining staff, and providing comprehensive training.

### JOIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR COMMITTEE!

The Public Sector endeavours to be the **voice of the Public Sector Speech-Language Therapists and / or Audiologists within SASLHA** to ensure the interests of public sector therapists are acknowledged and addressed.

**New committee members welcome!** (particularly audiology & education sector) Contact [publicsector@saslha.co.za](mailto:publicsector@saslha.co.za)



**Committee Members:** Lyndall Botha (Chair),  
Lyndall Roach, Mariëtte Du Plessis, Pravisha Ramu





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## LANGUAGE LITERACY TOOLKIT

In an effort to address the literacy crisis in South Africa, we are excited to announce that our **Language-Literacy Toolkit, developed in collaboration with Dr Shelley O'Carroll and the SASLHA Literacy Task Team**, is now available.

The Language-Literacy Toolkit is designed to **support caregivers, teachers, and professionals working with children from birth to 7 years old**. It includes a wealth of excellent resources available in South Africa, many of which have been underutilised due to limited accessibility or awareness.

### Access the Toolkit now

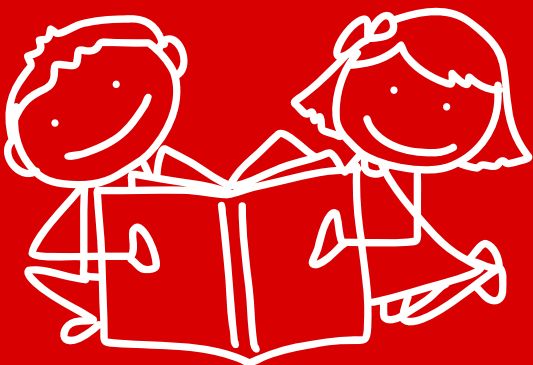
We also need your help to expand the list of literacy and language resources for children aged birth to 7 years, both local and international.

Please contribute additional resources you are aware of, via this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/LmnzRMMMoHJ7NFcN8>

AVAILABLE  
**NOW**

## EARLY LANGUAGE-LITERACY TOOLKIT



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## INTRODUCING: SASLHA'S MEMBER IDEA BOX

Our Member Idea Box is a platform for **members to contribute their ideas about SASLHA and its website**.

This feature enables us to gather feedback and allows members to vote for their favourite suggestions.

Engaging with the Member Idea Box goes beyond individual participation; it fosters collective empowerment, collaboration, and the shared advancement of our association and its members.

**Share your ideas now!**

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## MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

- **RSG Radio Interviews:** Alida Naudé, chairperson of our Audiology Private Sector Committee, represented SASLHA in two informative interviews on RSG radio, aired on 22 July and 29 July 2024, where she discussed pertinent topics related to audiology and hearing health awareness.
- **eNCA Interview:** SASLHA member, Julie Cardona, a Cochlear Mapping Audiologist, shared insights on what Miss South Africa's historic win means for the deaf/hard-of-hearing community. **Watch it here!**



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

- **Stakeholder Engagement Plan:** We have been diligently updating our Stakeholder Engagement Plan to highlight each committee's priority stakeholders, goals, and corresponding action plans.
- **HPCSA SLH Board & Private Practice Division:** SASLHA Council continues to engage with the HPCSA SLH Board, advocating for support on several key issues, including the development of guidelines for NMES use in dysphagia treatment, the Scope of Practice, practice guidelines from SASLHA's Committees, and the HPCSA's policy on fees and commercial support for CPD program accreditation.
- SASLHA Private Practice Committees held **meetings with Discovery Health and GEMS** as reported under point 2, 'SPOTLIGHT ON THE WORK OF SASLHA'S COMMITTEES JULY-AUGUST 2024'.
- SASLHA Council representatives met with **Directors of iCAN** to discuss possible areas of strategic collaboration. Discussions are ongoing.
- The Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) requested SASLHA's participation in an interview to assist with their annual Sector Skills Plan (SSP). Refer to earlier feedback from committees who participated in the interview conducted by EE Research Focus.



Join our WhatsApp communities



Click [HERE](#) to join the Social community  
(open to all)



Click [HERE](#) to join the Ethics community  
(members only)



Public Sector  
WhatsApp Community  
[Join us now!](#)  
(members only)



Audiology  
WhatsApp Community  
[Join us now!](#)  
(members only)



ECHO reflects the dedication and hard work that SASLHA has put into advancing our professions and enhancing the value we provide to our members. From strategic collaborations and innovative initiatives to advocating for professional standards, every effort has been aimed at supporting you—our valued members—and strengthening the impact of our professions. We remain committed to driving progress, addressing challenges, and seizing opportunities to ensure a brighter future for our professionals.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we continue to make a difference!

SASLHA working with you!

Annaline Jack  
SASLHA CEO

