

NECDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS REPORT

Thursday 8th August 2024, Johannesburg



NECDA
NATIONAL ECD ALLIANCE

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ICE-BREAKER

Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Deputy Chairperson)

Puleng took the attendees through a fun and energetic ice-breaker: 'Gears Changing Up and Down' to get everyone revved up ahead of the AGM opening.

WELCOME & OPENING

Pravienna Naidoo (Director, Be Unlimited)

Pravienna Naidoo welcomed everyone to the NECDA Annual General Meeting. She emphasised that our country and the world have undergone significant transformations in the nearly twenty years of NECDA's existence. From the emergence of artificial intelligence to the prospect of human habitation on Mars, and the shift of ECD from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education, NECDA has been a steadfast force. Despite these seismic shifts, our core mission remains unchanged, a testament to the unwavering commitment of our members and stakeholders.

As a critical and leading institution in the ECD space in South Africa, NECDA must continue to:

1. Remain transparent and accountable,
2. Engage its members,
3. Make critical decisions,
4. Fundraise and maintain donor relations,
5. Comply with legal and regulatory requirements,
6. Practice financial diligence,
7. Build community and trust,
8. Plan strategically, and
9. Ensure public relations and credibility.

These were the reasons we had annual general meetings, she said.

Pravienna commended NECDA for convening yet another AGM in its lifespan and declared it a critical milestone for NECDA in advancing its higher purpose.



Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Deputy Chairperson) leading the attendees in a fun pre-opening ice-breaker. Looks like everyone had a great time!



Abigail Peacock (NECDA Chief Operations Officer) and Rex Molefe (NECDA Chairperson) 'getting it down' changing gears during the pre-opening ice-breaker.

PRESENTATION & ADOPTION OF THE 2023 NECDA AGM MINUTES

Abigail Peacock (NECDA Chief Operations Officer)

Before Abigail Peacock, the NECDA Chief Operations Officer, could read the previous AGM minutes, Rex Molefe, the NECDA Chairperson, asked to make a few points. He began by congratulating the Foundation for Community Work (FCW) on their 50th this month, and thanked NECDA's partner from Zimbabwe for attending and her commitment to NECDA. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Peter from Real Refine Software for his ongoing support to NECDA and his willingness to go the extra mile.

Per procedure, Abigail Peacock then read the minutes of NECDA's previous year's AGM, and apologised for not having circulating the minutes in advance.

The minutes were moved for adoption by Gloria Warmberg (NECDA Board and the Institute of Training and Education for Capacity-building) and seconded by Gloria Nkosi (HOPE worldwide SA).

Pravienna Naidoo thanked Rex Molefe for all his contributions to the ECD Sector and NECDA.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Rex Molefe (NECDA Chairperson)

Rex Molefe's Chairperson's Report provided an in-depth overview of the Organisation's progress, challenges, and future plans. He began by highlighting the successful implementation of NECDA's Strategic Plan, a testament to the Organisation's commitment and progress. This Plan, grounded in the Skills Development Act No. 97 of 1998, focused on four key pillars: Lobbying and Advocacy, Information Sharing, Skills Development, and Administrative Support. These efforts significantly strengthened NECDA's identity and operational framework, enabling the Organisation to effectively champion Skills Development in South Africa and the broader SADC region.

Molefe discussed the establishment of various Sub-Committees, such as those focused on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Provincial Structures, and Finance and Fundraising. Led by NECDA Board Members, these committees made significant progress in their respective areas. He also noted the growth of NECDA's membership, which expanded to 120 organisations nationwide, each playing a crucial role in ECD service delivery. This expansion was not only in numbers but also in the diversity of services offered, ensuring that more children across South Africa had access to quality ECD programmes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT continued...

Capital-raising initiatives were a key focus, with the appointment of Click Charity to lead fundraising efforts and Brand Boss to enhance marketing and visibility. These initiatives have already begun to yield positive results, with increased interest from both local and international stakeholders. Molefe emphasised the importance of these efforts in ensuring that NECDA can continue to support its members effectively and sustainably.

Despite these positive developments, Molefe acknowledged the ongoing challenges. This acknowledgement demonstrates NECDA's transparency and commitment to continuous improvement. The challenges include persistent fundraising difficulties, improved IT capacity, and limited accreditation for ECD qualifications.

To address these issues, he recommended seeking accreditation for ECD qualifications at higher education levels, improving Workplace Skills plan submissions, and increasing active participation in NECDA activities.

Additionally, NECDA has upgraded its technology channels, including a new mobile platform and improved Information Management System, to support its members better. The Organisation also initiated partnerships with ETDP SETA to address ICT needs, particularly among member organisations that struggle with technology adoption.

Molefe emphasised the importance of partnerships, highlighting collaborations with the African Early Childhood Network (AfECN), TRANAC, and CIPPT. He also appreciated the support from various stakeholders, including DBE, ETDP SETA, and UNICEF. These partnerships have been instrumental in driving NECDA's initiatives forward, especially in areas where resources are limited.

Despite the challenges, NECDA made significant strides in strengthening its position within the ECD sector, particularly through enhanced member engagement and strategic partnerships.

The report concluded with a call to action, urging continued efforts to overcome challenges and further enhance the quality of ECD services across South Africa. Molefe extended his gratitude to NECDA's members, partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and recognised the dedication of the NECDA Board and Secretariat. Molefe indicated his particular appreciation to Carol and Abigail for their hard work and commitment to the Alliance. He also bade farewell to Kayin Scholtz, who stepped down from the NECDA Board due to a new work role.

In closing, Molefe expressed optimism for the future, aiming to elevate NECDA to new heights in the coming year, with a renewed focus on innovation, collaboration, and resilience.

FINANCE REPORT

Caroll Warmberg (NECDA Treasurer)

Caroll Warmberg's Finance Report, covering 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, presented a detailed overview of the Organisation's financial performance. The report included a summary of the Draft 2024 Audited Financial Statement, highlighting key areas of income and expenditure.

As illustrated in Chart 1, the total income for the period was R2,363,609.95. NECDA derived this income from various sources, including membership fees, donations, and grants. NECDA's financial strategy focused on diversifying income streams to ensure stability and reduce dependency on a single source. The Organisation's ability to generate income effectively played a crucial role in sustaining its operations and supporting its various initiatives.

Expenditure for the same period totalled R1,263,782, as shown in Chart 2. The expenditure covered several critical areas, including administrative costs, programme implementation, and capacity building. NECDA maintained a careful balance between spending and conserving resources, ensuring that expenditures were aligned with strategic priorities. This prudent financial management enabled the Organisation to achieve its objectives without compromising its financial health.

Chart 3 provided a breakdown of expenditure by line item, illustrating the allocation of funds across different categories. The opening balance on 1 April 2023 was R1,275,443.95. Throughout the year, NECDA generated R1,087,166.00 in income, while its total expenditure amounted to R1,136,785.00. The closing balance as of 31 March 2024 stood at R1,120,114.00, indicating a stable financial position and effective budget management.

Warmberg highlighted the importance of cash flow forecasting and careful financial planning, noting that NECDA's economic projections for the upcoming year were positive. The Executive Committee thoroughly reviewed the cash flow forecast, concluding that NECDA had sufficient resources, or access to resources, to maintain operational viability in the foreseeable future.

The report also highlighted the success of NECDA's continued fundraising efforts. NECDA plans to enhance its fundraising strategies by expanding donor networks and seeking new funding opportunities. Additionally, the Organisation aims to improve its financial management systems to support transparent reporting and accountability, ensuring its continued financial stability.

The Finance Report highlighted NECDA's commitment to financial prudence and its focus on sustainable growth. By maintaining a strong financial foundation, NECDA positioned itself to continue supporting its members and advancing its goals in the ECD sector. The Organisation's strategic financial planning and resource management were key to its continued success and stability.

SECRETARIAT REPORT

Abigail Peacock (NECDA Chief Operations Officer) & Carol Warmberg (NECDA Treasurer)

The Secretariat Report declared 2023/24 as a period of significant success for NECDA.

Following a substantial leadership transition, the new board members demonstrated exceptional dedication, fully embracing NECDA's Vision and Mission. This commitment was crucial in advancing the Organisation's goals and driving its initiatives forward with renewed energy and purpose.

The leadership transition was managed smoothly, ensuring continuity and stability within NECDA. The Board's unwavering commitment was crucial in achieving significant progress in the organisation's strategic objectives.

The year was marked by notable successes in NECDA's programmes, fundraising efforts, and member engagement, all of which contributed to its overall impact in the ECD sector.

Heartfelt gratitude was extended to NECDA's esteemed funders: OMT, Jim Joel Fund, NECT, UNICEF, and the DGMT. Their investment and partnership were instrumental in advancing NECDA's mission and making a significant impact within the ECD Sector.

Looking ahead, NECDA was not resting on its laurels. The Organisation was eager to build on its achievements, advancing its Mission and delivering valuable Outcomes for its members and the communities it served. The Secretariat stressed that NECDA's commitment to future progress and mission advancement was unwavering, ensuring its stakeholders can continue to have confidence in NECDA's work.

NECDA BOARD TENURE PROPOSAL

Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Deputy Chairperson) & Caroll Warmberg (NECDA Treasurer)

Puleng Motsoeneng and Caroll Warmberg presented a proposal regarding the NECDA Board tenure. They referred to the NECDA Chairperson's earlier remarks about the Board structure and the role of co-opted members.

At the previous Elective AGM, only two nominations had been received to replace four Board Members whose terms had ended. A proposal was then made to retain the existing Board, bring on the two new members as co-opted members, and continue seeking suitable candidates to be mentored and coached for full Board positions when the time came for current members to step down. This proposal was accepted, and new members were recruited. During this time, members were also tasked with developing a Succession Plan to guide the process and support the co-opted members. The Board then consisted of fourteen members for the reporting period.

However, given that the NECDA Board is a 'working Board' with additional responsibilities, it became challenging for Board Members to manage their roles alongside their organisational commitments. Despite the Succession Plan, some co-opted members found it difficult to continue, leading to tough decisions regarding the Board's composition and the formal recognition of co-opted members as the new NECDA Board for the next three-year cycle. Furthermore, the Board's proactive approach was evident in their efforts to establish subcommittees, Terms of Reference (TORs), and activities. They embarked on new programme initiatives, including the National Parenting Programme, a fundraising drive with Click Charity, and partnerships with the SADC region, as mentioned in the Chairperson's report. The work of this Committee was far from over.

The Board requested members to consider the following options, and to suggest additional proposals or to adopt any one of the following proposals:

1. That the proposal to retain the current Board and co-opted members who will become Full Board Members from this AGM be considered.
2. That we call a Special General Meeting to discuss this matter further in the event that Proposal No 1 is not accepted and that whatever decisions taken or proposals made at the SGM becomes mandatory.
3. In the event that the members accept option 1, that we do not consider a Board of more than 10 members to carry out the work/mandate of NECDA as prescribed within the Constitution and that any nominees then become members of NECDA's sub committees.

Given that it was not an election year, and no nominations were called for, was agreed that





Abigail Peacock (NECDA Chief Operations Officer) presenting the Secretariat Report.



Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Deputy Chairperson) and Caroll Warmberg (NECDA Treasurer) presenting the NECDA Board Tenure Proposal.

NATIONAL PARENTING PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

Abigail Peacock (NECDA Chief Operations Officer) & Carol Warmberg (NECDA Treasurer)

The National Parenting Programme, funded by UNICEF South Africa, aimed to support 16,000 parents and caregivers across nine provinces from 15 May to 15 December 2024. NECDA, in partnership with the DBE, implemented this initiative to enhance ECD and education as outlined in the National Development Plan 2030. The programme focused on ensuring that children received nurturing care and stimulation, aligned with the National Integrated ECD Policy and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF).

The programme's implementation involved several key activities. Priority districts were identified between January and March 2024, and a national implementation strategy was developed. NECDA appointed 27 implementing partners across 31 sites, each receiving 50% of their contract fee upfront. Training workshops were held for trainers, and orientation webinars were held for participating organisations. The programme also focused on improving children's reading by distributing 32,000 picture books to various sites.

Geographic reach varied by province, with significant coverage in areas like the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape, where the programme reached nearly 100% of the targeted sites. However, it's important to acknowledge the challenges such as delays due to the South African elections, winter school vacations, and internal processes within UNICEF that impacted the programme's progress. Additionally, some implementing partners withdrew due to high costs, and there were difficulties in coordinating with district officials. These challenges, while significant, have not deterred our commitment to the programme's success.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) were integral to the programme. NECDA conducted site visits in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, with M&E tools adapted into five languages. Despite these challenges, the programme achieved 30% of its target within two months, with increased interest from fathers and additional resources committed by implementing partners. Positive outcomes were noted from a three-day risk assessment by BDO International.

The programme's next steps included rolling out an online parenting programme, digitising materials, and continuing monthly virtual sessions with implementing partners. The report recommended selecting a cohort of parents for continuous monitoring to assess the programme's effectiveness.

In conclusion, despite initial delays and limited financial resources, NECDA's implementing partners have shown commendable dedication. Their hard work and commitment have been instrumental in aligning with the Organisation's mission to strengthen families and communities through skills development. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and should be recognised as a key factor in the programme's progress.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Deputy Chairperson)

The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Sub-Committee, established during Dr. Monica Stach's tenure, played a crucial role in NECDA's strategic efforts to strengthen the ECD sector. Led by Thandeka Rantsi and supported by a team including Puleng, Tseli, Rex, Caroll, and Abigail, the Sub-Committee made significant progress in its mission.

The primary responsibility of the Sub-Committee was to thoroughly explore the RPL landscape and develop a process to recognise ECD Practitioners who met the criteria for the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) qualification. Data from the ECD Skills Survey was essential in guiding this work, providing valuable insights into the sector's needs.

The Sub-Committee also partnered with the CIPPT to promote the professionalisation of the ECD workforce. This collaboration ensured practitioners had the necessary skills and credentials for effective service delivery.

Looking ahead, NECDA planned to host an RPL Indaba in September. This event was intended to bring together key stakeholders and statutory partners to discuss advancements in the RPL framework, address challenges, and outline future strategies.

PROVINCIAL STRUCTURES & MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

Lyndsey Petro (NECDA Co-opted Board Member) and Anneri Kruger (NECDA Co-opted Board Member)

The NECDA Provincial Structures and Member Management Sub-Committee formalised its Terms of Reference (TOR) to guide its work effectively. Lyndsey Petro was appointed team lead, supported by Mary, Anneri, Malcolm, and Abigail. The Sub-Committee's primary mandate was to ensure that NECDA offered a compelling value proposition to organisations within the broader ECD ecosystem, ensuring that members perceived real benefits from their association with NECDA.

One key deliverable was the seamless integration of the NECDA member management system into daily operations. This aimed to streamline processes and improve member engagement. The Sub-Committee also focused on establishing effective provincial communication channels. These channels were designed to engage members, support their participation, and facilitate the successful dissemination of information and knowledge. Additionally, the Sub-Committee worked on refining the membership model to better meet the needs of different types of members.

Regarding progress, the Sub-Committee actively encouraged member registration on the NECDA platform. By July, 18 member organisations had signed up, significantly increasing. Efforts to promote participation in the first NECDA conference and AGM were also successful, with 35 member organisations and 80 delegates in attendance. The Sub-Committee created Provincial WhatsApp groups to improve communications and conducted a member survey to assess experiences and identify areas for improvement. The survey achieved a 25% response rate from all members and 39% from 'active' members.

Looking ahead, the Sub-Committee planned to finalise a detailed provincial structures strategy to enhance member engagement. The revised membership and pricing model was to be communicated during the AGM. Ongoing efforts would focus on increasing member registration, participation in NECDA events, and the effective use of communication channels.



Lyndsey Petro (NECDA Member) presenting her Sub-Committee Report.



Attendee engaging during the Q&A Session.



Various attendees paying attention during the AGM proceedings.

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Caroll Warmberg (NECDA Treasurer) & Team

The Finance and Fundraising Sub-Committee of NECDA, led by Caroll Warmberg and supported by Gloria, Nareshni, Ashnee, Rex, and Abigail, was responsible for ensuring that NECDA operated with sufficient financial resources.

The primary duties included overseeing financial governance, such as maintaining financial controls, preparing financial reports, and managing investments. Additionally, the team sought funding from various sources, wrote proposals, and reported to funders.

The Sub-Committee, a standing committee of the Board, played a crucial role in reviewing and guiding NECDA's financial matters. This included ensuring internal controls, conducting independent audits, and performing financial analysis. The Sub-Committee also implemented NECDA's Strategic Plan, reviewed its economic implications, and identified strategic finance and fundraising priorities.

Key fundraising initiatives during the reporting period included the National Parenting Programme, funded by UNICEF and the National Department of Basic Education, valued at R5,482,325. The VVOB Project, focused on ECD educator professionalisation, was valued at R29,741.67. NECDA also generated R89,540 from the sale of materials, although a funding application to the Childwick Trust for R600,000 was unsuccessful.

NECDA recently entered into an exciting partnership with Click Charity, a social fundraising service transitioning to a web-based platform. This partnership aimed to cover administrative and overhead expenses for NECDA's 120 member organisations during the 2024/2025 financial year. Click Charity provides a dynamic and scalable fundraising solution, charging a 7.5% commission on donations. NECDA would receive a portion of the funds raised to support ECD centres nationwide, with criteria for fund distribution to be developed. Click Charity introduced Brett Webster as the initiative lead, overseeing its implementation and ensuring its success.

PANEL Q&A SESSION

Moderator: Pravienna Naidoo (Director, Be Unlimited)

Adoption of NECDA Executive Committee Reports

The following reports were adopted accordingly:

1. Chairperson's Report | The Report was moved by Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Board and Ntataise Trust) for adoption and seconded by Natalie Gross (South African Montessori Association).
2. Finance Report and Audited Financial Statement 2023/24 (Klinkradt Auditors) | The Report was moved by Gloria Nkosi (HOPE worldwide SA) for adoption and seconded by Mareldia Tape (Grassroots Educare Trust).

Moderator's Comments

Pravienna stated that the fact that so many entities worked closely together before and during the AGM (and Conference and Gala Dinner) was a testimony to the various partnerships that NECDA enjoyed.

She emphasised that the Chairperson's Report had provided several valuable insights:

1. NECDA itself was evolving in its own professionalisation, something that its members must reciprocate more.
2. More – if not all – NECDA research and training member organisations must apply to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to offer Level 5 ECD training programmes. This was, for them, like having the lottery ticket, without which they will never be in line to win the lottery. If more organisations do not seek accreditation, they run the risk of tertiary education institutions taking over their role. Applying for accreditation also creates new opportunities for them to develop and grow.

Discussion of the NECDA Board Tenure Proposal

Attendant NECDA members voted for the one of the three proposed board tenure options. The majority of members voted that NECDA retain all co-opted Board Members and that they are supported to be active in Sub-committees as part of being groomed for eligibility as full Board Members in the next elections. This approach was aligned to proactive succession planning.

PANEL Q&A SESSION continued...

Adoption of NECDA Executive Committee Reports

The various Discussion of the NECDA Board Tenure Proposal

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It was agreed that NECDA convenes a Special General Meeting to specifically amend the NECDA Constitution to close any gaps that the vote decision may have created. The matter of amending the Constitution was raised by Patsy Pillay, New Beginnings Training Organisation Director.

Discussion of the National Parenting Programme Progress Report

Abigail Peacock responded to Pravienna Naidoo's clarification about the Western Cape figures. Abigail confirmed that the Province had, indeed, performed at 200% - they had a target of 1,900 parents, and trained 3,800 parents.

Malcolm Mooi reported that 500 parents were to be trained in the online version of the Parenting Programme.

NECDA Chairperson's Comments

1. Rex endorsed Peter Ducray's proposition.
2. He encouraged all members to work with the Department of Education (DBE) on mass registration.
3. He appealed to members to please check with Abigail on the details of the upcoming ECD Conference in Lesotho from 5 to 8 November, this year.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

Mareldia Tape (Director, Grassroots)

The AGM attendees shared a camaraderie moment with Mareldia Tape, the Grassroots Educare Trust Director and Chief Executive Officer). Mareldia was celebrating her birthday the next day, 9th August.

The significance of Mareldia's birthday being on the same day as National Women's Day was not lost on everyone present. There was yummy cake to further sweeten the joyous occasion.



Pravienna Naidoo (Be Unlimited Director) as AGM Programme Director and Q&A Moderator.



Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Deputy Chairperson) and Gloria Nkosi (HOPE worldwide Country Director: South Africa) enjoy a shared moment.



Peter Ducray (Redefine Software Director) sharing the 'Board Assist' project proposition.



Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Deputy Chairperson) making a 'strong' point during the AGM.

MEMBERS CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITY / MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Lyndsey Petro (NECDA Co-opted Board Member)

The QCTO Level 4 Curriculum Project continued to enhance the capabilities of NECDA's RTO members. NECDA appointed master trainers in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Eastern Cape, and Western Cape to facilitate Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops. The project achieved notable success, with significant interest from TVET institutions in purchasing the curriculum materials. This initiative ensured the standardisation of learning and development for ECD practitioners. The Secretariat hosted a close-out meeting with the curriculum development team, led by Rene King, to acknowledge the quality of the materials produced. A consolidated pilot phase report was submitted, and a ToT workshop was scheduled for the end of August.

NECDA's Self-Care Curriculum Guide Capacity Building Webinars, developed through a collaboration with NECT-NECDA on the KwaZulu-Natal Relief Self-Care Facilitator Capacity Building programme, were well received. The programme's success, created by Motheo, Ububele, and ITEC, led to a strong demand for broader distribution. With funding from the Jim Joel Fund, NECDA hosted a free two-day virtual ToT in May 2023, attended by 44 facilitators from 30 member organisations. The NECDA office distributed 100 complimentary Facilitator Guides across eight provinces. NECDA planned to continue offering support webinars to maintain and enhance practitioner wellbeing.

NECDA drafted comprehensive policies, including the Transformation and Succession policies. The Transformation Policy aimed to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within NECDA, creating a more inclusive environment. The Succession Policy provided a structured approach for leadership transitions, ensuring continuity and stability in key positions.

NECDA participated in a VVOB-funded project with the SAIDE consortium, focusing on the professionalisation of ECD. The collaboration involved developing specific ECD Professional Teaching Standards, establishing a professional pathway for ECD practitioners, and creating guidelines for ECD training programmes in alignment with the Children's Act 38 of 2005.

NECDA, in partnership with the DG Murray Trust, facilitated an ECD Skills Survey to update and enhance understanding of RTOs serving the ECD Sector. The survey provided critical insights into the current landscape of ECD training in South Africa and contributed to discussions on upskilling ECD practitioners. The survey results offered valuable data for the RTO sector, aiding in engagements with the DBE on the Human Resources Development Plan.

'BOARD ASSIST' PROJECT PROPOSITION

Peter Ducray (Director, Redefine Software)

The 'Board Assist' presentation introduced a software solution to empower board chairpersons by providing tools to build and manage effective, efficient, and compliant boards. The software was developed by Redefine Software, a company with extensive experience in creating niche web-based solutions for both local and international clients across private and public sectors.

Key Features of Board Assist

- 1. Effectiveness:** The software provided tools to align board activities with the organisation's strategic goals. It ensured that board members had the necessary skillsets and supported their ongoing development through personal skills development plans.
- 2. Efficiency:** Board Assist offered a platform for managing board meetings, including tools for scheduling, minute-taking, attendance tracking, and document management. This streamlined the administrative burden on boards, allowing them to focus on strategic decision-making.
- 3. Alignment:** The platform helped keep the board aligned with the organisation's vision and strategy. It ensured that each board portfolio was linked to performance expectations, promoting consistency and accountability.
- 4. Compliance:** Board Assist provided tools to manage compliance with relevant legislation, crucial in South Africa's heavily regulated environment. The software helped boards maintain institutional memory, manage key performance areas (KPA's), and ensure that decisions were documented and easily accessible.

Market Position and Product Development

The presentation highlighted that no known South African systems were tailored to the local business environment, positioning Board Assist as a unique offering. The product development cycle included ideation, research, competitor analysis, financing, development, testing, and an eventual market launch.

'BOARD ASSIST' PROJECT PROPOSITION continued...

Value Proposition

Board Assist aimed to reduce costs by enabling remote meetings, reinforcing meeting structure, and ensuring governance through systemic controls. The platform also facilitated capacity building through succession planning and skills evaluation.

Pricing Plans

The software was offered in three pricing tiers

1. **Entry:** R300 per month, including basic meeting tools.
2. **Pro:** R400 per month, adding skills development.
3. **Premium:** R500 per month, including performance management, compliance tools, and legacy decision access.

The presentation concluded by introducing the project team, led by Peter Ducray and Kevin Jennings. The team is responsible for strategy, client engagement, product development, and rollout.

WRAP UP & CLOSING

Dr. Riedewhaan Allie (Director, Western Cape Foundation for Community Work & NECDA Board Member)

Dr. Riedewhaan Allie delivered the wrap-up and closing remarks. He began by reflecting on the two jam-packed days, including the Conference and the AGM, expressing his hope that everyone left with a special take-home message.

He acknowledged the unique nature of work in ECD, highlighting the variety of programmes and projects undertaken by NGOs. Some focused on training and curriculum development, others on preschool and infrastructure, and some on classroom preparation and resources. He noted that each organisation was tackling a part of the ECD 'elephant' to make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of young children, a testament to the invaluable work of everyone in the room.

Dr. Allie thanked the attendees for their presence and support at NECDA's first Conference and AGM. He sincerely appreciated the various chairpersons for keeping the sessions on track despite a delayed start, for which he apologised. He also acknowledged and thanked the presenters for their time and effort in preparing and delivering their messages succinctly, demonstrating their experience and understanding of the themes discussed.

Special thanks were extended to the NECDA working committee for their preparation and logistics, ensuring a smooth conference. Finally, Dr. Allie expressed deep gratitude to the NECDA Chairperson and Board Members for their priceless commitment and service.

He wished all delegates, partner organisations, and representatives a safe and comfortable journey back to their various organisations across South Africa - and beyond - knowing that their work continued to make a difference.



Mareldia Tape (Grassroots Educare Trust Director) celebrating her birthday!



Dr. Riedewhaan Allie (NECDA Board Member) closing the AGM.



NECDA Board Members with Marceline Kahlari (ZINECDA Director) and Kwanda Ndoda (DG Murray Trust Innovation Manager) taking time out for a photo opportunity.

ATTENDEES

1. [ACFS Community Education & Feeding Scheme](#) | Sabelo Malevu
2. [Afrocentric](#) | Lerato Moeng
3. [Be Unlimited](#) | Pravienna Naidoo
4. [Bulungulu Incubator](#) | Esethu Mkhwenkwe, Lindiwe Tukane
5. [Centre for Social Development](#) | Fortunate Gunzo
6. [Cotlands Enterprise](#) | Kerry Hugget, Dr. Monica Stach
7. [DG Murray Trust](#) | Kwanda Ndodo
8. [Do More Foundation](#) | Jabu Mthembu-Dlamini, Kabelo Mosate-Dambuza
9. [Dr. CL Smith Foundation](#) | Malcolm Mooi (NECDA Board)
10. [Early Years Services](#) | Francis Carelse (virtual), Veronica Williams
11. [Environment & Language Education Trust \(ELET\)](#) | Nazrana Hoosen
12. [Foundation for Community Work \(FCW\)](#) | Dr. Riedewhaan Allie
13. [Golang-Kulani Early Learning Centre \(ELC\)](#) | Margaret Letsoalo, Simon Setagane
14. [Grassroots Educare Trust](#) | Anneri Kruger (NECDA Board), Bateela Davids (virtual), Dominique Barends (virtual), Mareldia Tape, Sadeeqa Isaacs, Wadieah Abrahams
15. [Grow ECD](#) | Lyndsey Petro (NECDA Board)
16. [HOPE worldwide](#) | Anneri Kruger (NECDA Board), Athini Rathebe, Gloria Nkosi, Kabelo Mohabi, Dr Monique Scholtz, Ntokozo Msibi
17. [ICDP Trust Lebone Centre](#) | Jolene Tarr
18. [Ikamva Labantu Charitable Trust](#) | Mildred Bopoto
19. [Institute of Training and Education for Capacity-building \(ITEC\)](#) | Caroll Warmberg (NECDA Board)

ATTENDEES continued...

20. [Khanimamba Training & Resource Centre](#) | Queen Baloyi
21. [Khululeka](#) | Rene King (virtual)
22. [KwaZulu-Natal Experimental College \(KZNEC\)](#) | Precious Mzila (virtual), Simphiwe Stuurman
23. [Masikhule ECD Centre](#) | Nkululeko Somhlahlo (virtual)
24. [Midlands Community College \(MCC\)](#) | Adelaide Mkhomazi, Rebecca Wakeford
25. [Motheo Training Institute Trust \(MTIT\)](#) | Palesa Tyatyti (virtual), Rex Molefe (NECDA Board)
26. [National ECD Alliance \(NECDA\)](#) | Abigail Peacock, Anneri Kruger (Hope worldwide), Caroll Warmberg (Institute of Training and Education for Capacity-building), Lyndsey Petro (Grow ECD), Malcolm Mooi (Dr. CL Smith Foundation), Rex Molefe (Motheo Training Institute Trust), Puleng Motsoeneng (Ntataise Trust), Tseli Scharer (Ntataise Lowveld)
27. [Network of ECD of Lesotho \(NECDOL\)](#) | Ma-Lord Nkosi, Shoeshoe Mafokeng
28. [New Beginnings Training Organisation](#) | Patsy Pillay
29. [Ntataise Lowveld](#) | Tseli Scharer (NECDA Board)
30. [Ntataise Trust](#) | Puleng Motsoeneng (NECDA Board), Sibusiwe Ndlovu, Sophie Masilela
31. [Penreach](#) | Amanda Sibuyane, Modupi Mazibuko
32. [Play with Purpose Educational Trust](#) | Robyn Wienand
33. [Sikhule Sonke ECD](#) | Winkie Cebisa (virtual)
34. [Singakwenza ECD NPC](#) | Julie Hay
35. [Singita Lowveld Trust](#) | Frank Makwakwa, Linky Nkuna

ATTENDEES continued...

36. South African Congress of Early Childhood Development (SACECD) | Leonard Saul

37. South African Montessori Association (SAMA) | Natalie Gross

38. Training & Resources in Early Education (TREE) | Freda Qanya

39. Ubunye Foundation | Bulelwa Mggobele, Nonyameko Gxaka

40. Wordworks | Faith Shabangu

41. Zimbabwe Network of ECD Actors (ZINECDA) | Marceline Kahlari