



National Early Childhood Development Alliance

PROFILE



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NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE - PROFILE

1. ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

Name of organization **National Early Childhood Development Alliance**
Postal address **PO Box 35173, Northway, 4065**

NPO Registration Number **043-894**
SARS Sect. 18A PBO Number **930018365**

NECDA Website **www.ecdalliance.org**

NECDA Board

Chairperson	Rene King	(Khululeka CEDC)
Vice Chairperson	Monica Stach	(Cotlands)
Treasurer	Caroll Warmberg	(ITEC)
Board Members	Puleng Motsoeneng	(Ntataise Trust)
	Rex Molefe	(Motheo Training Institute)
	Ruby Motaung	(TREE)
	Riedewhaan Allie	(FCW)

Board Secretariat &PC **Abigail Crawford**

Contact details **081 723 4921**
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Membership base **103-member organisation's**

2. INTRODUCTION

The National Early Childhood Development Alliance (NECDA) is an Early Childhood Development (ECD) focused network, comprising ECD NPOs and Sector Experts, located throughout South Africa. Member organisations and experts are united in their objective to provide capacity building, high quality training and resourcing to the ECD Sector. NECDA currently represents and serves 103 member organisations across all nine provinces of South Africa.

NECDA was formed in 2005 in response to a need to strengthen the ECD sector, with a view to building a better future for children and promoting children's rights to ECD. Aligned to the organisation's 2017 - 2020 strategic plan, NECDA has a dual purpose that focuses on strengthening NPOs operating within the ECD sector and advocating for ECD.

Our Passion:

"A healthy society for all children and families in South Africa"

Our Purpose:

"to build a better future for our children, by strengthening our member's capacity to serve and advocate for children, families and communities. We promote and strengthen the ECD sector by influencing ECD policy and programme that meet the rights and needs of young children"

Our Plan:

- *Support our members to rise up and meet the challenges facing young children and raise their member profile as well as their voice, more especially those in the far to reach places of South Africa*
- *Provide extensive and varied support to our members through capacity building programme, including training, funding, opportunities, accreditation and RPL projects.*

3. THE CONTEXT

Research points to the early years in a child's life as being the most profound in influencing their development. Children who receive the required support and opportunities for development in their first few years of life will have a strong foundation which will prepare them for subsequent developmental stages, including formal schooling.

Two thirds of South African children face a range of challenges across all developmental domains, with inadequate nutrition and lack of early childhood education opportunities being amongst the most serious challenges. Access to ECD

programmes and services is one of the strategies that has proven effective in breaking the cycle of poverty into which many children are born¹.

NECDA and its member organisations have an important role to play in improving both access to and the quality of ECD programmes and services. Current service provision and programming is not at the required level to effectively impact on children's development. Awareness regarding the rights of the child to access ECD and the importance of ECD is a serious challenge both at a government level and within under-resourced communities. NECDA and by extension, its membership, has an important advocacy role to play in this regard.

4. TRACK RECORD

NECDA has contributed a great deal to strengthening the ECD sector since its inception in 2005. Key achievements include the following:

Materials Development

Pursuant to NECDA's purpose in ensuring all children access quality ECD programmes, the organization undertook a curriculum development project in 2009 to develop a set of ECD materials that were of a high standard with the express purpose to raise the professional standards within the ECD sector and to empower practitioners participating in the qualification. The materials have an emphasis on academic literacy, specifically to lay a strong academic foundation should practitioners wish to study further e.g. level 5 and B Degree. The materials were developed for access by NECDA member organization, the majority of whom provide training and capacity development to the ECD sector.

- NECDA developed a full set of SETA accredited materials for the following qualification: Further Education & Training Certificate Early Childhood Development NQF Level 4 (ID58761).
- Each Unit Standard of the materials comprises:
 - Facilitators Guides
 - Learner Guides
 - Assessment Instruments and Tools
- Over 20 NECDA member organisations / training providers have accessed these materials and utilized them for the training and development of ECD practitioners. The following criteria was put in place for members wishing to access the materials;
 - Members must be ETDP SETA accredited
 - Members must have suitably qualified and experienced facilitators
 - Members must attend TOT (training of trainers) to utilize materials
- NECDA conducted numerous Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions which were compulsory for all members who applied to utilize the materials. These sessions ensured that the high quality of materials would be maintained at the level of implementation.

¹ National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy. Government of South Africa (2015) Limited Edition Distribution

- A significant number of ECD practitioners have been trained utilizing these materials.

ECD Policy Engagement

- National ECD Inter-Sectoral Forum - NECDA Chairperson is the committee chair for non-state sector role players
- National Integrated ECD Policy - submission of policy position and comments to National DSD as well as inputs into key HR policies that impact the ECD sector.
- NECDA member organisations & expert members participate in Working Group to develop Occupational Certificate: Early Childhood Development Practitioner Level 4 (ID 97542).

5. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The NECDA 2017- 2020 Strategic Plan outlines strategic objectives which will assist the organization in achieving its mandate.

The key objectives are:

a. Development of NECDA's Membership

- To grow the members' capacity to participate in the ECD sector, armed with current information, policies and legislation.
- To facilitate the enhancement of members' leadership and management skills in order to sustain themselves to make a meaningful contribution.
- To position NECDA members as key stakeholders in training provision as well as strengthening their role in ECD HR strategy development and implementation.
- To contribute to the scale up of quality services and programmes, prioritising vulnerable children.

b. Advocacy - Policy Position & Engagement

- To make the voice of ECD NPO's heard in key national and provincial processes, taking informed policy positions.
- To respond to emerging ECD policy issues.
- To inform policy development.
- To hold ourselves and stakeholders accountable to engage critically and actively in key issues.
- To develop an advocacy process and framework for NECDA.
- To foster collaboration within the ECD sector with key civil society stakeholders.

In addition, NECDA will also strive to meet the following objectives, to support the fulfilment of the key objectives outlined above:

- Organisational development of NECDA
- Alliance Curriculum Development
- Resourcing and funding of NECDA

6. MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

NECDA has a current membership base of 103 organisations, comprising ECD Non-Profit Organisations and sector experts, based throughout South Africa. Each member organization interacts with a vast array of ECD stakeholders within their geographical focal areas. The map illustrates where members are located in the various provinces, with the understanding that a number of members work across more than one province

7. CONCLUSION

Given NECDA's national footprint, the growth and strengthening of NECDA as an ECD network will have a ripple effect in enhancing ECD services and programmes throughout South Africa. NECDA and its membership have a significant role to play in ensuring that all children, particularly the most vulnerable, fulfil their early childhood development rights and needs.