



**WESTERN CAPE
ASSOCIATION FOR
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**
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Sources

adding
value
to
lives

Focus on...

Disability in SA

What is a disability?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that

“Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

An impairment is defined as a significant deviation or loss in body function or structure.

Who are persons with disabilities?

The World Health Organisation's recently released World Report on Disability states that approximately 15% of the world's population has a disability. In South Africa this is calculated as 7,5 million people, or 1 in every 6 persons.

What has the SA government done to accommodate persons with disabilities?

Since 1994, SA has adopted several important pieces of legislation, notably the -

- UN Convention which was signed by President Thabo Mbeki on the first day it was open for signature, and was ratified;
- SA Constitution, Bill of Rights;
- Integrated National Disability Strategy;
- Employment Equity Act;
- Technical Assistance Guidelines on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities;
- and others

What challenges face persons with disabilities today?