

# INVESTING IN PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

FOR A MORE **EQUAL**  
AND **INCLUSIVE** FUTURE



**Advocating for the rights of persons living with a disability is an ongoing quest that requires all of us as a nation to contribute meaningfully to, in order to manifest the change we want to see.**

According to the South African Human Rights Commission, a staggering 5.1% of the population aged 5 years and older living with a disability, still do not have access to adequate health and basic education, which is of great concern. As a result, they find themselves at risk of being excluded from

benefiting and contributing meaningfully to our collective socio-economic development, due to limited skills development and employment prospects. This dynamic is further exacerbated by the discrimination and abuse persons living with a disability continue to endure on a daily basis.

**It is now more important than ever to fast track the dismantling of all our historically ingrained negative stereotypes, beliefs and attitudes about persons living with disabilities.**

**Their ability to participate equally in our society and their agency as human beings who deserve to be treated with the same respect and dignity as their abled bodied counterparts.**

As an organisation, we as the HWSETA are committed to the development and inclusion of persons living with a disability by working in tandem with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and our other faithful partners to ensure increased access to training and skills development opportunities that will enable us to achieve the fundamental transformation of inequities linked to class, race, gender, age and disability in our society.

**ELAINE BRASS | HWSETA CEO**



**One such project is the Work Readiness and Employment Programme for Persons with Disabilities in partnership with the QuadPara Association of South Africa (QASA). Through this programme 100 unemployed young people living with a disability from Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State were afforded the opportunity to participate in an accredited Skills Programme that equips them with the necessary skills to enter into the job market.**



By working with accredited training providers we have been able to facilitate training and quality assurance for a variety of skills programmes with a particular focus on developing their digital skills such as coding, to ensure that they are fully equipped for the new world of work.

We are also proud to have initiated the Workplace Experience Grant Funding for Persons with Disabilities, valued at R63 000 per learner for the 12-month programme. As a result, 150 young people living with a disability benefitted from the funding.



**Our work with the Central Gauteng Mental Health Society, Pietermaritzburg Mental Health Society, KwaZulu-Natal Blind & Deaf Society, National Council for Persons with disabilities and the National Council for Persons with Disability Awareness Programmes to the value of R 6 095 250 have also proven to be successful.**

We are proud of the work we have committed ourselves to, in an effort create a more inclusive society, but there is still much more work to be done today and in the not so distant future. Let us all continue to create platforms and spaces that will allow persons living with a disability to have a voice and to share their experiences, their ideas and solutions without prejudice.