



ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026



OUR VISION

A South Africa where all of us are supported throughout life's journey with compassionate care, dignity, and the freedom to choose one's own path.

OUR MISSION

We pursue advocacy and collaboration alongside legal and healthcare reform initiatives so that every person in South Africa can access the full range of end-of-life care options with our choices respected and legally protected.

CONTENTS

1	FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR	4
2	PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR STRATEGIC GOALS	5
3	IMPACT ON OUR FOCUS AREAS	7
	3.1. Palliative Care	7
	3.2. Withdrawal and Withholding of Life Sustaining Care	8
	3.3. Advance Directives	8
	3.4. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)	10
4	GROWING OUR SUPPORT BASE	12
	4.1. Membership	12
	4.2. Media Coverage	12
	4.3. Events	13
	4.4. Communications	14
	4.5. Advocacy	15
5	GROWING OUR ORGANISATION	17
	5.1. Our Advisory Trustees	17
	5.2. Our Directors	18
	5.3. Our Staff	20
6	FINANCIAL REPORT	21
7	DONORS	22
8	CONCLUSION	23

1

FOREWORD

By Professor Willem Landman
Chairperson

For DignitySA, this has been a milestone year. We are about to file an application at the motion court of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria to have medical assistance in dying (MAiD) decriminalised and legalised in South Africa.

This legal challenge is about respecting the Constitution by listening and hearing what it has to say to us. End-of-life care needs to be liberated from morally and legally indefensible obstacles resulting in unbearable suffering for some, for no fault of their own. DignitySA has reached this point 15 years after its inception and more than four years of dedicated preparation.

My deep gratitude goes to everyone who has made our journey to the doors of the Court possible:

- Mr Dieter Harck, who, in December 2021, agreed to join me in a pursuit o of compassion and justice at the end of life;
- A retired judge and friend who advised me about legal strategy and assembling a legal team;
- Our pro bono legal team of Adams & Adams, advocates and senior counsel that carried out the formidable task of writing our Founding Affidavit and doing the spadework for a host of supporting affidavits;
- Friends, family and loved ones of 10 individuals who died in dire circumstances but had the resilience to write case studies about how they had died in ways that do not belong in a civilised, compassionate and a Constitution-based society;
- Foreign experts – from six countries spread over four continents, 15 of them – who showed selfless solidarity with us, writing and rewriting their affidavits over several years;
- South African medical experts who were brave enough to write affidavits to provide proof that we can implement MAiD in the South African healthcare system;
- Prof Joseph (Joe) Raimondo, who generously offered his assistance to DignitySA in 2024, initiated the overhaul of our governance systems, and directed the crucially important South African medical expert evidence;
- Donors, without whom we would never have been able to go to court, who rallied to our support and showed that goodness still exists; and
- In memory of Prof JP van Niekerk, who kept reminding me – when doubt threatened to make my resolve waver – that significant societal changes take time and effort to find social and legal traction.

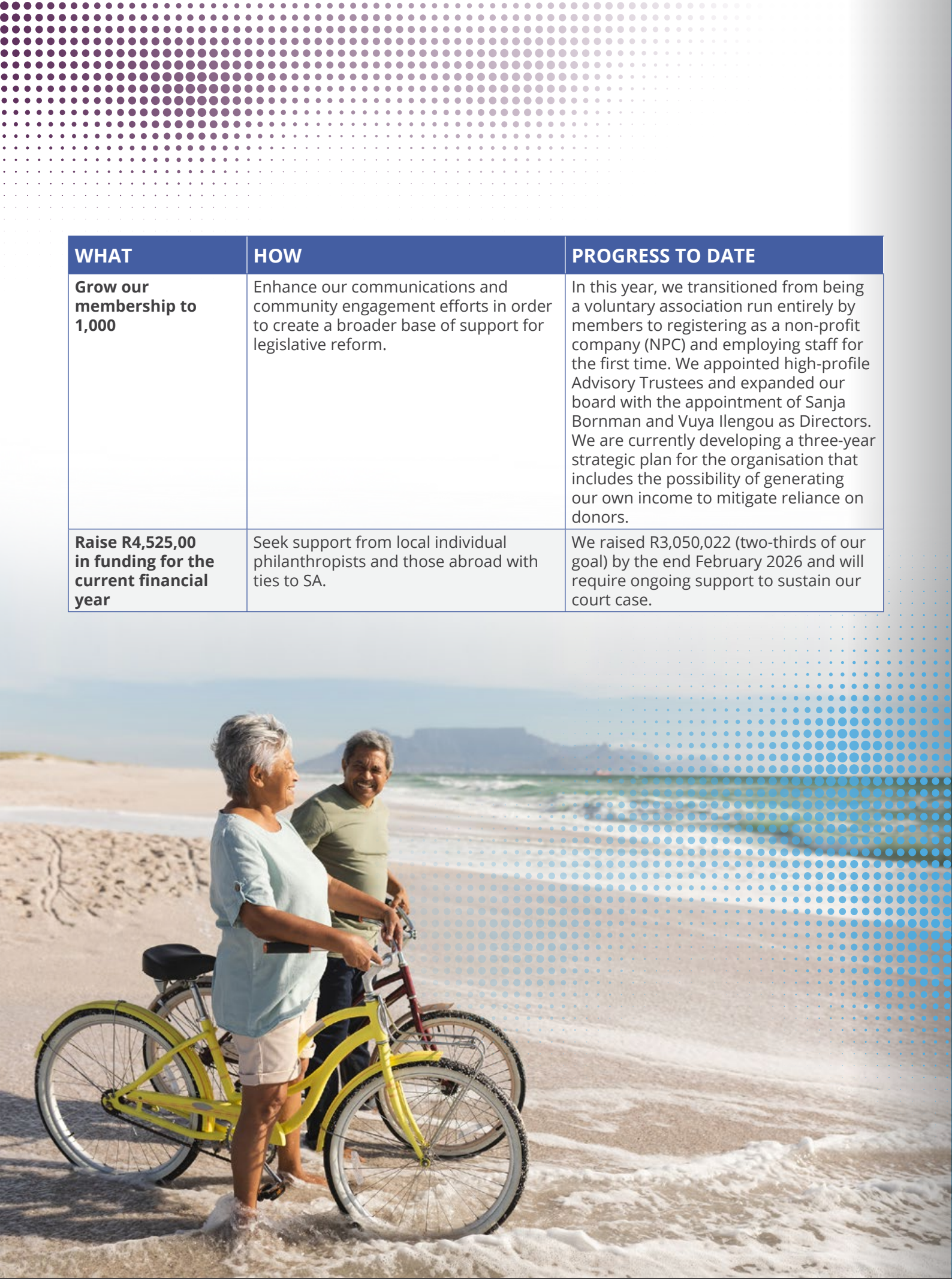
DignitySA's footprint goes well beyond MAiD and this report details the significant progress that we have made towards enabling a range of end-of-life choices in South Africa. I trust that, reading through these pages, you will be as encouraged as I am.

2

PROGRESS TOWARDS
OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

At our Annual General meeting, that was held on the 28th of February 2025, we outlined six key goals for the new financial year ahead. The table below provides an overview of the progress we have made in the subsequent twelve months.

WHAT	HOW	PROGRESS TO DATE
Table our Advance Directives Bill in Parliament	Build a coalition of organisations that will revive our previously gazetted amendment to the National Health Act would provide legal clarity and protection for patients' documented end-of-life wishes.	We initiated the Advance Directives Campaign which has brought together over 20 diverse organisations that are keen to ensure that there is a sound legal basis for advance directives in SA. The Campaign's Working Group has consulted at length with legal experts and determined that a new Bill is most likely not needed. Rather it is recommended that members of the Campaign assist the Minister of Health to add regulations that provide more clarity with regard to sections 6,7 and 8 of the National Health Act (61 of 2003) and we will be pursuing this, along with education and awareness, in the year ahead.
Submit our assisted dying court application	Leverage the powerful evidence we've gathered from South African case studies, foreign experts and South African medical professionals to challenge the constitutionality of criminalising medical assistance in dying (MAiD)	We have gathered 15 SA case studies and evidence from 16 foreign experts and 2 highly-respected respected local medical professionals and are on track to submit our application to the North Gauteng High Court in April 2026.
Build strategic partnerships with the palliative care sector	Demonstrate our commitment to comprehensive end-of-life care and establish DignitySA as more than an assisted dying organisation.	We hosted a well-attended seminar focused on palliative care in May 2025 as well as an information session on accessing palliative care in February 2026. Two DignitySA representatives attended, and presented posters at the National Palliative Care conference in June 2025. In addition, a significant number of stakeholders in palliative care are part of the Advance Directives Campaign that we initiated.



WHAT	HOW	PROGRESS TO DATE
Grow our membership to 1,000	Enhance our communications and community engagement efforts in order to create a broader base of support for legislative reform.	In this year, we transitioned from being a voluntary association run entirely by members to registering as a non-profit company (NPC) and employing staff for the first time. We appointed high-profile Advisory Trustees and expanded our board with the appointment of Sanja Bornman and Vuya Ilengou as Directors. We are currently developing a three-year strategic plan for the organisation that includes the possibility of generating our own income to mitigate reliance on donors.
Raise R4,525,00 in funding for the current financial year	Seek support from local individual philanthropists and those abroad with ties to SA.	We raised R3,050,022 (two-thirds of our goal) by the end February 2026 and will require ongoing support to sustain our court case.

IMPACT ON OUR FOCUS AREAS

+ 3.1 PALLIATIVE CARE

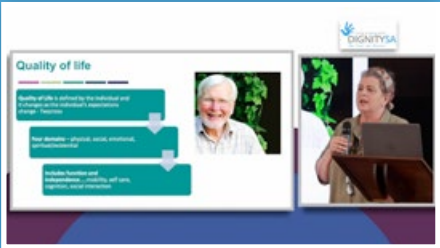
At DignitySA we believe that if all South Africans with life threatening diseases were able to access the sophisticated pain management and comprehensive support that palliative care avails there would be less of a demand for medical assistance in dying (MAiD). Regrettably though, current estimates are that only 18% of South African citizens are able to benefit from this kind of care due to chronic under-funding and low prioritisation by government primarily.

In this year our ability to shine a light on the challenges in the palliative care sector has been considerably enhanced by the addition of Leigh Meinert, former Advocacy Manager for the Association of Palliative Care Centres (APCC), who joined DignitySA as our Operations Manager in April 2025. In May, Leigh helped us to convene the second seminar in our End-of-Life Care series that was entitled, *“Palliative Care and Assisted Dying: Friends or Foes?”*. The seminar was moderated by the prominent social justice activist Mark Heywood, who has joined DignitySA as an Advisory Trustee, and featured inputs from Leigh as well as Hanneke Lubbe (board member of the APCC) and Yvette Andrews, a palliative care nurse who concluded the evening with a powerful personal story. A video of these talks can be viewed at our You Tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@DignitySouthAfrica>



In June 2025, Leigh and Joseph Raimondo, a Director of DignitySA, attended and presented posters at the national Palliative Care Conference in Durban. This was an excellent opportunity to deepen our understanding of the sector and build relationships. We followed this with an information session that we hosted in February 2026 on the topic of accessing palliative care in the Western Cape. The session aimed to showcase the strides that have been made in the province to avail palliative care across the private and public sectors and the speakers included:

- Dr Jennie Morgan, Family Physician with Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness



- Cecil van Heerden, Chair of the Western Cape Hospice Association
- Dr Cameron Bruce, Founder of Chariot Health

Our efforts to support and collaborate with the palliative care sector have been further strengthened through the Advance Directives Campaign that DignitySA initiated this year. A Working Group was established at the first planning meeting that was held in August 2025 and we have been convening monthly meetings since.

3.2 WITHDRAWAL AND WITHHOLDING OF LIFE-SUSTAINING CARE

DignitySA regularly receives queries from patients and their families with regard to their rights to refuse or discontinue life-sustaining medical treatments when they determine that the burdens outweigh the costs. To this end, we provide ongoing education and awareness that, from a legal standpoint, no medical treatment can be given without informed consent of the user of the service.

Furthermore, the law allows a patient to appoint a mandated person who can make medical decisions on their behalf should the patient become unable to do so. This includes the right to refuse water, food, or any medical treatment. If no mandate has been put in place, then Section 7 of the National Health Act of 2003 outlines an order for decision-making that begins with the spouse or partner.

3.3 ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

*Advance*Directives
CAMPAIGN

Since 2017 DignitySA has been championing for the legal recognition and enforcement of advance directives to ensure that healthcare professionals honour patient's documented wishes regarding their end-of-life care, including decisions about life-sustaining care. Together with a parliamentary legal team, Prof Willem Landman wrote an amendment to the National Health Act (61 of 2003) to legalise advance directives (living will and durable power of attorney for healthcare). However a new election and new parliament in 2019, and then Covid-19, put an end to this initiative.

In this year, DignitySA undertook to revive these efforts in a collaborative spirit. To ensure maximum support, we developed a dedicated website with a standalone identity for the Campaign, keeping it separate from DignitySA's organisational brand. Then, on the 21st of August 2025, we convened the first planning meeting at the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation.

At the planning meeting, which was well-attended by a diverse range of stakeholders from over 20 organisations, it was decided to create a Working Group that would consult widely to determine whether the current provisions in sections 6, 7 and 8 of the National Health Act of 2003 are sufficient or whether we need to advocate for a new National Health Amendment Bill to be passed in Parliament. Since then we have been convening monthly meetings of the Working Group and it has been determined that, whilst the current provisions are sufficient, considerable clarity would be gained if the Department of Health issued regulations pertaining to the operationalisation of sections 6, 7 and 8 of the National Health Act in particular.



The Working Group will be presenting their findings and recommendations, along with a workplan for the year, back to the broader stakeholder body in March 2026. We anticipate that this will be accepted and that as a collective we will commence engaging with regulators such as the Health Professionals Council of South Africa's (HPCSA) and the National Department of Health to ensure that clear guidelines and regulations are availed to support the implementation and use of advance directives.

Conversations About End-of-Life Care Planning

Join Prof Rayne Stroebe in conversation with Dr Margie Venter for a wide-ranging and thought-provoking conversation about quality at the end of life and how our values and emotions influence this. What proactive conversations should we be having with our loved ones, healthcare providers and patients? Where do we start? What stops us? Who will hold our hand?

This is the first in a series of conversations about advance care planning that are relevant to all of us, regardless of age, stage in life, or health status. Please share the information about this webinar widely and bring your questions with you. We look forward to seeing you online for an educational and interactive conversation. **NB:** CPD points will be available on request.

Date: Wednesday, 29 October 2025
Time: 17:30 - 19:00
Register on Zoom

For more information, please contact advancedirectivesa@gmail.com

Part One

www.advancedirectives.org.za





In addition, we helped the Advance Directions Campaign to convene a webinar on End-of-Life Care planning that proved to be very popular with over 300 people registering. The recording of this wide-ranging conversation between Prof Rayne Stoebe of Geratec and Dr Margie Venter of Palpac can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@AdvanceDirectivesSA>



3.4 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (MAiD)

Since our inception in 2011, DignitySA has played a leading role in legal reform initiatives to establish and protect the rights of informed adults facing terminal or irremediable conditions that cause intolerable suffering to request medical assistance in dying when all other acceptable options have been exhausted. In 2015, we obtained pro-bono legal representation for Adv Robin Stransham-Ford in his landmark case that resulted in him being granted permission for lawful medical assistance in dying. Regrettably this was awarded posthumously as Adv Stransham-Ford died two hours before the court ruling and the case was subsequently overturned following an appeal by the Ministers of Justice and Correctional Services.



What was significant though was that the Supreme Court of Appeal's (SCA) ruling in 2016 left the door open for future cases on medical assistance in dying, suggesting that the issue could be reconsidered under more appropriate circumstances, with a proper factual record and a comprehensive legal analysis. Furthermore, a full bench of the SCA held that DignitySA was a legitimate entity to act in the public interest in a future case to "rectify" the "deficiency" in our law (common law versus constitutional rights).

It has taken us many years to assemble a strong legal team and raise sufficient funds. Thankfully, with the appointment of Adams & Adams Attorneys in 2024, we have been able to make significant progress and are ready to lodge our constitutional challenge in April 2026. This will include 15 deeply personal case studies written by the relatives of people who died in distressing circumstances, along with high quality submissions from 16 international experts across six countries and four continents where assisted dying is legal. Most significantly in the latter part of this year we have received evidence from 2 highly-respected local medical professionals that medical assistance in dying can be implemented in South Africa with appropriate safeguards and strong oversight.

Once DignitySA's court papers are filed there will still be a long road ahead. The named respondents in our case are the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), the Minister of Health and the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the court will give them an opportunity to file responding affidavits. DignitySA will then have a chance to file an answering affidavit, a court date will be set, and arguments will be heard on the documentation alone.

The losing party is likely to appeal to the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) in Bloemfontein and following that the Constitutional Court in Braamfontein. Thus this process could take years even without deliberate delaying tactics by respondents.

Even with a pro-bono team charging a fraction of their normal fees, legal proceedings are a costly and lengthy exercise requiring ongoing funding. To this end, we are grateful for the significant support that we have received in this year in particular and intend to scale DignitySA in a sustainable manner so that we can see this case through to a positive outcome.



4

GROWING OUR SUPPORT BASE

4.1 MEMBERSHIP

In April 2025 we began availing membership once more and put systems in place to support this. A members portal is now available on our website where extended versions of our podcast series and other exclusive, informative resources can be accessed. Members can elect to have their names featured as Supporters on our website and to join our WhatsApp community, Friends of DignitySA. The latest edition of our new newsletter, Dignity Matters is also sent to them directly every two months along with invitations to our upcoming events, directly every two months, along with invitations to our upcoming events, and those who donate R600 to DignitySA receive our branded t-shirt.



Furthermore, we have partnered with Paysoft Impact to facilitate monthly debit orders or once-off donations via our website and have launched branded merchandise for those who would like to help us promote the cause. In this year, over 48 individuals have donated between R50 to R1,000 to DignitySA and this number is growing.

By the end of February we had 524 members and an encouraging response to our petition for the decriminalisation of medical assistance in dying that is available at <https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/urgently-decriminalise-medical-assistance-in-dying>

4.2 MEDIA COVERAGE

Medical assistance in dying is a news-worthy topic and we receive regular invitations from the media. In this year our cause has been profiled on many prominent radio stations (including Cape Talk, 702 and MetroFM) as well as publications such as the Daily Maverick and Independent Online.

A highlight for us remains Vuya Ilengou’s appearance on the show “Still Uncaptured”, which was particularly impressive as it was her first time stepping into a new role as DignitySA’s spokesperson. This wide-ranging and fascinating conversation is a delight to listen to and one of the prominent hosts, well-known journalist and writer Ndumiso Ngcobo, has subsequently volunteered to become an ambassador for DignitySA. The episode called



‘Advocating for Dignity and Choice: The Case for Assisted Dying’ was shared on the 10th of June 2025 and is available on Spotify.

Ahead of the submission of our constitutional challenge in April 2026, we have contracted Alkemi Collective, an experienced media house, to host a media conference for us. With their support, we have been proactively preparing for this and anticipate that you will be reading and hearing much more about our cause in the year ahead.



4.3 EVENTS

Events are an excellent way to build relationships and further our advocacy efforts. We kicked the year off by continuing the ‘Dignity in End-of-Life Care’ Seminar Series that we initiated in 2024. These seminars are co-hosted with the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation and we are delighted that the Foundation’s CEO, Janet Jobson, agreed to join our organisation as an Advisory Trustee this year.

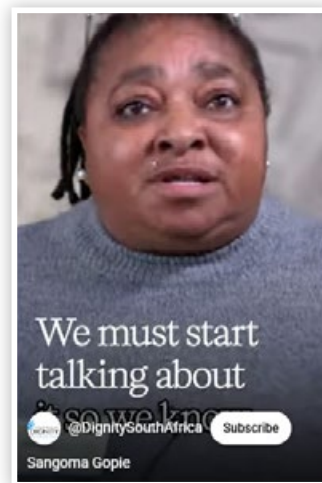
Our first seminar focused on *‘The South Africa Constitution and Assisted Dying’* and the second gathering, held in May 2025, was called, *‘Palliative Care and Assisted Dying: Friends of Foes?’* It was enthusiastically attended by over 200 people (in-person and online) and generated a great deal of engagement and press coverage afterwards.



Conferences are another way to grow our networks and we were grateful for the opportunity to provide a lecture on *‘Dying with Dignity: Ethical, Legal and Clinical Considerations’* at the Board of Healthcare Funders Conference that was held in Cape Town in May 2025. Two of our

representatives also attended the national Palliative Care conference in Durban in June and provided poster presentations.

In August we hosted the first planning workshop for the Advance Directives Campaign, as well as an interfaith dialogue on end-of-life choices at the Tutu Foundation. Once again, the dialogue was enthusiastically attended by more than 30 representatives from a diverse range of faiths. At the end of the gathering they used words like *“connection”, “surprise”, “breakthrough”, “possibility”, “collaboration”* and *“collective responsibility”* to describe their experience. They expressed a sincere interest in engaging in more events like these, as well as to learn more about palliative care. For this reason, we followed up by hosting a Palliative Care Information Session for religious and community leaders at the Tutu Foundation in February 2026 and the talks that were shared here are available on our YouTube channel.



In September 2025 we exhibited at the International Federation on Ageing Conference and our Operations Manager, Leigh Mienert, was a panelist at the first local Festival of Compassion. In November 2025 we launched a new monthly webinar series called Dignity Dialogues and to date we've explored topics as diverse as law reform, navigating grief during the festive season, living with motor neurone disease and accompanying a loved one to Switzerland for medical assistance in dying. The recordings of all of our dialogues can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@DignitySouthAfrica>

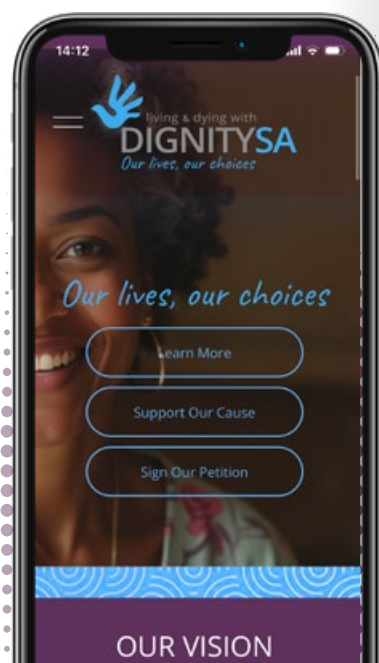
Finally one of our Directors, Prof Joseph Raimondo, spoke at the Melanoma Society's Skin Cancer Symposium that was held in February 2026. His presentation was entitled *'Is It Time To Look at Dignity to Die and Not Only Dignity to Live?'* and, once again it was

encouraging to find that our message about availing a range of options at the end of life was particularly well received by the medical community.

4.4 COMMUNICATIONS

In an effort to engage hearts and minds and grow our support base ahead of our pending court case we engaged our new Director, Vuya Ilengou, to draft a strategic brand and communications strategy for DignitySA. In the course of this year we have:

- Refreshed our brand identity
- Revamped our website



- Created a new WhatsApp community for friends who want to follow our news closely
- Launched our newsletter called Dignity Matters, which is issued every two months
- Piloted our own podcast series, called A Way To Go, and
- Started a YouTube channel where recordings of our events and webinars can be accessed ongoingly
- Designed and distributed branded merchandise to our supporters

One of the biggest changes though was perhaps one of the subtlest, when we changed the strapline in our logo from *'My Life. My Choice'* to *'Our Lives, Our Choices'*. Decisions about life and death are never made in isolation; they are always embedded in community. Here in Africa especially, the concept and practice of Ubuntu speaks to shared humanity, deep respect, and compassion.



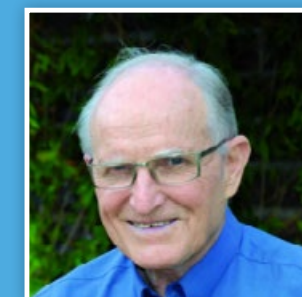
In Vuya's words,

...teaches us to care for one another, especially in moments of immense pain and vulnerability. From this perspective, helping someone who is terminally ill and suffering intractable pain to have a peaceful, dignified death is not a betrayal of Ubuntu, it is an expression of it.

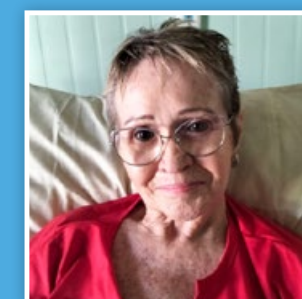


4.5 ADVOCACY

Our advocacy operates across legal, public, and medical spheres. Our messaging frames the debate around constitutional rights and individual autonomy, while also addressing and alleviating public concerns. The legal path is our main avenue for change and hence our primary focus. Sadly in the past year, two outspoken advocates for our cause, Professor JP van Niekerk and Schenell Roussouw, died and their courage will continue to inspire us all.



Whilst medical assistance in dying is illegal in South Africa, the Constitutional Court has yet to make a definitive ruling and the manner in which a 2016 Supreme Court of Appeal judgment overturned a previous High Court order (see section 3.4) highlighted the need for a strong, constitutionally-grounded legal challenge. Our next step is therefore to initiate a robust court case that directly challenges the constitutionality of the current prohibition on medical assistance in dying and we will be doing so in April 2026.



In the year ahead we aim to begin drafting and encouraging engagement around a comprehensive, model Bill for medical assistance in dying that outlines clear definitions, strict eligibility criteria (e.g. an adult with a terminal or irremediable illness causing unbearable suffering that has decision making capacity to make a voluntary choice free of coercion, and has the option of alternatives such as palliative care) and robust safeguards (e.g. multiple independent practitioner assessment co-ordinated from a hospital complex with access to expertise and ethics boards). This will demonstrate our commitment to a responsible, regulated process and can be the basis for engaging with and educating Members of Parliament.

In addition to these legal and legislative measures, we will engage in public advocacy with a view to addressing the concerns of those whose opposition is often rooted in ethical, religious, and cultural beliefs. Our approach includes a focus on:

Humanising the issue by sharing the stories and personal testimonies of South Africans who are terminally ill and wish to have the option of assisted dying. We are also building a diverse cadre of people who are willing and trained to advocate for and speak up on behalf of our cause.

Engaging key stakeholders and building a coalition of understanding and support, beyond patients and their families that includes medical professionals, palliative care professionals and religious and community leaders.

Addressing the “slippery slope argument” that is based on the fear that legalising medical assistance in dying for the terminal or the intractably ill will lead to it being offered to a broader range of people and could become a substitute for proper care. To this end, we continually emphasise our support for appropriate safeguards and eligibility criteria in proposed legislation for South Africa and reference countries like Australia, Colombia, the USA, Canada and Belgium, where strict regulations have prevented such a scenario

In conclusion, by focusing on dignity and autonomy, we emphasise that medical assistance in dying is not simply ending life but empowering individuals who are facing unbearable suffering and would like to have the option, to be able to make a choice together with their loved ones about their own death. These key distinctions are highlighted in the petition that we launched in February 2026 and that is available at <https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/urgently-decriminalise-medical-assistance-in-dying>



GROWING OUR ORGANISATION

5.1 OUR ADVISORY TRUSTEES

One of the key things that we set out to do this year was engage credible experts who can guide our growth and provide us with strategic input. To this end we are extremely grateful that the following people all accepted our invitation to support DignitySA in a non-fiduciary role as Advisory Trustees.

JANET JOBSON



Janet is the CEO of the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, where she drives their work on societal healing for peace and transformation. She joined the Foundation from a career in activism and in the development sector, both locally and globally. Previously, Janet was the Deputy CEO at the DG Murray Trust (DGMT). Janet has held governance roles and worked in various capacities with a range of organizations such as Activate! Leadership, Amandla.mobi, Life Choices, Amnesty International South Africa, CIVICUS, and the South African Girl Child Alliance.

MARK HEYWOOD



Mark Heywood has over three decades of experience in civil society in South Africa. He has founded or co-founded some of the country's most respected civil society organisations, including the Treatment Action Campaign, Corruption Watch, SECTION27, the AIDS and Rights Alliance of Southern Africa (ARASA) and in 2019 Maverick Citizen, a new section of the Daily Maverick that focuses on activism and social justice. He still sits on the Board of several of these organisations and currently works as an independent social justice organiser, writer, researcher and freelance journalist.

SEAN DAVISON



Sean is the co-founder of DignitySA as well as the Innocence Project, an organisation that sought to exonerate wrongfully imprisoned people on the basis of DNA testing that was not done at the time of their trial. As a result of his arrest and High Court trial in South Africa, he became an international campaigner for changes to the law regarding assisted dying under legally defined criteria and served for five years as president of the World Federation of Right-to-Die Societies. Formerly a Professor of Biotechnology at the University of the Western Cape, Sean currently resides in the UK with his family. He is the author of three books - *'Before We Say Goodbye'*, *'The Last Waltz: Love, Death & Betrayal'* and *'The Price of Mercy: A Fight for the Right To Die With Dignity'*.

5.2 OUR DIRECTORS

In this year we were delighted to welcome Sanja Bornman and Vuya Ilengou onto our board, where they join a core team of dedicated volunteers who lend their credibility, networks and diverse skills to our cause.

JOSEPH RAIMONDO



Associate Professor Joseph Raimondo is a neuroscientist and Head of the Division of Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town. He completed his medical degree at UCT and earned his DPhil in Neuroscience from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

LYNNE GRUBB



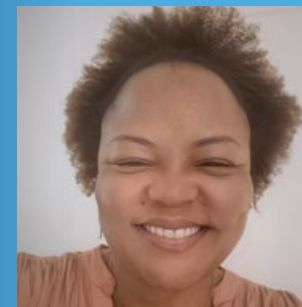
Lynne has been at the forefront of South Africa's right-to-die campaign for many years together with her life partner, Dieter Harck, who initiated a legal campaign in 2018 seeking permission to access assisted dying lawfully. Lynne has considerable experience with death and dying having lost both her parents and her first husband to gruelling deaths. She has trained as a death doula and practiced as a caregiver for hospice.

SANJA BORNMAN



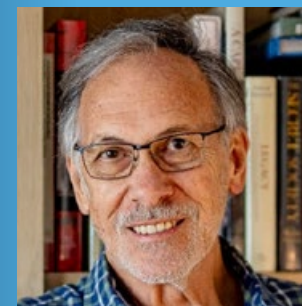
Sanja is a senior attorney and gender law and policy specialist. She consults to the private and public interest law sectors, providing expertise in legal advocacy, policy and law reform, and strategic litigation to a range of local and international organisations. She works extensively in gender-based violence and discrimination, and the children's rights and socio-economic rights sectors. She serves as vice president of the South African Federation for Mental Health.

VUYA KABANYANE ILENGOU



Vuya is a seasoned brand and marketing leader with over 20 years of experience working across South Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and Europe. She has held senior management roles at Liberty, Old Mutual, and Telkom, where she built expertise in brand management, communications, and stakeholder engagement. After qualifying as a death doula, Vuya shifted her focus towards human advocacy, with a special interest in opening conversations around end-of-life across cultures. Since joining DignitySA, Vuya has helped us to develop our Brand and Communications Strategy, quickly standing out as a passionate and excellent spokesperson for the organisation.

WILLEM LANDMAN



Professor Willem Landman is a co-founder of DignitySA, and was the founding CEO of the Ethics Institute of SA (TEI, formerly EthicsSA). He holds degrees from the Universities of Stellenbosch, Oxford (where he studied on a South-Africa-at-Large Rhodes Scholarship), and South Africa (Unisa) in philosophy, political philosophy, theology and law. Willem was Chair of the Departments of Philosophy at the Walter Sisulu University (formerly Unitra) (1977-1982) and University of the Western Cape (1983-1994), professor of Medical Humanities in the Brody School of Medicine, University of North Carolina (1994-2000), and professor extraordinaire in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Stellenbosch (2000-2024). He co-edited *The Bioethics Reader: Editors' Choice* (2007) and co-founded and co-edited the international journal *Developing World Bioethics*. He was Ethics Advisor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, based in Geneva, chair of the PwC Ethics Board for Africa and the Middle East, and board member of the Institute of Directors (IoD).

5.3 OUR STAFF

Since inception in 2011, when DignitySA was co-founded by Professors Willem Landman and Sean Davison, the organisation has been entirely run by passionate volunteers. Thanks to a recent influx of funding and support we have been able to appoint a staff member for the first time in our history.

LEIGH MEINERT



Leigh Meinert is a well-known social entrepreneur in Cape Town. She co-founded and led TSIBA Business School and, after 20 years spent working to make access to high quality education accessible to all, set out to see if she could apply her skills set to ease the passage of people at the end of their lives. In 2019, Leigh trained as a death doula and joined the Association of Palliative Care Centres (APCC) as their national Advocacy Manager. During her 4 years there, Leigh was one of the core organising team members of the first collaborative Palliative Care conference that APCC co-hosted in Cape Town in 2023.



6 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME STATEMENT:
01 MARCH 2025 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026

We ended the previous financial year with a modest surplus of R883,448 and, thanks to our generous donors, we have been able to add to our reserves during the course of the year. This is partly also because some of our legal fees have been rolled into the new financial year. If we are to be able to sustain our constitutional challenge, which will take many years to conclude, we will need to steward our reserves wisely and continue generating additional income.

OPERATING INCOME	
Donations	R 3,050,022
Interest Income	R 103,589
Total for Operating Income	R 3,153,611

OPERATING EXPENSES	
Accounting & Bank Fees	R 81,471
Conferences & Events	R 116,319
Human Resources	R 918,524
Legal Fees	R 985,383
Marketing & Website	R 175,126
Office Expenses	R 15,118
Total for Operating Expenses	R 2,291,944

OPERATING PROFIT/ LOSS	R 861,667
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7 DONORS

DignitySA is currently funded by a growing circle of generous individual donors, not all of whom wish to be named. The donors listed here have donated amounts in the region of R50 all the way through to R915,000 during the course of this year. We are sincerely grateful to each and everyone of them, as well as to those who wish to remain anonymous.

- Ake Jocheim (late estate)
- Alexander Faure
- Allison Bullen
- Ann Tothill
- Anna Raimondo
- Bruce Chelius
- Candy Neubert
- Chad Roberts
- Cheryl Miszewski
- Clint Hill
- Coral Featherstone
- Dave Glass
- Debi Diamond
- Denis Hutchinson
- Doug Skeat
- Edwin Hertzog
- Elsabe Manning
- Elize Koch
- Glen Heneck
- Guiseppe & Rita Raimondo Charitable Trust
- Helene de Wet
- Helene Lewis
- Henk van der Tak
- Ian Bennie
- Inga Bothner
- J Obeholzer
- Jane Reddick
- Jean Richter
- Joan Parker
- Johannes Pieterse
- Joseph Raimondo
- Jules M
- Juta Holzapfel
- Kathleen Ann Buttle
- Linda Blokman (in memory of Lawrence Eskell)
- Leigh Meinert
- Leon Oosthuizen
- Louise Havenga
- Lizette Rabie
- Lorraine Schilinger
- Maggi Savage (in memory of Neil Savage)
- Margie Gaddin
- Mark Shuttleworth
- Maria van der Walt
- Marina da Langa
- Nadia Smith
- Patrick Hawes
- Pat Eloff
- Pat Torngren
- Paul Kruger
- Rory Field
- Sandra Hill
- Sebastian Bodenstein
- Shana Essakow
- Simon Susman
- Tamarin Morell
- Wilma Hudson
- Wilma Meintjies

8 CONCLUSION

Whilst our donors have and continue to be very generous, it is our responsibility as a board to ensure that DignitySA can operate sustainably in the long term and for this reason we will be exploring opportunities to generate non-donor income as well. Given all that has been achieved in this year and the challenges that lie ahead, our key priorities for the new financial year are to:

- ✓ Submit our court application to decriminalise medical assistance in dying to the North Gauteng High Court and respond timeously, as needed.
- ✓ Draft and foster engagement around a model Bill for medical assistance in dying that outlines clear definitions, strict eligibility criteria and robust safeguards.
- ✓ Develop and initiate a three-year sustainability plan underpinned by a robust financial strategy.
- ✓ Co-ordinate the Advance Directives Campaign with the aim of obtaining the Minister of Health's buy-in to add clarifying regulations to the National Health Act of 2003.
- ✓ Gather and share diverse human stories and perspectives on medical assistance in dying (MAiD), access to palliative care and advance directives.

We are greatly encouraged by the support we are receiving. Increasingly, it feels as though our vision of a South Africa where all of us are supported through life's final journey is within reach. Realising that vision takes a broad community of great compassion. We trust that in time, we will be able to look back with satisfaction knowing that, together, we helped make history and ease the last passage for those who need it most

Please support us by signing our petition, sharing your stories with us and donating if you can.

Thank you.



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