



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

A Recent Success

The process for the registration of Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Practitioners with the **HPCSA (Health Professions Council of South Africa)**, under the **Occupational Therapy Professional Board**, is nearing completion

Dear OMASA Members and Friends of OMASA

We are delighted to issue this comprehensive update as we approach the end of 2025. This newsletter focuses on the most critical professional development in our field—the HPCSA registration—alongside vital opportunities for international and local engagement.

We thank you for your commitment to the O&M profession this past year. We also extend our gratitude to all organizations, government sectors, associate members and everyone who participated in making the profession what it is today. Your dedication ensures that the visually impaired community in South Africa receives the highest standard of service.

by the editors: Thabang Kotsi & Joyce Thebeyagae

“Go beyond what we can't do & focus on all the things we can do” — Preethi Srinivasan



HPCSA REGISTRATION: CRITICAL STATUS UPDATE

The process for the registration of Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Practitioners with the **HPCSA (Health Professions Council of South Africa)**, under the **Occupational Therapy Professional Board**, is nearing completion.

Current Status and Key Facts

Component	Status / Detail
Start Date	Not yet set. The HPCSA must first finalize and promulgate (officially publish) the registration fees. Once this happens, documents will be released and loaded online.
Who is able to Register?	Orientation and Mobility Certificate- South African Guide dog association Orientation and Mobility Certificate- College of Orientation and Mobility Orientation and Mobility Certificate- Technikon Witwatersrand National Diploma: Orientation and Mobility practice for the blind and partially sighted people- ETDP/SETA
Legal Requirement	Mandatory. Current legislation requires that an individual cannot practice or teach O&M in South Africa without being registered.
Grandfather Clause	Applies to those with a minimum of five (5) years of verifiable work experience in the O&M field prior to December 13, 2024.
Supervision	Direct supervision and Indirect supervision will be acceptable. OT Supervision=same board, level of education and closest link in skill set OTs should be registered with HPCSA
HPCSA Fee Payment	The HPCSA financial year is April 2025 to March 2026. Anyone registering before March 31, 2026 , will pay a pro-rata portion of the annual fee.

Local and International Conference Opportunities

1. The International Mobility Conference (IMC) 2026

OMASA encourages all members to engage with the global O&M community by attending and presenting at the **International Mobility World Conference 2026** in India!

- **Website:** <https://www.imc2026wc.org/>
- **Call for Abstracts:** We strongly urge members to submit abstracts to promote South African knowledge and skills on an international stage.

OMASA Sponsorship Opportunity!

OMASA is proud to announce that we will **partially sponsor two delegates** for IMC 2026. To be eligible for this sponsorship, delegates must meet the following criteria:

- **Submit an abstract** to the IMC before the end of **March 2026** (details on the website above).
- The abstract must be **accepted** for presentation at the IMC Conference.
- Delegates must **present at the OMASA Conference in June 2026** (details below).

2. Save the Date: OMASA Conference 2026

Please **save the date** for our own local conference:

- **Event:** Orientation & Mobility SA Conference
- **Dates:** June 25th and 26th, 2026

3. International O&M Online Symposium (IOMOS)

- **Event:** International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium (IOMOS)
- **Dates:** January 28 - 30, 2026
- **Registration:** <https://www.exceptionaleducators.us/iomos>
- **SA Rate:** A \$10 minimum charge applies for South African delegates (as a developing country).

OMASA COMMITTEE & BGM WRAP-UP

Thank you to everyone who participated in the OMASA Biennial General Meeting (BGM) held on September 29, 2025, at Guide Dogs SA. The BGM successfully elected a new committee and clarified individual portfolios:

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Role / Portfolio</u>
Wendy Histed	Chairperson (Associate Member)
Michelle Ntlakana	Treasurer
Meggie Banda	Secretary
Gugu Mngadi	Membership
Thabang Kotsi	Newsletter and Website
Joyce Thebeyagae	Newsletter and Website
Moirra Higgerty	Continuing Education (Organizational Member)
Petro Grove	Co-opted

Acknowledgements

We extend our deepest gratitude to the outgoing committee members, Gilbert Omphemetse Mangwekea and Rosetta Smile Ndlovu, for their dedicated service over the last two years.

A sincere thank you also goes to the speakers who delivered such thorough presentations on the HPCSA registration process at the BGM: Moira Higgerty, Elizabeth Louw, Prince Monyani, Rosetta Smile Ndlovu, and Willemien Kleijn.

Wishing You a Joyous Holiday Season

As the year draws to a close, the OMASA committee wishes to extend our sincere thanks to all our **members and member organizations** for your continued support and excellent work in the O&M field throughout 2025.

We wish you and your families a **Merry Christmas** and a safe, restful holiday period. We look forward to working alongside you in 2026 as we navigate the exciting steps towards professional registration.

Best wishes,

The OMASA Committee



Contact Us

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