

AUM

SHREE PRETORIA HINDU SEVA SAMAJ

(Established in 1932)

264 13th Avenue
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PRETORIA, 0001

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PBO Ref. No.: 930004205

SAMAJ SOCIAL SUPPORT POLICY

1. AIM / PURPOSE

The purpose of the Samaj Social Support policy is to:

- Provide clarity to the community on the type of social support services rendered by the Health, Welfare and Gender Committee (HW&GC) of the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj; and
- Clearly set out the qualifying criteria for social assistance.

2. RATIONALE / BACKGROUND

Since its formation in 1932, the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj has served as the custodian of the welfare, education and spiritual needs of the Gujarati community of Pretoria. Whilst general welfare assistance for needy families has always been provided on an informal basis, it was decided that this support should be captured in a formal policy that would ensure all persons, including newcomers to the area, would be properly advised of the types and extent of help that could be received from the Samaj in times of crises.

3. VISION & MISSION

The vision of the Health, Welfare & Gender Committee is “to improve the social and welfare lifestyle of the greater Pretoria Gujarati community”. This will be achieved by engaging in activities that support the socialization of senior citizens, awareness programmes on health, welfare and gender issues, excursions and providing healthy recreational activities.

4. TYPES OF SUPPORT

The HW&GC of the Samaj will provide the following support:

- 4.1 Regular (monthly) meetings of senior citizens by means of the ***Samaj Senior Citizens Club***. Activities will include:
 - the promotion of preventative and educational intervention to enable active aging and healthy life-style;
 - Programmes that encourage socialisation, fitness and entertainment
 - Organising excursions to places of interest both nationally and internationally
- 4.2 Emergency relief to needy families in the form of food hampers
- 4.3 Awareness and education campaigns around health, welfare and gender issues

- 4.4 Organising of functions where knowledgeable people can address community on health, welfare and gender issues
- 4.5 Initial counseling sessions for persons in crises leading to referral to appropriate welfare agencies.
- 4.6 Provision of Diwali hampers to identified indigent families or persons

5. COMPOSITION OF SOCIAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Health, Welfare and Gender Committee is a Portfolio Committee of the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj. Its chairperson is elected biennially by the broader Gujarati community and the rest of the committee is made up of health & welfare professionals and volunteers.

6. QUALIFYING CRITERIA FOR WELFARE ASSISTANCE

The following persons qualify for assistance by the HW & G Committee:

- 6.1 Families experiencing financial hardships
- 6.2 People suffering from disabilities (intellectual & physical) that affect their ability to find employment or to provide for themselves
- 6.3 Physically and Emotionally Abused women requiring support
- 6.4 Vulnerable children

7. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY PERSONS REQUIRING WELFARE ASSISTANCE

- 7.1 All requests for assistance must be directed to the office of the Administrator of the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj based at the Samaj premises at 264 13th Avenue, during working hours. The contact telephone number is
- 7.2 Applicants will be required to provide details of the nature of assistance required.
- 7.3 All requests for assistance will be routed to the relevant officials who will then contact the applicant.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

- 8.1 All members of the HW & G Committee, including volunteers, as well as the Executive Committee will be required to sign a written oath of confidentiality.
- 8.2 Any person suspected of breaking the provisions of the confidentiality agreement will be charged with misconduct in terms of the Samaj Disciplinary code as contained in its constitution. In the event that such a person is found guilty, he/she will be relieved of his/her duties.
- 8.3 All documentation relating to welfare matters are to be kept under lock and key in the administrators' office. No members of the public are allowed to have access to these files without the written approval of the Executive Committee. Such a request must be properly motivated.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS

The Head of the Health, Welfare & Gender Committee will provide monthly reports to the Executive that contains the following:

- 9.1 Numbers of people receiving assistance;
- 9.2 The nature of Assistance being rendered
- 9.3 The number of cases terminated & the reasons thereof
- 9.4 The cost of services rendered

10. GENERAL

- 10.1 The HW & G Committee will, with permission of the Executive, periodically undertake fund-raising drives to collect funds for the purchase of blankets, food hampers and other health & welfare needs.

This policy was approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj held on

Prakashbhai Hira
SPHSS: President

Rameshbhai Chhagan
SPHSS: Secretary-General