



How your donation can make a real difference!

THE SHONAQUIP SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Donating appropriate wheelchairs can lead to meaningful inclusion!



In South Africa, children wait 2 - 5 years for an appropriate wheelchair¹, often spending their time lying in bed. The right chair removes barriers to inclusion and creates new opportunities.

A device that does not fit a child's body and environment can lead to **ongoing exclusion and serious secondary health complications**.

What happens to wheelchairs donated without a prescription?

In South Africa at least 1/3 of donations are abandoned because they are inappropriate to the user's needs².

In India a staggering 60% of devices are abandoned due to discomfort and unsuitability of the device to the environment.

What makes a wheelchair 'inappropriate':

- may be the wrong size,
- too heavy for the user to propel or the carer to handle,
- unsuited to the home, transport options and environment of the user,
- may not offer the correct posture support needed,
- may not use the abilities/strengths of the person appropriately,
- not able to be repaired once parts wear out.

If this is the case, the donation can do more harm than good.

A wheelchair is like dentures or spectacles – each person needs their own prescription.

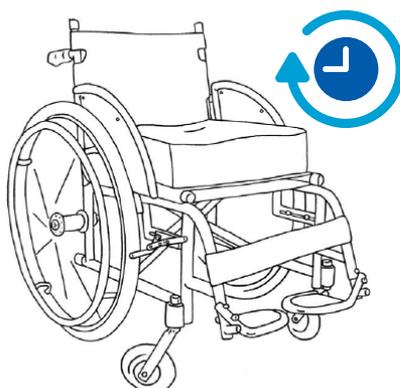
Ref1: Duffield, S. Wheelchair Prescription in the Western Region of the Eastern Cape. 2013, 39.

Ref 2: Mukherjee G, Samanta A. Wheelchair charity: a useless benevolence in community-based rehabilitation. Disability and Rehabilitation, 2005, 27:591–596.

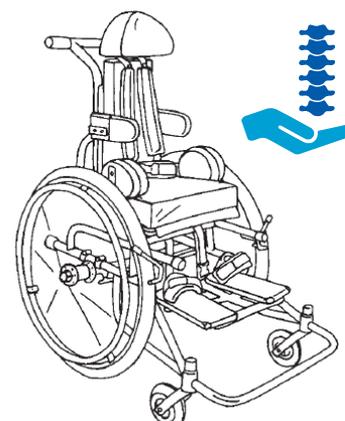
Some wheelchairs are made for short term transport use, some for longer sitting and some for posture support.



Wheelchair designed for temporary user



Wheelchair designed for long-term user



Wheelchair designed for user with postural support needs

How do I know that my donation is appropriate?

The WHO have laid out 8 steps of responsible wheelchair donation – starting with an assessment and prescription by a qualified seating practitioner, follow up services to ensure ongoing fit as the child's body grows and changes, and ending with repairs and maintenance throughout the child's life.

Children (and adults) who receive a wheelchair, also need to be linked to ongoing government or private services.

How do I donate responsibly?

Working with a seating practitioner / therapist or an organisation who works with wheelchair provision and services is the best way to ensure your donation makes a real impact!

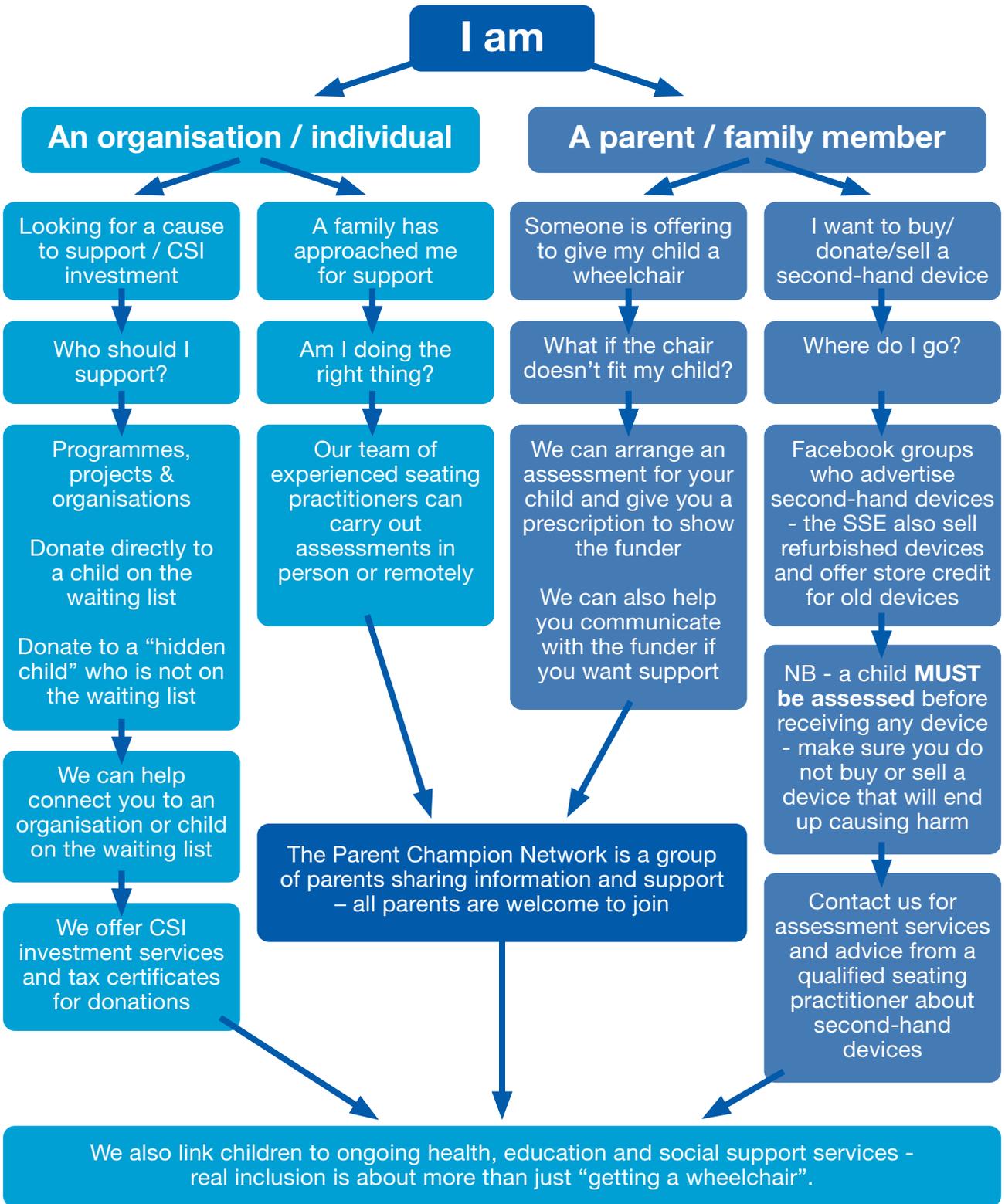
You can contact the Shonaquip Social Enterprise (SSE) for a list of partners throughout Southern Africa – or work directly with us in the areas that we have been serving for over 30 years.

The SSE works closely with Government departments to ensure that every child who receives a donated device is recorded for follow up services and repairs.

The need for wheelchairs is huge – we would love to work with you to make a difference!



Get involved – donate a wheelchair to a child in need!



4 Steps to Responsible Wheelchair Donation



Shonaquip Social Enterprise follow the guidelines as set out by the World Health Organisation to ensure responsible wheelchair provision. Our teams have over 30 years' experience and will help you every step of the way:

1

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

A standard agreement between funders, recipients and suppliers to ensure that roles, responsibilities and expectations are clearly defined and misunderstandings avoided.

2

PRIVACY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND MARKETING

The necessary information and legal consent to ensure that any media or information you share is in line with South Africa's child protection and privacy laws. We are also able to share your donation and story with our media network.

3

FINDING THE RIGHT WHEELCHAIR:

STEP ONE:

Assessment and prescription

On-site or remote assessment services which include referral to education and social support services. Comprehensive assessment and prescription that includes a 24 hour positioning plan – ensuring that the child/person benefits from good posture throughout the day, and not only when seated in the wheelchair.

Our seating practitioners have been assisting individual clients and donors with funded projects across Southern Africa for 30 years. We also deliver seating services to the Departments of Health and Education in South Africa.

The SSE will prescribe a wheelchair that correctly matches the user's needs. This might be supplied by us or another manufacture or supplier.

STEP TWO:

Fitting and training

A trained seating practitioner will ensure that each chair is set up and personally adapted to suit the clients' unique needs. We will also train the users, care providers or rehabilitation staff to ensure that the child is correctly positioned in their device, and that the carer is confident handling the device and identifying any potential problems as soon as they arise.

STEP THREE:

Reviews, maintenance and repairs

As children grow their bodies and needs change. We arrange ongoing support for clients, either privately or by linking them to government services. Regular follow-ups and reviews need to take place at least once or twice a year to ensure good posture management. It is important to ensure that repairs are available for wear and tear - local availability of spares is an important consideration. Spares and repairs need to be budgeted into any responsible donation.

4

HOLISTIC SERVICES

To ensure that clients' needs are not neglected or forgotten after the initial funding, we recommend that wheelchair donations (outside of medical insurance) are done in partnership with the Department of Health or Education. The SSE seating team can assist the funders to negotiate these agreements.

Get in touch with us if you would like to get involved,
or visit our website for more information on appropriate devices and seating.

www.shonaquipSE.org.za



**SHONAQUIP
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**
Enabling inclusion