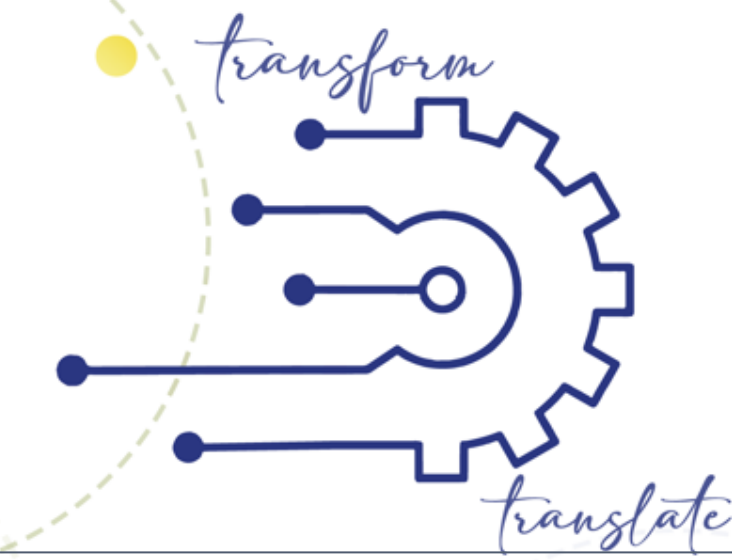


# The importance of collaborating with stakeholders to provide and maintain mobility assistive devices for persons with physical disabilities in the Western Cape

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**PHASA 2023**  
TRANSFORMING RESEARCH  
TRANSLATION-  
**REIMAGINING**  
PUBLIC HEALTH EVIDENCE,  
POLICIES, AND PRACTICE



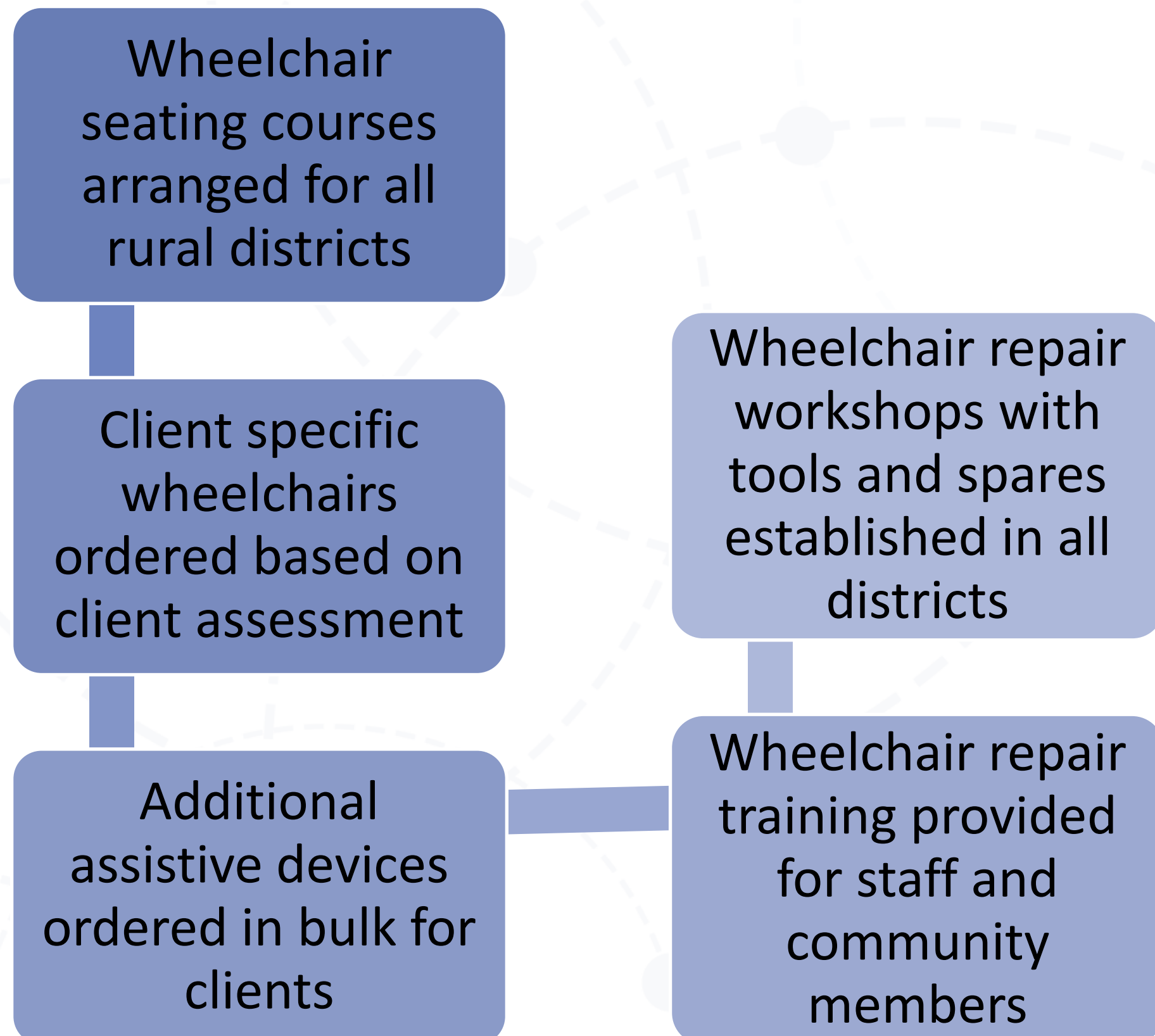
## BACKGROUND

In 2022 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) donated wheelchair seating courses, wheelchairs, walking aids and wheelchair repair workshops to the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness (WCG:HW) to strengthen and supplement the services already provided.

The wheelchair courses were aligned to WHO training and the devices being donated were quality approved, manufactured by a local supplier with consumables and spares available on state tender.

## INTERVENTION DESCRIPTION

The donation was rolled out in all rural health districts in the province with the process illustrated below:



## RESULTS

From February 2022 to April 2023 the following results were obtained in addition to WCG:HW funded procurement and training:

**88** OTs and PTs attended basic seating refresher courses

**782** patient specific wheelchairs ordered

**1270** mobility aids (incl. commodes) ordered

**9** wheelchair repair workshops established in rural districts

## LESSONS LEARNT

The donation project supplemented the WCG:HW services and helped uncover the following in the system:

- A backlog for wheelchairs existed which was not being routinely reported
- Budget constraints were impacting the type of wheelchairs and assistive devices ordered through WCG:HW budgets
- The training of organizations for persons with disabilities in wheelchair repairs upskilled the community in maintenance and repairs
- The wheelchair repair workshops resulted in closer to home repairs for the client

## KEY MESSAGES

This collaboration between WCG:HW and LDS has highlighted the importance of the Whole of Society Approach to health care and strengthened the services to persons with disabilities through

- Refresher courses for staff
- Provision of person specific devices
- Wheelchair workshops closer to the client's home
- Upskilling of the community to support wheelchair users with maintenance and repairs



## ADVOCACY MESSAGE

Collaborating with stakeholders to provide services to persons with disabilities is vital in maintaining quality person-centered care in a resource constrained post-pandemic environment.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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