



● WHAT DO PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS NEED FROM THE HEALTH SYSTEM?

There is no health justice if people with disabilities don't have easy and affordable access to dignified health services.

The African Alliance is committed to fighting for high quality health care for everyone. From conversations with representatives from the blind community in Limpopo, Gauteng and Mpumalanga, we've collated a list of advocacy demands.

● WE DEMAND:

1. High quality sunscreen (of at least 30 SPF) must be available at all clinics and community health centres. Sunscreens are included in South Africa's essential medicines list for primary health facilities so provincial health departments must make sure stock levels are sufficient, even when their budgets are tight.
2. Clinics should have designated queues to help those with disabilities get help as soon as possible.
3. The government must empower people with disabilities with skills that allow them to work for themselves. People with vision-impairments or albinism cannot do manual labour safely.
4. Business that side-line people with vision impairments must be held to account. Helping people with visual impairments settle into a company easily (say by buying screen readers or other technology) must be a priority for the public and private sectors.
5. People who have a permanent disability, such as vision impairment, must not be given temporary disability benefits.
6. In future health crises, those with disabilities must be a priority for community health workers. It's crucial that people with vision impairments get the support they need to navigate a crisis. If people need extra support or tools such as screen readers, these must be made available.
7. Provincial and national policy makers must dedicate funding to a project similar to the National Youth Development Agency that will make sure those with disabilities are empowered to work in environments that are safe for them.
8. People with partial visual impairment or short sightedness deserve to get support through a disability grant, just as much as those who have complete vision loss. The process of applying for a grant should be easy.