

RuReSA Rehabilitation Worker of the Year 2020 Precious Buthelezi

Mrs Sibonisile Precious Buthelezi is a mother of two children - Thabang 15 and Unathi Buthelezi 12. She was born in Newcastle in a small beautiful village called Flint Farm. She studied in Newcastle, attending Okhalweni Primary and Siyakwamukela High School. She then studied a Bachelor of Arts, and later changed to a BSc whereafter she completed a BSc Honours in Physiotherapy and qualified as a physiotherapist.



Precious worked as a student intern at Madadeni Hospital from 1995-1998. In 1999 to 2004 she worked at Clairwood Hospital. In 2005-2006 she worked at Greys hospital. In 2006 she was appointed as chief physiotherapist at Church of Scotland Hospital. From 2007 to 2010 she worked as an Assistant Director. From 2010-2019 she worked as Programme Manager for Rehabilitation, Disability, Mental, Non-Communicable diseases and Oral Health in the Amajuba district health office. There she set up the CBR programme and worked with the Disability Forum to assist persons with disabilities to access health, social development, education, sports and recreation opportunities. She also worked with community rehabilitation workers. As a result of working with the CBR workers, people with disabilities were able to access assistive devices quickly, others got enrolled at UKZN and received end-user certificates and the graduation was attended by Minister Stella Abrahams. After the graduation they worked in different health facilities while acquiring skills.

Precious is currently working in the uMgungundlovu Health District as Programme Manager for Rehabilitation, Disability, Mental Health, Non-communicable diseases and Oral Health Services. She also works with the uMsunduzi Mayor on the rehabilitation of street children. Precious is a kind, bubbly, hard-working therapist. She is also a comrades marathon runner and a friend to every person with disability.



As CREATE, we wish to acknowledge the contribution that Precious has made to advocacy for the development of CBR in KwaZulu Natal, and the role that she has played in fostering the partnership between government and people with disabilities, and nominate her for the annual Award from RuReSA