

Occupation-based interventions: Collaborative working between an Occupational Therapist and the Chris Burger/Petro Jackson Players' Fund for seriously injured rugby players

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Introduction: The Chris Burger/Petro Jackson Fund Player's Fund (Player's Fund) aims to support South African rugby players who were seriously injured by providing physical, psychological and emotional support. The Player's Fund purchases and maintains assistive devices, as required by recipients, and utilises the services of a National Wheelchair Supplier.

Objectives: To describe the collaboration between an Occupational Therapist employed by a National Wheelchair Supplier and the Players' Fund, and how this enhanced the occupational participation and social inclusion of 12 recipients in the Eastern Cape.

Approach: Analysis of the service offered to 12 recipients was undertaken, with the aim of identifying and exploring Occupational Therapy interventions provided over a 5-year period, through retrospectively auditing clinical records and correspondence with the Player's Fund and analysing results from the Psychosocial Impact Scale of Assistive Devices (South African version) administered to recipients.

Practical implications: The findings of the service delivery analysis identify a range of Occupational Therapy interventions focused on enhancing occupational engagement. It also highlights the positive impact that appropriate prescription of assistive devices has on participation. Contextual barriers to participation are experienced by recipients, particularly in rural areas. The analysis also demonstrates that collaboration between the Occupational Therapist and Player's Fund increased occupational participation and social inclusion of the recipients.

Conclusion: A range of occupation-based interventions were provided by the Occupational Therapist to recipients of the Players Fund in the Eastern Cape. Interventions extended beyond merely providing appropriate assistive devices to the enhancement of occupational participation and social inclusion.