Family Support for Schizophrenia

Strength through sharing

Chairperson's Report for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Maureen Robinson

28 September 2026

Please email us on mail@familysupport.org.za if you would like a copy of the full report

Goals of FSS



To give **support** to the families and carers of people living with schizophrenia

To enlighten and **educate** families and the public about schizophrenia and mental illness

To raise **awareness** aimed at fostering community support and involvement

To reduce the **stigma** associated with schizophrenia and mental illness

To **advocate** for the rights of persons with mental illness

Key activities



Support

Support group meetings

Correspondence and advice



Educate and raise awareness

Website

Facebook

YouTube

Newsletter

Networking and advocacy

Newspapers, radio



Management and operations

OpsCom

Membership

Finance

Fundraising

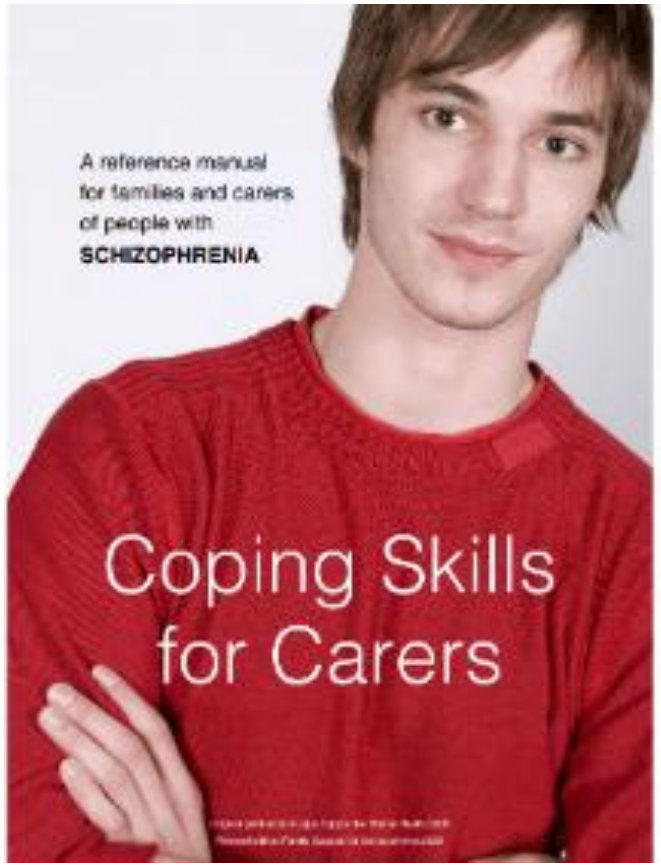
Reporting and compliance

Support group meetings

(av. 52 attendees; increase of 18% over previous year)

Date	Speaker	Position	Organisation	Topic
28 April 2025	No meeting	-	-	No meeting, Public holiday
26 May 2025	Dr John Parker	Psychiatrist	Private practice	What is schizophrenia? Insights from a practising psychiatrist
30 June 2025	Dr Hilary Foster Sue Biault	Consultant psychiatrist Mental health carer support worker	ex NHS UK	Caregiving in schizophrenia
28 July 2025	Facilitated by Leigh Haselau & Wasima Fisher	Social workers	Private practice	Caring & Sharing meeting
25 Aug 2025	AGM Leigh Haselau	Social worker	Private practice	Annual General Meeting An introduction to the LEAP method: How to help your loved one accept treatment

29 Sept 2025	Sister Wendy Robinson Bruce Loumeau & Matthew Maycock	Psychiatric nurse practitioner Schizophrenia survivors	Phrenaid	Phrenaid - Providing accommodation and support for people affected by schizophrenia
27 Oct 2025	Courtney Coetzee	Psychosocial rehabilitation assistant	The Welcome Club, an initiative of Comcare	The Welcome Club as a model of a psychosocial rehabilitation programme
29 Nov 2025	Year-end gathering	-	-	Year-end get together Christ the King Catholic Church, Pinelands
23 Feb 2026	Sister Christelle Juries Sister Magdalene Gertse	Speciality psychiatric nurse Mental health practitioner	Stikland Psychiatric Hospital Durbanville Health Clinic	Life from the frontline: The experience of psychiatric nurses in the public healthcare system
30 March 2026	Dr Fadia Gamieldien	Senior Clinical Educator	Division of Occupational Therapy, University of Cape Town	Personal recovery is relational: Supporting your loved one without losing yourself







Year-end gathering

Networking and advocacy

- Five radio interviews
- SADAG panel
- Valkenberg Hospital Family Day
- Annual Cape Town Recovery Walk
- And others …

Strong focus on World Schizophrenia Awareness Day 24 May



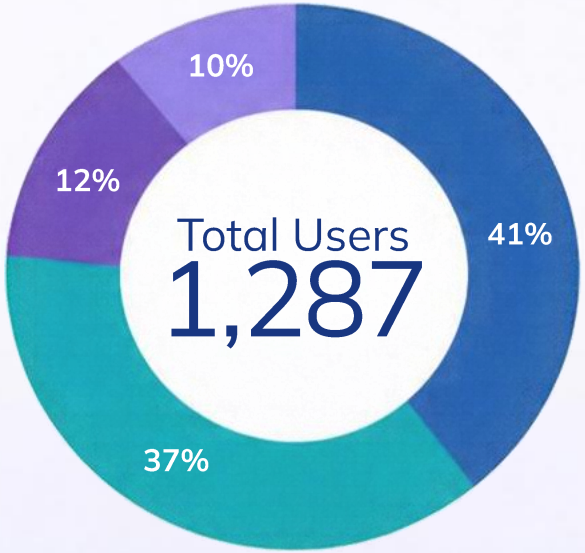


Website and social media

1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

FSS Website User Base

April 2025 – March 2026



- Gauteng
  531 users (41%)
- Western Cape
  471 users (37%)
- KwaZulu-Natal
  154 users (12%)
- Other
  131 users (10%)

78% of users from Gauteng and Western Cape (1,002 users)

FSS Facebook Page

February - March 2026

2,400 Total views by end of March 2026

195 Unique users

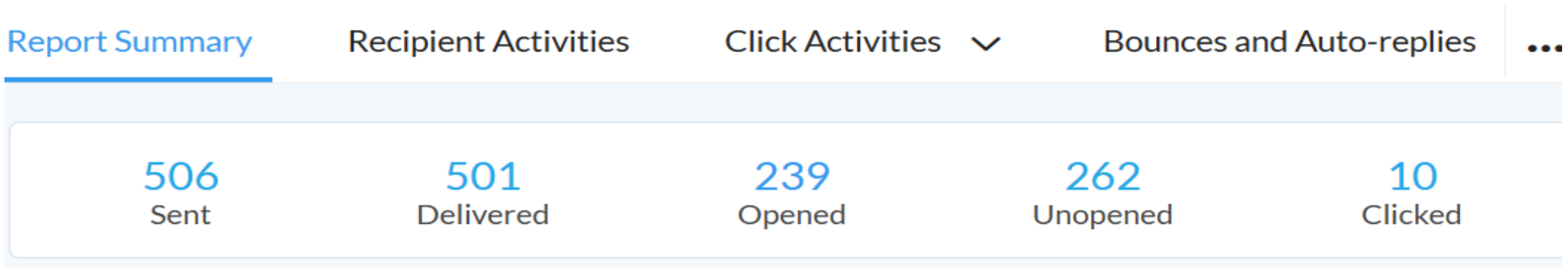
51 Page followers

Launched February 2026 – rapid early engagement

Newsletter



- Changed from Mailchimp to Zoho platform
- Circulated monthly to just over 500 addresses
- Information about past and next meetings
- Photographs of key events
- Members' corner
- Membership and fundraising



Membership

End of 2025: 91 paid-up members (increase of 33% from previous year)

Membership is R175 per family per year

Most based in the Western Cape, increasing interest from other provinces

Resources, newsletter and support group meetings are free and available to all

Current management committee

Coopted members: **Fuzlyn Riffel** and **Charlotte Lombard**

Thanks to **Sue Custers** and **Marijke Littlefield** who resigned from the committee during 2026

Not available for re-election: **Wayne Schonegevel**



Maureen Robinson
Chairperson



Wayne Schonegevel
Vice-Chairperson



Wilma Steenkamp
Treasurer



Susie Newton-King
Secretary



Tina James



Charlotte Lombard

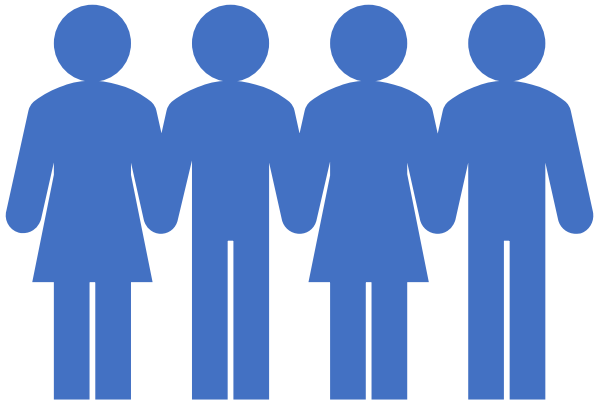


Tonia Moller



Fuzlyn Riffel

Grateful thanks to:



- Outgoing management committee
- FSS members
- Attendees at meetings
- Guest speakers
- Donors
- Other organisations



We remain committed to another year of providing support and information for families and carers of people living with schizophrenia, as well as working to improve conditions for mental health in South Africa.