

Press Release

Date: 20 January 2026

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"A Broken Heart Can't Wait"

**Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa Commemorates World
Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week (7 - 14 February 2026)**

Johannesburg, South Africa — The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (PCSSA) proudly joins the global community in commemorating World Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Awareness Week from February 7 to 14, 2026. This year's theme, "A Broken Heart Can't Wait", highlights the importance of access to cardiothoracic surgical services and the current shortage of Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeons our country is facing.

Congenital heart disease remains the most common birth defect globally, affecting nearly 1 in every 100 live births. Majority of the children who are diagnosed with a congenital heart lesion will require cardiac surgery. In order for this to happen, access to cardiothoracic services is required. Currently in South Africa, we are experiencing a huge shortage of Cardiothoracic surgeons, which is not ideal for our heart warriors.

"This week is dedicated to raising awareness, advancing research, and celebrating the courage of every child and family living with congenital heart disease, while also highlighting the importance of access to cardiothoracic surgical services. United we stand, divided we fall. Together we can work towards improving better access to cardiac surgery.

Throughout the week, the PCSSA will host a series of educational interviews, community outreach programs, and celebrations at the various state and private facilities providing



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services for children with congenital heart disease. Activities are aimed at increasing awareness and supporting research into CHD.

- Educational Webinars: Expert-led discussions on early diagnosis, treatment options, and advancements in pediatric cardiac care.

- Community Outreach: Distribution of educational materials to hospitals and clinics and on our website to improve early detection and referral pathways.

Fundraising Campaigns: Encouraging the public to contribute to all societies involved in the care and management of individuals and families dealing with CHD.

The PCSSA invites healthcare professionals, policymakers, media, and the public to participate in these initiatives and help amplify the voices of those impacted by congenital heart disease. For more information on scheduled events or to learn how to contribute to the cause, please visit www.pcssa.org or follow us on social media @PCSSA Official.

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About the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa

The Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (PCSSA) is dedicated to improving the heart health of children through advocacy, education, and research. By fostering collaboration among healthcare professionals and supporting affected families, PCSSA strives to ensure that every child with a congenital heart defect receives the best possible care. We would love to have an opportunity to engage with your media organisation and the public in creating an awareness around CHD.

Please contact us to schedule an appointment with one of our Paediatric Cardiology Experts.

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